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REPORT
OF THE
ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE
RELATIONS OF CAPITAL AND LABOR
IN CANADA.

EVIDENCE—NEW BRUNSWICK.



OTTAWA:
PRINTED FOR THE QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY.
A SENECAI, SUPERINTENDENT OF PRINTING.
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TAKEN BEFORE THE

ROYAL COMMISSION

ON THE SUBJECT OF

LABOR IN ITS RELATION TO CAPITAL IN CANADA.

St. JOHN, N. B., 19th March, 1888.

JAMES PENDER, Manufacturer of Horse-shoe Nails, St. John, called and sworn.

Q. How long have you been engaged in the manufacture of horse-shoe nails in this city? A. I have been engaged in the horse-shoe nail business since August, 1877.

Q. How many men do you employ in your factory at present? A. Fifteen men, including five or six boys.

Q. How many men did you employ when you first began business? A. At first I employed four men.

Q. What is the average rate of wages you pay to your journeymen? A. One man gets \$2.50 and another \$3.25 a day.

Q. These are your principal men, are they not? A. Yes.

Q. What are the lowest wages you pay to journeymen? A. We pay them by the piece; all the men who are journeymen work by the piece, so that their wages depend upon the number of days they work in the week. Last year we worked forty-nine weeks, and were idle three weeks. Without making any extra time, I find that the average rate of wages of men and boys, taken together, was \$8.02 a week, for these forty-nine weeks.

Q. Can you give us the wages you paid to the boys, independent of the men? A. The lowest that we pay to boys is 60 cents a day.

Q. What is the highest wages that you pay to boys? A. One dollar a day.

Q. Do your men, as a general rule, work as many weeks every year as they did last year? A. For the last two or three years they have.

Q. Where do you find a market for all the nails that you manufacture? A. Last year we exported four months' work out of Canada and the rest we marketed in Canada.

Q. What are the principal countries where you find a market for your goods that you send out of Canada? A. We send most of our goods to Australia; last year we sent a considerable amount to Ireland; we also send some to the West Indies, Newfoundland and South America.

Q. Where do you get your iron? A. From Sweden.

Q. Entirely? A. Altogether.

Q. Are the boys employed by the men as helpers, or by yourself directly? A. I hire the boy who feeds the finishing machine, but he hires his own help; we pay him so much a hundred for all he finishes, but the boys he hires he pays himself.

Q. What is the age of this boy who employs the other boys? A. About sixteen or seventeen years.

Q. Do you know what wages he pays to other boys that he hires? A. No; I do not know for certain.

Q. Have you any idea what the other boys earn in a week? A. From \$2 to \$2.50.

Q. What hours do they work? A. Except in winter, they make ten hours a day; in the summer they make a half-day Saturday by working an extra hour each day.

Q. Do your men receive anything extra for working over-time? A. We pay the same rates.

Q. You pay the same rates at night as you do in day-time? A. Yes; for piece-work.

Q. Have any accidents happened in your factory? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Can you compete with United States manufacturers in the West Indies, Australia and South America? A. We do and can, or we couldn't sell our goods; we compete quite successfully with them.

Q. Is your foreign trade increasing or decreasing? A. In some places it is increasing and in other places it is about stationary; but where it is stationary it is not in consequence of United States but of European competition, principally from Norway and Sweden.

Q. Will Nova Scotia iron not make as good nails as the Swedish? A. No; no iron has yet been discovered in America, not even in the United States, with all the processes they have for manipulating it, that is as good as Swedish iron for this purpose. We export probably 10,000 tons at \$1.10; previous to 1884 all the iron used for this purpose was imported.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are your men paid weekly or fortnightly? A. Weekly.

Q. Is any portion of their pay kept back from them? A. None.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Have you any grievances to complain of your workmen in any way? A. We have never had any trouble with our men.

Q. Have you any other complaint to make—in regard to the tariff, or the like? A. The only objection I have to the tariff is, I think, the duty on these nail-rods should be abolished, on account of their not being obtainable in Canada. I think they should be allowed to come in duty free, as no iron of the kind is to be found in this county. We cannot get material in Canada suitable for our purpose, although the experiment has several times been tried, but nothing has yet been found that is at all suitable for the purpose. It comes in a form and shape that cannot be used for any other purpose, and can be easily defined. We therefore hold that these nail-rods should come in free, because it would be an aid to the development of our export business, and afford an outlet for an enlargement of trade.

Q. Can you not get a refund of duty when exporting? A. We do; we get back some, but not sufficient. The Government gives back a draw-back equal to two-thirds of what we pay. Owing to the waste in the material the Government cannot, by a draw-back, deal equitably with us; the only way would be to let us have the rods free of duty. The only thing else to do would be to grant us something in the form of bounties, but as bounties are not popular at present we dare not ask for them.

By Mr. WALSH:

Q. Can you tell us something near about what is the amount of waste in making your horse-shoe nails? A. I can tell you within a fraction; I made a calculation about that matter for the space of three years, and sent it to the Government, and I found that the waste during that time was 25 per cent.

Q. Did you not make use of that waste? A. Two-thirds of this waste is in the form of scrap iron, which is saleable, and for which we have been getting 70 cents per 100 pounds. The increase of duty has not increased the price of scrap. We have been selling our scrap to the Nova Scotia Iron Company, and when the duty was increased on iron we thought the scrap ought to be worth more; so we asked them 1 cent a pound for it, and they answered that they couldn't pay us that sum; and only last week they told us they couldn't pay us the price they had been formerly giving.

Q. You think it would be fair, in your case, if the Government would allow a discrimination for the amount you get for scrap? A. No; because if the rods were free scrap would still have the same value attached to it; the waste would be precisely the same if the rods were free. The Government allow us no consideration for what goes to waste. In the United States the American Government pay their manufacturers a draw-back on the weight of the article used to produce the article exported, while here they charge us an *ad valorem* and specific duty. They aid them, by permitting them to add 25 per cent. to the weight of the exported article; so that the manufacturers in the United States get 25 per cent. more in draw-backs than we do.

Q. Then, you think you ought not to pay duty on the waste? A. We hold that we ought not, and that we should have a draw-back equal to free rods; we ask them to make the draw-back $\frac{1}{2}$ cent. a pound. The duty was increased last year to 25 per cent. We hold that the Government should give a draw-back equal to making the rods free. The cost of a ton of rods at present is about \$42, and the duty, at the rate of 20 per cent., would be \$8.40. The way the duty is levied the waste pays about one-third. If you take old iron at \$42, free of duty, and add the amount necessary to cover the waste, you would find that the cost would bring the residue up to the original amount. Taking one-third, and adding it to \$42 on a ton of rods, would give \$50 if the duty were free. Taking the same amount of iron at \$42, with the 20 per cent. duty added, would make \$50. The duty paid on the waste would be one-third, and that one-third would be about \$16.80, with the iron paying 20 per cent.; so that while the manufacturer gets back every cent of duty he pays he still loses the waste; so that no draw-back will meet the case so well as to put rods on the free list. From that fact we argue that the simplest way for the Government to adjust this matter is to put rods on the free list. Still, if they cannot do that we will be satisfied with $\frac{1}{2}$ cent.

Q. Have you ever had an opportunity of explaining this matter to the Government? A. No; not personally.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What day do you pay your men? A. Saturday.

Q. Do they prefer Saturday as a pay-day to any other day in the week? A. They have never expressed any preference for any other day, so we have always paid them on that day.

T. S. SIMMS, Brush and Broom Manufacturer, St. John, N.B., called and sworn

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What class of people do you employ? A. I employ men, women and boys.

Q. Do the men require a great skill to do your work or will unskilled laborers do? A. Most of the men require to be skilful.

Q. What would be a fair average week's earnings of a skilful artisan? A. We manufacture brooms and brushes, and a skilled brush-maker would earn from \$10 to \$15 a week, and a fair average would be \$14 a week.

Q. And what would be a fair average for a broom-maker? A. About \$9. Possibly, on an average, brush-makers would be worth about \$12. Their wages run from \$10 to \$15.

Q. What would be the average ages of the young boys employed by you? A. The youngest boy is about twelve years old.

Q. Is there any law in New Brunswick regulating the ages at which boys and girls may be employed in factories? A. I do not know of any.

Q. How many hours a day are those boys employed? A. Ten hours.

Q. Is the work at which they are employed hard? A. The boys are all engaged at light work. We have only two or three very small boys.

Q. How much does a boy, twelve years of age, earn when he begins to work? A. One dollar and twenty-five cents a week.

Q. How long do they work at these wages before they get an increase? A. We have no regular rule to go by; they work, perhaps, three months.

Q. Do they work by the piece or the week? A. By the week.

Q. How long do they work before they become journeymen? A. As the boys grow up they become journeymen in time, and we push them along as fast as the business warrants.

Q. Do the boys stay with you after they grow up, or do they leave you, or do you give them workmen's wages when they grow up? A. All the hands in the factory, but one, have grown up with the business.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest girls employed by you? A. The most of the females are grown women; the youngest female I have is about fifteen years old.

Q. What do you pay them when they begin to work? A. They are all working by the piece.

Q. What do you pay them at the beginning of their work? A. They get about \$1 a week.

Q. After a year, what wages do you give them? A. They can earn from \$3 to \$5 a week.

Q. Do they all work the same hours? A. They work nine hours a day—from eight to six.

Q. Do they work the same hours summer and winter? A. Yes; they work by the piece, but in winter they do not begin work till nine o'clock.

Q. Do your girls remain with you, as a rule? A. They do mostly remain with me till they get married or something happens.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in getting all the boys and girls you need to work? A. We could fill our factory with them if we wanted to.

Q. Do you suffer from competition from prison-made goods? A. We do.

Q. Do they compel you to cut your prices? A. Yes.

Q. Do the wages of your operatives depend in any degree upon the prices you get for your goods? A. Not a great deal; we have generally paid our hands the same wages every year.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. Every week.

Q. Do you pay them in cash? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay them their wages in full? A. I do.

Q. Are the rooms in which your operatives work warm in winter? A. They are.

Q. Are they reasonably well ventilated in winter? A. Yes.

Q. Is any of the machinery which you use dangerous? A. It is as dangerous as any other wood-working machinery.

Q. Have you ever had any accidents in your factory? A. Yes.

Q. When you have had accidents do you recompense those who have been injured? A. In such cases we have always paid our hands till they got well.

Q. Have you separate conveniences for the men and women water-closets? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any factory inspector in New Brunswick? A. Not that I am aware of.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Do you suffer from competition with the upper provinces? A. We do.

Q. Could you pay higher wages if it were not for the upper province prison labor? A. The fact of the freight being added to the goods that come from Toronto enables us to get a profit on our goods. If it were not for the freight we could hardly get a profit. I think we could hire all the hands we want at present prices, but it would not be necessary to do so now.

Q. It would not be necessary to increase your staff of employes now? A. We could employ more hands if it were not for the upper province competition.

Q. How many more could you employ? A. We have twelve men and boys in our different rooms now; probably we could add three or four more hands.

Q. You mean if the upper province competition was out of the way? A. Yes.

ALEXANDER CHRISTIE, Door, Sash and Wood Manufacturer, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been engaged in the door and sash trade? A. I have been in business since 1865; that is twenty-three years.

Q. Do you find that your trade has increased any more than it was at that time? A. The trade is about as small now as it has been for a long time—smaller in fact. Of course, we had quite a boom here after the big fire in 1877, but otherwise trade has been low.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. We have had twenty hands this last year.

Q. Is that about your average number? A. That is about our average. We have had as many as fifty hands at work when trade was good, but for the last year or two twenty has been our average.

Q. Do you manufacture anything to go outside of the province of New Brunswick? A. Not a great deal; sometimes we manufacture a few things to go to Quebec, but it is mostly in this Province we sell our goods.

Q. What wages do you generally pay your men? A. From \$8 to \$12 a week.

Q. Do you pay your foreman any more? A. We pay him \$12. There are two men in the factory at that price, and the rest get \$8, \$9 and \$10 a week.

Q. Do you employ many boys? A. Very few; we have only two boys at work now.

Q. What are their ages? A. The eldest is about eighteen years old.

Q. What wages do these boys earn? A. They start at \$2 a week and run up to \$4 when their time is out.

Q. How many years do you consider sufficient to make them good journeymen? A. Four years.

Q. Do you bind them to apprenticeship or do you make their apprenticeship a voluntary matter? A. We used to bind them, but now we generally take them on their word.

Q. Do these boys remain with you after they are out of their time? A. Most of them remain with us.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in getting all the men you require to work? A. No; there is always plenty of men to be found willing to work.

Q. Is labor dull in the market now? A. There is not any one, hardly, to be found inquiring for work.

Q. Is there any idleness in the market? A. Not in our line of business. I know of no one being idle in our business, except in January and February, but when it comes into March these men get employed again.

Q. Your work begins in March, then? A. Yes; we are all pretty busy in our business now.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles with your men? A. I have never had any trouble with my men.

- Q. What hours do you work in your factory? A. Ten hours a day.
- Q. Would that be from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.? A. Yes; in winter time we work nine hours mostly.
- Q. What day do you pay your men? A. Saturday.
- Q. How often do you pay them? A. Once a week.
- Q. Do you consider Saturday the best day for your workingmen to be paid? A. I do not know; we have never had any complaints made in that direction. It has been our custom for years to pay our hands on Saturday.
- Q.—Is all your machinery fully protected from danger; or have you had any accident in your factory from your machinery? A. Once in a while there has been an accident in the factory.
- Q. Was it a serious accident? A. Nothing more than an injury from a circular saw.
- Q. Have you any guards on these saws to prevent accidents? A. No guards.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q. Do any of your workmen own the houses in which they live? A. Yes; three of my workmen own their own houses.
- Q. Do you think they saved the money to build these houses out of their wages, or did they get it from other sources? A. I think that they saved the money out of their earnings.
- Q. Do you think that a man working at the wages you have spoken of, if he has a large family to support, can save money enough to build himself a house? A. If he has a large family he cannot, but if he has only one or two children he can save a little all the time.
- Q. Have you an idea that there are many mechanics in this community who are building houses for themselves? A. Not lately; some years ago, I think, quite a number did build houses.
- Q. Did they get better wages at that time? A. I think they were more steadily employed; but since the great fire of 1877 things have fallen down, and our workmen have not so much to do as they formerly had.
- Q. Do you think that times were better for working people then? A. I do.
- Q. Has land increased in price since then? A. Real estate has fallen very much since then.
- Q. Then, a man who wishes a lot can buy it on reasonable terms? A. Yes; I think he could buy it for one-half what he could get it for before the fire of 1877. Real estate was never so low in St. John as at present.

By Mr. WALSH:—

- Q. Is the average cost of living higher or lower than it was ten years ago? A. I think that most all kinds of food are lower than for years past.
- Q. Has the rent of houses increased any since then? A. No; it has fallen some. I think the workingman in St. John, according to the wages he gets, is fully as well off now as ever he was; his wages are about an average one and his living is as low as it ever was. That being so, the man who is employed regularly, and paid, finds no trouble in getting along and may possibly save a little for himself.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. Would \$8 a week be the wages paid to both mechanics and juniors? A. Some helpers would be paid that much.
- Q. What are good, skilled working mechanics worth here? A. From \$10 to \$12 a week.
- Q. Do you do any work outside of the shop? A. Yes; we do considerable outside.
- Q. Are the wages of outside men the same as those on the bench? A. About the same.
- Q. Do the men receive the same wages all the year round, winter and summer?

A. Yes; they receive the same. All the difference is that they work shorter time in the winter, but they receive the same pay per hour.

Q. Are these boys you take on apprentices or are they helpers? A. Some are apprentices and some are helpers.

Q. Do you have them indentured? A. No; I have not had any indentured for years.

Q. Have you any trouble keeping the boys with you without being indentured? A. No; they generally stay; for they know that their wages will increase if they stay, and that we find the best way of indenturing.

JAMES T. LOGAN, Soap Manufacturer, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How long have you been in the soap manufacturing business? A. My father has been in the business for the last forty years.

Q. What special classes of soaps do you manufacture? A. Laundry soaps.

Q. What would be the earnings of a good soap-boiler? A. \$15 to \$25 a week.

Q. And what do you pay the men who help about the factory? A. \$6 \$7 and \$8.

Q. Do you employ any box-makers? A. We make our boxes, but the men make them up between times.

Q. Do you employ any boys about your factory? A. Yes; two.

Q. What are those boys engaged in doing? A. In wrapping soaps and labeling and stenciling boxes.

Q. Have you any machinery for moulding soap? A. We have a press for pressing the soap into boxes.

Q. Are these presses worked by boys or men? A. By men.

Q. Do you make any fancy soaps? A. No; nothing but laundry soaps.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How many hands do you employ altogether? A. Nine.

Q. How many of those are boys? A. Two.

Q. What do you pay these men, on an average? A. Six dollars to \$8 week.

Q. What do you pay your foreman? A. We pay our foreman \$20 a week. He is a soap-maker.

Q. Where do you find a market, generally, for your soap? A. The Maritime Provinces, Newfoundland and the Province of Quebec.

Q. Has your output increased from what it was five years or more ago? A. It has.

Q. Do you find it increasing every year? A. We do.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in getting rid of your goods? A. None at all.

Q. Are the markets more profitable for you now than they have been? A. They are just about the same; I do not see much difference.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you carry on any other business besides that of soap-making? A. No.

JOHN D. HOWE, Furniture Manufacturer, St. John, N. B., called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been in the furniture business? A. I have been in my present business since 1878—the year after the fire. My brother and I were associated with Mr. Lordly ever since 1869. We did business, previous to 1877, on a small scale.

Q. Do you consider that your business, at present, is in advance of what it was then? A. We did a larger business then than we do at present. From 1875 to 1878

we had a large business, on account of it being local. It was then increased by the condition of times in the city, ship-building and other industries flourishing then.

Q. Have you a work-shop in connection with your premises? A. No; our factory is on the east end of Union street, and our warerooms and paint-shop are in the market building, on Germain street.

Q. How many boys have you employed? A. About twenty-five.

Q. Do you mean you have twenty-five boys employed in your factory? A. I mean men and boys, altogether.

Q. How many of these men are tradesmen? A. We have, I think, about five apprentices, and three more that would probably come in to work with us when they end their time.

Q. Could unskilled hands do good work for you at lower prices? A. Not satisfactorily.

Q. What wages do you pay to these men that you consider skilled workmen? A. Nine dollars to ten dollars a week.

Q. What do you pay to ordinary hands? A. We have ordinary hands running from \$6 to \$7, but very few of them; most of our men get \$9 a week.

Q. Have you a foreman in your shop? A. Not at present; I act as foreman myself.

Q. What wages do you pay the boys? A. We commence them at \$1.50 a week, and we take them on for a service of five years; then we increase their wages 50 cents a week each year.

Q. Do you find the boys, as a general rule, stay with you after they put in their time? A. As a general rule, they stay with us; it is an exception when they do not. We do not bind them as apprentices; they are at perfect liberty to leave us if the conditions do not suit them, and we have perfect liberty to discharge them if we see fit.

Q. Do the boys generally discharge themselves? A. No; they generally remain with us after their time is out.

Q. What hours do you work? A. Ten hours a day.

Q. All the year around? A. Yes.

Q. Do you work ten hours a day in the winter time? A. Yes; we have not, for several years, worked shorter time than ten hours.

Q. Do you do any upholstering in your place of business—all your work is wooden? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any machines to work in your establishment? A. Yes.

Q. Have you had any accidents happen from your machinery? A. For twenty years we have not had a single accident happen from the working of our machinery, except that once a boy lost the end of his thumb.

Q. Do you think it necessary to have guards placed on these machines? A. We find that, although we have used every precaution to prevent accident, we cannot get the men to keep any guards or contrivances on the machines, as they say they will interfere with their work and be in their way.

Q. Do you find any difficulty with your men, or are your men fairly intelligent and sober all the time? A. We have had, I can safely say, during our whole record of twenty years, not more than three intemperate man.

Q. Do you know if any of your men in any way own property or houses of any kind? A. Yes; some of them do. One or two of my men are interested in property. Some others do not own property, but still I know that they are saving money.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles or strikes with your men? A. We have never had a strike or a labor trouble with our men.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do your men work by the piece or by the day? A. Very few of them work piece-work, our work being of a mixed nature. We have only one piece-worker in our establishment, and he generally employs one or two assistants.

Q. What class of work is he engaged on? A. Chair work.

Q. Does he employ boys to help him? A. He generally employs one boy.

Q. What does he pay the boy? A. Last year the boy he had he paid \$3 a week.

Q. You have no control, I suppose, over what he pays them? A. We have some control over him, but not in connection with the work. We have power to dismiss them, though.

Q. Is the firm responsible for this boy's wages? A. Yes.

WILLIAM GREIG, Manager of Maritime Lead and Saw Works, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you manufacture all classes of saws? A. All, except hand saws.

Q. Do you employ many men in this business? A. In the saw works we employ ten men and in the lead works we employ five men. We have also two apprentices in the saw works. None of these are shop clerks, or anything of that kind.

Q. What are the wages skilled workmen earn in the saw works? A. The lowest wages we pay are \$11 a week, and our foreman gets about \$25 a week.

Q. Do your men work by the day or on piece-work? A. Day work. We work from 7:30 in the morning to 12:30, and from 1:30 to 6:30, and Saturday from 7 to 7, all the year around. From December to March we work five days a week, from 7:30 to 5:30. Of course, the men get paid, sometimes the foreman gets paid in full.

Q. What wages do the boys get? A. Two dollars to commence with, and a raise of 50 cents each year while he is an apprentice.

Q. For how many years do they serve an apprenticeship? A. Five years.

Q. At the end of that time, do they become skilled mechanics in the business? A. They ought to.

Q. What class of lead do you principally manufacture? A. Principally pure lead, because pure lead is much cheaper than it used to be. When it was 8 to 10 cents a pound we used an adulterated article, but now we use pure lead.

Q. Do you manufacture paints? A. Yes; all kinds of paints and oils.

Q. What are the wages you pay in the oil factory? A. From \$7 to \$15 a week.

Q. What do you pay the man engaged in mixing the paints? A. \$7 to \$8 a week.

Q. Do you employ any tinsmiths? A. Well, no; we do not; we make up our own tins in the winter, because the man is handy.

Q. Do you ship your oils in tins or in bulk? A. In tins, principally.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do any of your men own the houses in which they live? A. Yes; the foreman does; there is another man owns a farm, I think.

Q. Are not almost any of these men able to save money to build houses if they choose to? A. I think they ought to be able to do something of that kind.

Q. Do you know whether those who do not save money are in comfortable circumstances? A. I am afraid some of them do not save much.

Q. Where do you get your saw plates? A. From England, principally.

Q. Are they cheaper there than they can be got here? A. Yes; we do not want to buy from competitors.

Q. Do you put up ready-mixed paints? A. We do.

Q. Do you find these leads settle at the bottom so that they have to be ground up again? A. I have never heard of such a thing occurring in our case. I would like to make a complaint against Diston; he is allowed to bring in his saws at a rate of duty that makes it almost an unfair competition. If we had not to contend against him we would be able to double our capacity and employ double the amount of labor we do.

Q. What is the duty on saws? A. I understand that Diston has 5 per cent off, then 10 and 5. The duty on saws is 30 per cent.

Q. What is the duty on saw-plate—nothing? A. There is a duty of 5 per cent. on Diston's saws. We have to pay 30 per cent. duty on linseed oil which is used largely in mixing the paint and as we only get 30 per cent. protection we are not very much protected by that.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Where do you find a market for your saws? A. In the lower provinces. We have houses in the upper provinces and one in Montreal; we do not interfere with their trade at all, but we take the three lower provinces.

Q. Is your output increasing? A. Yes; it is increasing.

Q. I suppose your saws are considered to be first-class in every respect? A. We never make anything else.

Q. Have you ever heard any complaints about them? A. We have had complaints of them, but I think we make as good saws as anybody else. Our foreman comes from Speare & Jackson, and they are one of the best firms in the world.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you any advantage in freight rates to the west? A. We do not ship, any but confine ourselves to the lower provinces. I believe our saws are fully as good as Diston's. He does not bother the saw-makers of the west much, but he makes us a slaughter market, and to that extent he holds the market.

Q. Do you know of any manufacturer in Canada who can turn out a saw equal to Diston's for carpenters' use? A. I am not prepared to say, but I know the saw which we make we will guarantee to be equal to Diston's, or any other; and I think Smith, of St. Catherines, makes equally as good an article.

Q. Do you know whether the Canadian linseed oil is equal to the American? A. I do not know whether it is or not, as I have never used it.

Q. Is not the Canadian oil as good as the English? A. It is not any cheaper but it is dearer.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. How long would it take a steady artisan to save money enough to start a good comfortable home? A. A great deal would depend upon the size of his family.

Q. Then, suppose he had three children? A. A great deal would depend upon his wife; that is a very hard question to answer. I think that a man, without depriving himself of any necessary comfort, might build himself a little house in ten years. To do so he don't want to drink any liquor or smoke many cigars.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What are the wages of those men who built their own houses? A. One gets \$11 and the other \$25 a week.

Q. Do you think a man with three of a family can, by living economical, save much money on \$7 or \$8 a week? A. He cannot.

Q. How much would a man pay in this city, in any respectable locality, for rent? A. I should say not less than \$10 to \$12 a month.

ADAM H. BELL, Cigar Manufacturer, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How many hands do you employ in the manufacture of cigars? A. Forty hands.

Q. Do you employ boys and girls? A. Yes.

Q. How many boys or girls do you employ? A. I employ fifteen girls; as to the number of boys, I can hardly say. They work three years' apprenticeship

before they are out of their time; but when a boy gets a year and a-half at the business he is pretty well up in the trade and can work to his boss' interest.

Q. What work are your girls engaged in doing? A. Cigar packing, stripping and moulding.

Q. What wages do your strippers get? A. I have never hired a stripper; this is a new enterprise, in a way, in St. John. I have taken a girl and learned her how to strip, and she gets \$3 a week. She strips wrappers alone; but I have other girls earning \$5 to \$6 a week.

Q. Are they working at moulding work? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay your hands by the piece or the week? A. We pay them by the piece.

Q. What wages do the girls receive when they first go to work? A. They do not receive anything for two weeks; I do not give my girls or boys anything for that length of time, but in the first month they get \$2 and the next \$4 then the next \$6. I have apprentices working in the shop who are getting \$3.50 a week, and one of these has only been a year at the business. Sometimes I have taken on hands for three months to see how they would make out, but they generally become careless.

Q. Are your hands paid by the thousand? A. Yes; I pay as high as \$10 per thousand for some cigars.

Q. What wages do you give a good, skilled workman? A. From \$8 to \$20 a week.

Q. What wages do you pay the boys? A. The boys do not get, when stripping, as much pay as the girls, although the boys do not leave me so suddenly. I have had girls who have been with me two years and a-half and then leave to get married, but the boy generally sticks to the business.

Q. Do these boys work on the benches? A. Some of them do, and some of them work on wrappers.

Q.—Do they learn the trade complete? A.—They learn to make, handle and mould the work.

Q. How long do the boys have to serve before they are journeymen? A. Three years.

Q. What ages do you take these boys on to work? A. We take them on as old as eighteen and as low as fourteen years.

Q. Then you have got no journeyman cigar-makers down here at fourteen years of age? A. No; but we have some at twenty.

Q. Do the males and females work in the same room? A. The cigar factory is 75 by 40 feet, and one end of it is entirely reserved for the girls and the other for boys and men.

Q. Are your conveniences separate for the boys and girls? A. I do not own the building where I have my factory, and when I went in there I had to put in the appliances; one of them is on the upper floor, and the girls and men have to use it. There are certain hours in the day when the men go up there to use it and certain hours that the girls use it.

Q. Well, then there is only one closet up-stairs for the whole forty people? A. Yes; there is only one, although there is another one in the lower flat, in the cellar, but as my brother who keeps a wholesale liquor store is on that flat, and as I found the boys to take a drink in going up and down, I was compelled to nail the entrance of it up. I had to do this on account of another reason—that is, to keep cleanliness on the premises, because they did not take very good care of it.

Q. Do you have many cigars improperly made? A. No; not many (producing imperfect cigar); that is a Havana that has been imperfectly made; it was made by a good cigar-maker, a good workman.

Q. When cigars are imperfectly finished is the man or woman who makes them paid for his or her labor? A. Yes; we never dock them. I am a pretty heavy smoker myself, and generally I smoke them all up.

Q. Where is your packing room? A. I have not a very large packing room; it is on the premises. I am a packer myself, and I have a young lady learning; I

taught her myself, and she was getting \$5 a week for her labor when she suddenly left me. Now I have my partner's son learning cigar packing, and a young lady. She is getting \$2 a week and he is getting \$5. The girl has only been packing three or four months; she cannot do any bundling at all; it is all plain packing.

Q. Are any of your operatives fined for offences in your factory? A. I never imposed a fine in my factory.

Q. Are you ever compelled to punish any of your young people? A. I have threatened at times to do so when they didn't do their task. When the work was not very hard I may have said to them, "I will keep you in till you get your work done."

Q. Have you black-holes in which to shut up your hands? A. No, sir.

Q. Are you compelled to search them before they leave the factory? A. I am not. In the summer time I give them Saturday afternoon as a holiday.

Q. Do you pay them for that afternoon? A. Yes.

Q. How is business just now? A. This month has always been considered a slack one.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How many cigars will a good man make in a week of sixty hours? A. He might be a good man and yet not a fast man.

Q. But how many will a good, fast cigar-maker do in that time? A. One thousand five hundred—250 a day. I have known men to make as high as 400 in a day.

Q. Do you pay \$10 per thousand for all the cigars that you manufacture? A. No; we do not. The cigar that I have shown you would be an \$8 cigar; it is hardly worth that, but the competition in Montreal keeps down the prices. We have some cigars sold for \$13 a thousand.

Q. Where do those \$13 cigars come from? A. From Montreal. A gentleman told me he had been offered cigars at \$12.65 a thousand, at Three Rivers.

By Mr. FREED:

Q. Does the Scott Act interfere with the trade of cigar-making? A. It does, and will for a time.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Does not the Scott Act have a tendency to throw an inferior article on the market? A. I think it does; for it throws the cigar-smoking into the hands of inexperienced people.

Q. Can you tell us the difference between the cigars made by children and those made by men in Montreal? A. There is a vast difference.

Q. What is the difference? A. I learned my trade in Montreal, and I know that with child labor there they can turn out cigars for \$1.65 per thousand which cost us \$4 for the making by adults. Such cigars would cost us \$4 to \$4.50 down here.

Q. How much per thousand would skilled cigar-makers get for making that cigar before the introduction of child labor in Montreal? A. Four dollars a thousand.

Q. Do you know if a superior class of goods are manufactured with this child labor? A. I know that they do not make a superior class of goods, or I have never seen any. It is not possible for them, with journeymen at fourteen years of age, to make superior cigars. The trade is not very laborious, and so these boys can engage in it. The great trouble down here is, that we have to compete against this child labor of Montreal.

Q. Is your trade a local one? A. We ship and sell goods in the lower provinces, Nova Scotia and Quebec, but in Quebec the trade is not satisfactory. Our goods are better than the upper province article. We import our Sumatra direct from Amsterdam. I was down to Havana last fall and bought some leaf and brought it up here and dressed it. We put our cigars up in Sumatra wrappers, but a great

many people do not know the difference between the Sumatra wrapper and the Connecticut wrapper. There is a vast difference between the two. The Connecticut leaf only costs \$2 and the other costs \$4. We make more fine goods than they do in the upper province.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. This cheaper cigar selling better than your superior ones would be more the fault of the trader than the consumer? A. Yes; ignorance of the trader.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you any women that make cigars by hand? A. We have not. In all my experience I have seen but one woman that could make a good cigar. They have not got the judgment needed for that purpose, possibly because they do not smoke.

Q. Are your men constantly employed? A. We have only lost two months in four years. Sometimes we are disappointed about stock arriving, and so have lost a day or two. I have figured the matter up through the revenue book, and find we have only lost two months in four years.

A. J. LORDLY, Furniture Manufacturer, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you manufacture furniture? A. Yes; I manufacture furniture, in partnership with my son.

Q. How many hands do you employ at present? A. About eighteen.

Q. What kind of furniture do you manufacture? A. The better class.

Q. Do your men work piece or day-work? A. Day-work.

Q. What are the weekly earnings of cabinet-makers? A. \$8 to \$12 a week.

Q. Is \$8 the lowest for good journeymen? A. \$8 would be the lowest.

Q. Do you take many apprentices in the business? A. We have some four or five just now.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in getting the boys to remain with you after they have learned their trade? A. Not usually.

Q. Is the supply of good, skilled cabinet-makers equal to the demand? A. Hardly equal; we want one or two hands now and we cannot get them.

Q. Is there any difficulty in getting skilled workmen in your business? A. There is some difficulty; many of our young men, after the fire of 1877, went to the States, and they have got settled there, and so we cannot get them back; many of them were good workmen in all lines of trade. Our people are rather conservative, and they do not take to outsiders; they prefer to have native hands.

Q. What is the general pay that apprentices get when they are learning their trade? A. We take them on for five years, and we pay them, for the first year, \$2.50; second, \$3; third, \$4; fourth, \$4; and fifth, \$5; and at the end of that time we give them \$30 for tools.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in getting boys to learn the business? A. No difficulty whatever.

Q. Are there many more offering for positions than you can take on? A. Yes; lots of boys are wanting places that we cannot take on.

Q. Have you, in St. John, any means of enabling boys to get a technical education while learning their trade? A. Properly speaking, there is not; Mr. Howe, I think, has got a class for freehand drawing in the Y.M.C.A. I am a member of the Mechanics' Institute, and I thought of originating a class of that kind for young men.

Q. Do you think it would be any advantage to them? A. Yes; if the Dominion Government would give us \$1,000 or so.

Q. Do you think any portion of that technical training could be given to boys in the public schools? A. I should say so; I think freehand drawing might be taught, but designing might be rather difficult.

Q. Would you prefer that the boys should get this instruction while with their other lessons at school, or while they were learning their trade? A. I think it would be better for them to learn this separately, for then they would take more interest in it; it seems to me to be absolutely necessary for lads learning the carpenter business and other trades to have this taught them beforehand.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you a library in connection with the Mechanics' Institute? A. Yes.

Q. Is it free? A. It is not quite free, although the library is free to all the members who pay \$6 a year for a course of lectures, which includes the use of the library. These lectures take in three members of the family.

Q. Is the Mechanics' Institute well patronized by the mechanics and working class? A. Of late years it has not been. The raising of the price of the lecture tickets from \$3 to \$5 has not done the institute any good. It is more of a literary institution now, but within the last few weeks we have been trying to get the mechanics interested in it. I know that I have got forty-nine new members in that time, and we are going to try to keep it for the mechanics.

Q. Do you think that if the price of tickets in the institute was made \$3 or \$4 that the institute will be well patronized? A. I think it would be better patronized. I think the boys and girls would take advantage and study there if there was a class formed in freehand drawing; many apprentices would take advantage of such a school if the price were placed at \$3 or \$4 a year.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are mechanics in this city generally placed in comfortable circumstances? A. I think so.

Q. Do you know of any mechanics in the city that own either houses or property? A. I do not know of any such.

Q. Do you know what rent, as a general rule, mechanics pay for the houses they occupy? A. \$80 to \$100 a year.

Q. Do they get fairly comfortable houses for that sum? A. There has been a great difficulty lately in getting houses for that amount; I know of several parties who want to get such a house and cannot. That is one of the great difficulties we have to contend against; we need decent tenement houses at less rent. If such houses were built, I think it would be a paying speculation.

Q. Do you export much of your furniture? A. No; we are catering to the city trade.

Q. Do you find a market for all your output? A. We find our trade is increasing every year.

Q. Where do the woods that you use come from mostly? A. Our walnut and mahogany we get from the West Indies and Demerara; red wood and walnut come from Boston, very often.

Q. Can you get any woods here? A. Yes; we get very nice oak in Nova Scotia.

Q. Can you get any pine here? A. We get it here abundantly.

Q. Do basswood and whitewood grow in this Province? A. The basswood grows here largely, mostly up the St. John River, but some grows up north. The whitewood we import.

SAMUEL LANE, Tanner, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there many men employed in tanning in St. John? A. Not as many as there used to be formerly; there is only one tannery in St. John.

Q. What wages do tanners get here? A. I can hardly tell you, as I do not know what wages the others get.

Q. Could you not give us some idea as to what their wages are? A. Some are

working for \$5.50 a week—that is for ordinary hands. Of course, there are boys not getting as much, and there are grown men that I do not think get as much as that, even.

Q. Are they skilled workmen? A. I know one man working with me getting \$5.50; this man is not a skilled workman, only a helper through the shop.

Q. Have you any idea of what a good man is worth at the business here—that is, a man who understands the business? A. I understand the business, for I have been working at it for twenty-seven or twenty-eight years, and I get \$8 per week.

Q. What are the wages of curriers? A. There are men in the shop called curriers who came there as helpers, but I do not know that there are one or two men there who could take hold of any part.

Q. Then, \$5.50 or \$6 would be the average wages of the men employed there below you? A. Yes; I think that would be about it.

Q. How many hours in the day do they work? A. Ten.

Q. Do they get as much in the winter as in the summer? A. The same rate and the same hours all the year round.

Q. Are the buildings comfortable and warm in winter? A. They are calculated to be warm, but where the tanning is done it is pretty cold in winter, sometimes; there are large stoves provided, but they cannot be kept warm and comfortable at all times. Up-stairs, the building is three storys high; there are heaters all through, and it is comfortable.

Q. Generally, then, the building is pretty comfortable? A. Yes; taking it all through.

Q. Has the business of tanning fallen off here? A. It has been slack this last winter, but there is a good deal of stock on hand unfinished, but I have seen the stuff bought up or bespoken beforehand, and even before it was out of the pits, at times before now.

Q. Do you know any reason why work has not been so plentiful this year? A. I do not; it is slack all over, it seems, in St. John; I do not know how it is in other places.

Q. Do they manufacture all classes of leather? A. Sole leather and harness leat her, and casings.

Q. Give some idea of the cost of living here—the cost of provisions? A. They are as cheap now as they have been for some time.

Q. What does the four-pound loaf of bread cost? A. I do not know for certain what the price of bread is, whether 6 or 7 cents, but the loaf here is supposed to weigh two pounds, and it is 7 cents, I believe.

Q. What can you buy pretty fair meat for? A. The best meat I get at 5½ cents by the quarter in the market.

Q. Do you know what it costs per pound at the butchers' shops? A. I heard my wife say on Saturday night that it was from 10, 12 and 14 cents a pound for roast beef.

Q. What would be a fair rent for a house such as workmen generally live in here? A. I can assure you some of them live in pretty low places. I pay \$72 a year for the house I live in.

Q. Take the average kind of house, with four or five rooms? A. I think about \$50 a year or \$52, but there are houses lower than that; over that is too much.

Q. So, house rents are reasonable here? A. Yes; they are reasonable.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you any information as to how much they tan in a year in that establishment—what quantity of work do you put out? A. I think we put about 6,000 sides of sole leather in a year, but I never kept any count of it; sole leather is the principal department.

Q. Is yours the only sole leather tannery here? A. Yes; at present; I do not know of any other.

DAVID MILLER, Engineer, St. John, N. B., called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are you a stationary engineer? A. I act as engineer, but I am not really an engineer.

Q. You take charge of an engine? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any idea of the wages of engineers in the city of St. John—skilled workmen? A. Well, I do not know what wages practical engineers would get.

Q. Give us an idea of what the wages of practical men who have charge of engines are? A. I think from \$8 to \$10 a week.

Q. Do you know if there are many men in charge of engines in St. John who are not practical engineers? A.—Well, I do not; there are two or three I know of.

Q. Do you know if there is any system of inspection of boilers in this city? A. No; I do not know that there is.

Q. Could you give us any idea of how frequently those boilers should be inspected? A. I do not know; the boiler I have charge of has been running about twelve years without any inspection, more than running it out.

Q. Do you know how many years a boiler will run with safety without repairs? A. That would depend a great deal on the care taken of it, and if it is kept clean.

Q. How many hours in the day do you work? A. Ten.

Q. Do you do your own driving? A. Yes.

Q. Do you work ten hours only in summer? A. The engine is supposed to be run ten hours.

Q. I want to know how many hours you put in around the boiler and engine in the day? A. I think it would be about eleven hours.

Q. You would go earlier in the morning? A. Yes.

Q. How about your fires at night? A. In summer I let it go out and in winter I bank it.

Q. What kind of establishment do you run the engine in? A. Sole leather store and curriers' shop.

Q. Can you tell us what the earnings of curriers are? A. I think he is paying his men \$7 or \$8 a week.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Has any accident ever occurred upon your premises? A. No; not since I have been in charge there.

Q. How often do you clean your boiler out yourself? A. About every eight weeks.

Q. Did you ever have any training in boiler-shops? A. No; not in boiler-shops. When I took charge of that engine there was an engineer that came and stayed there with me for a while to give me what information I wanted.

Q. I suppose he gave you an understanding about the regulating gauge and all that? A. Yes; I have done that for four years now, and have had no trouble with the engine in that time.

Q. Do you know that it is not very safe in all cases to depend upon the gauge of boilers? A. Yes; I am aware of that.

Q. You are not guided by that alone? A. No.

Q. You are guided more by your experience than the gauge? A. Well, I generally test it every morning, to know that both pipes are clear.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you know of boilers in this city where the cocks have not drawn water for the last year? A. No.

Q. You have not heard of any? A. No.

ST. JOHN, N.B., 20th March, 1888.

GEORGE KETCHEM, Manager of the Coldbrook Rolling Mills Company, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What business do you follow? A. I am the manager of the Coldbrook Rolling Mills.

Q. How many men do you employ in these works? A. On our last pay-roll, a week ago, we had 116.

Q. What classes of iron do you use in your work? A. We make refined and common iron, iron and steel nail-plate, and some milling iron.

Q. Do you make steel nail-plate from iron rails? A. We make them mostly from imported scrap steel.

Q. What wages can the best men in your mills earn? A. The best men earn \$4.50 a day.

Q. How much do the helpers earn? A. They get \$1.40 a day.

Q. How many hours a day do your hands work? A. A certain number of heats constitute a day; we call seven heats a day's work; some days we get that through at 4:30 in the afternoon, while some days it may take till between 5 and 6 o'clock. The men go to work at 7, and they are generally all through with their work, at the latest, by 5:30 in the evening.

Q. Do you work the year round, or do you shut down in the summer? A. We shut down in the summer for a few days to make temporary repairs, and in January for the taking of stock.

Q. Then you do not shut down during the heat of summer? A. No.

Q. Do you employ any boys? A. We employ a few—seven boys.

Q. Are these boys learning to become rollers? A. They have a chance given them to learn.

Q. Do the unskilled men gradually acquire such a knowledge of the business as to enable them to earn the highest wages? A. They do not acquire knowledge enough to earn the highest wages, but they advance in proficiency and are able, in time, to take the position next to the head man—that is, the man who has charge of the men.

Q. Do you cut nails? A. We do not cut the nails ourselves; we supply the nail-bars, and pay so much for having them cut, and then supply them to the mills.

Q. Do you know what wages the nailers earn? A. I do not.

Q. What iron do you use? A. We use scrap iron, and rails which are somewhat used.

Q. Do you do puddling? A. No.

Q. Where do you sell your iron, as a rule? A. We sell most of our iron in the Maritime Provinces and in Quebec; the iron we sell in Quebec goes principally to Montreal.

Q. Do you import any blooms? A. No.

Q. Do you find that your business is holding its own? A. We find that our business is rather on the increase than otherwise.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles with your men? A. We have never had any trouble with our men, so far as I know.

Q. Have they ever made any demands upon you for higher wages? A. None, that I am aware of. My foreman would be better posted on that matter than I am, but I have never heard any complaints from him about the men.

Q. Is the scale of wages fixed by yourselves, or by a conference between the company and the men? A. It is fixed by ourselves; we have a certain rate of wages that we pay for the different kinds which we carry on. That rate is for the full year, and it is never changed.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you any men employed in your factory who earn wages between \$1.40 and \$4.50 a day? A. We have some.

Q. What wages would they receive? A. We have some men who are earning \$1.75, some \$2, others \$2.25, and still some others earning \$2.50.

Q. What is the special work that they are engaged in? A. These would be mostly the men who work about the furnaces—the men who attend the furnaces and see to the heating of the iron, taking care that it is properly for the rails; then there would be the head men on the plate-mill who would get \$2 a day.

Q. Can you give us an idea, taking week in and week out, what would be the average earning of the men who work about the furnaces? A. The men who work around the furnaces would earn, I should think, \$2.50 a day.

Q. Would that be a good average all around? A. That would be a fair average all around.

Q. What would be a fair average for the wages of the men who work on the rollers? A. The man who has charge of the rolls has full charge, except during the month that we are shut down for repairs, and during that time he is busy repairing his own rolls, so that he would only lose three weeks in the course of the year.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you make your own rolls? A. No; we import our rolls, but we have a roll-turner to keep them in proper shape.

NEVIL SHAW (Price & Shaw, Carriage Builders), St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What business do you follow? A. I am a carriage builder—a partner of the firm of Price & Shaw, who do business in the city of Portland.

Q. Are there many men employed in the carriage industry in the city of St. John and vicinity? A. There are quite a number.

Q. What wages do good blacksmiths earn on carriage work? A. All the way from \$1.50 to \$2.50.

Q. Are the men who earn \$1.50 good, skilled blacksmiths? A. Yes; a man of that kind would be a good, fair blacksmith.

Q. What would be the average wages of the men employed on the wood work? A. They get all the way from \$1.35 to \$2.10.

Q. What do the men who are engaged in the leather work earn? A. All the leather work is done by the piece, and a man engaged in that work will earn all the way from \$2.50 to \$3 a day, according to the amount of work he has to do.

Q. Are there not some who earn less than that? A. We have one boy learning his trade who earns less than that.

Q. But a good, skilled mechanic can earn \$2.50 a day? A. He can earn from \$2.50 to \$3 a day.

Q. What wages do carriage painters earn? A. All the way from \$1 to \$2.50.

Q. How many hours a day do you work in your factory? A. We work ten hours, as a rule.

Q. How many weeks do you find employment for your men in a year, that is, taking one year with another? A. We run our factory the whole year round and the men are employed all that time, except that once in a while we work on three-quarter time; I suppose we have made three-quarter time for a month during the past year.

Q. Do you take on any apprentices in your business? A. Sometimes we do; we generally have five or six.

Q. What wages do the apprentices earn when they begin to work with you? A. They start on \$1.50 a week.

Q. How many years do they serve? A. Four.

Q. Do they learn more than one branch of the work? A. Only one; either blacksmithing, trimming, wood-working or painting, whichever they may choose.

Q. What wages do the apprentices receive during the last year of their time?
A. Four dollars and fifty cents a week.

Q. When the apprentices finish their time do they usually find employment with you? A. The most of them find their way to the States. It is very seldom that an apprentice remains with us, after he has finished his time, for more than a year or two.

Q. Do they report to you that they can do better in the States than here? A. They say they do.

Q. Where do you sell the most of your carriages? A. Chiefly in St. John; we do sell them all over the Maritime Provinces, and we have even sent some as far as Ontario.

Q. Do you find any competition in your business from the western provinces?
A. Yes; we find considerable in the cheaper grade of work.

Q. Where do these carriages which enter into competition with yours come from? A. Guelph; mostly.

Q. Do any come from any part of Quebec Province? A. I do not think so.

Q. Is the carriage business increasing or decreasing in St. John? A. There was more business done in St. John in our line ten or twelve years ago than now.

Q. What cause do you attribute the falling off in business to? A. Want of people is the main thing, I suppose, and want of dollars also.

Q. What is the youngest age that you receive apprentices? A. Fourteen would be as young as we would take, though we have had them enter as apprentices when eighteen years old.

Q. Are your shops comfortable to work in? A. Yes; our shops have to be comfortable or the men could not work in them.

Q. Are they warm in winter? A. Yes; they have to be or the men could not work in them.

Q. Is there any inspection of factories in St. John? A. None that I know of.

Q. Would it be an advantage to your apprentices and to your workmen if schools for giving technical instruction were established? A. Yes; it would be a great advantage to them.

Q. Then, you would be glad to see such schools established in this community?
A. Yes, sir; technical instruction should have been taught in our common schools years ago.

Q. Do you think that technical instruction should be imparted in the common schools, or classes for that purpose be started apart from them? A. I think that such classes should be formed in our common schools, except in the large cities, where classes for that purpose might be started at night; such classes, I think, would be a benefit to apprentices; for as matters are now there is no chance for any body to obtain such knowledge in this city.

Q. Would technical instruction be of advantage to the employer as well as the employé? A. I am of opinion that it would.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Taking one day with another, do you think your carriage-trimmers earn \$3.50 a day, on an average? A. It is possible that they might not, but I rather think they would.

Q. Do they have constant employment? A. Constant employment.

Q. Do carriage painters find constant employment at \$3.50 a day? A. Yes.

Q. Is \$2.50 a day a good average for the best carriage painters? A. I think that it would be a good average for the best.

Q. What would be the average earnings of the painters? A. The average earnings of the hands in our paint-shops would not be over \$2.25.

Q. Would \$2.50 be a fair average for the trimmers? A. Yes; that would strike the trimmers.

Q. How many men among the wood-workers can earn over \$2 a day? A. Sometimes two or three can earn more; if they work piece-work they can earn more.

Q. Do you think that, as a rule, day-work is better than piece-work? A. As a rule, we work day-work.

Q. Do you find that it makes any difference in the quality of the work whether it is done by day-work or by piece-work? A. I never noticed that it made any difference.

Q. What hours do your men work? A. As a rule, ten hours a day.

Q. Both winter and summer? A. Yes; there is a month in winter that we work short time; it is all according to how the work is going on. Last fall we worked for two months eleven or twelve hours a day; then, in the month of January we work three-quarter time; but as there were two months that we worked eleven hours a day the men would average full time.

Q. Do you include upholsterers under the head of trimmers? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Where do you get your wood? A. We get our hickory principally from the States, and our oak also; the ash comes principally from there to, and our white-wood all comes from the States.

Q. Couldn't any of these woods be profitably brought into New Brunswick from Ontario and Quebec? A. They do not grow them to any extent.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. When do you pay your men? A. Every fortnight.

Q. Have the men ever asked to be paid oftener? A. No, sir.

ROBERT R. BARNES, Printer and Book-binder, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What classes of hands do you employ? A. Men and women—skilled workmen.

Q. At what occupations do you employ them? A. Printing and book-binding.

Q. Are your compositors paid by the piece or by the week? A. By the week.

Q. What does a good journeyman printer earn? A. Well, the printer's union has fixed that matter for us; they get \$10 a week.

Q. How many hours a day do your printers work? A. Ten hours.

Q. Do they make sixty hours a week? A. Yes.

Q. Do you employ many apprentices at setting type? A. We have two.

Q. Is there any restrictions placed upon the employer as to the number of apprentices he shall take in his establishment? A. I do not think there is now, but when the printer's union was in full force I think there was a provision in their constitution limiting the number.

Q. Do you ever employ any female compositors? A. No.

Q. Do you know of any being employed in the printing offices in St. John? A. I am not positive, but I think the *Christian Visitor* Office did employ female compositors at one time; whether they do so now or not I do not know. I have no personal knowledge of their doing so, but I have heard they did.

Q. What wages do you pay your press-man? A. Ten dollars a week.

Q. What do the journeymen mechanics and the men in the bindery receive as wages? A. Well, we have only four binders, two of whom receive \$12, one \$10, and another \$9 per week.

Q. What wages do you pay the girls—stitchers and folders? A. They get from \$3 to \$5 a week according to their ability.

Q. What wages do they receive when they begin work? A. I think they receive a \$1 week, but their wages increase very rapidly, and they very soon become of use to us. At one time when we printed a large number of school books; the girls work at piece-worked, and one or two of them used to make as high as \$8 a week.

Q. Were there more school books printed in St. John formerly than there are now? A. There is none of any account printed here now.

Q. What has caused the falling off? A. When the present school law came in force the superintendent selected books for use in the schools that were copyrighted in the old country and in Nova Scotia. New Brunswick is the only Province in the Dominion that was distinguished as not having even its school primers printed within its borders. These books are all imported.

Q. From what country are these books imported? A. The Royal Readers are imported from Edinburgh. Nelson & Co. have the copyright for them, and, of course, no body can print them but them.

Q. Have you separate water-closets in your establishment for men and women? A. Yes; the water-closet for the men is down in the cellar and for the girls it is in their own room. They have a dressing-room off of their room, where they change their dresses, and their water-closet is in there.

Q. On what flat is your bindery? A. The second story. The shop is on the first flat and the bindery is on the second, and the printers are on the top flat.

Q. How wide are the stairs that lead from this work-room? A. They are quite wide.

Q. Do the outer doors open out or in? A. We have no doors up-stairs, except the store door; the stairs are all open and the workmen and women can come right down.

Q. What means of egress have your hands in case of a fire breaking out in the store? A. We have a back entrance from an alley—that is back of the first flat—the bindery. There would be no possible chance of a fire breaking out in our store, because we have only one fire in the building, and that is from the boiler on the second flat.

Q. When your apprentices, either in the bindery or printing office, finish their time, do they remain with or go away from you? A. They remain with us for a time, but eventually they go away.

Q. Where do they go? A. Most of them go to the States. They stay with us for a short time, but they generally go away to the States. We have one hand working for us now who served his time in our establishment; he has been with us for six or seven years; he went to the States once, but he came back again and asked for work at once. There are a good many printers and book-binders in the States who would do just as well or better here than there.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Would it make much difference to your trade if the school books were printed in St. John? A. Well; if they were printed here it would give more employment than now.

Q. How many more hands could you give employment to in that respect? A. I have not given the matter enough attention to be able to say.

Q. Would the cost of books be so great to families as now? A. It would not, as there is 15 per cent. duty on books. There are other printers beside us who could publish them 25 per cent. cheaper than now; I am positive of this. The board of education is composed of the members of the Local Government and a superintendent. The present Government are trying to do something in this matter. I know there was a deputation sent up from the printers' union to Fredericton to press the matter upon their attention, and since then I know that they have adopted an arithmetic for the schools, which is published for the schools by Mr. Hall, of Freedricton, and I think McMillan & Co. publish one of the better class of copy-book.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you employ your compositors by the piece or by the day? A. By the day. Ours is more a book and job than a printing office.

Q. Do you pay a good job hand \$10 a week? A. \$10 a week.

Q. And do book hands get the same? A. They get \$12 if we want them—

that is, if we cannot do without them. When the union was in force they fixed the rate of wages; but before that time, if a man came and asked us for more pay we gave it to him if he was worth it, and if he was not we didn't.

Q. But you have always paid the prevailing rate? A. We have to.

Q. How long do apprentices serve in St. John? A. They serve pretty much as they like; there is no limit placed on the time of an apprentice here. As soon as they are able to do anything they go away from here and find places in the States.

Q. What part of the United States do they go to? A. Boston, as a rule.

Q. What is the difference in the rate of wages paid to book hands in Boston and St. John? A. I do not think the wages are any better there than here; I'm not positive on the matter, but I think so. The ambition of most of our printers is to get on the daily papers, where they can earn large wages; still, I think they earn on an average not more than \$10 or \$12 a week; that is my opinion.

Q. At the time that Nelson & Co. received the contract for printing those school books were there any printers in St. John capable of doing this work? A.—There were. Nelson & Co. did not get the contract for printing those books; they were selected by the superintendent of schools, and as Nelsons had the copyright for them they were the only ones who could supply them. If the books had been left open to competition either our house or McMillian's could have supplied them. When the former series of school books—the Irish board series—were used that is, before the present school law came in force—any one who liked could print those books, and several of us in St. John did so.

Q. Are any of the geographies used in the schools published in St. John? A. They are not.

Q. Who publishes them? A. They are published either in Glasgow or in Edinburgh.

Q. After looking over these books, don't you think the youth of the country would be better instructed in the history of this Dominion if these school books were printed in Canada? A. I think so. I know we have gone out of that line of work since 1877, so that I am not thoroughly posted on the matter, but I think there used to be one book—I am not certain whether it is a Royal Reader or not—that describes St. John as a fishing village, and that the lumber was floated down the St. John River, from Fredericton to Halifax. The Royal Readers are a good series of books; they are well printed and got up.

Q. Do you think if these books were printed in New Brunswick and left open to competition that they could be bought much cheaper than at present? A. Very much cheaper, indeed.

Q. And the public would get the benefit from it? A. Yes; they would receive at least 26 per cent. benefit, because there is 15 per cent. duty on them, besides the cost of importing.

WM. F. BUNTING, Chairman Board of Assessors, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How many assessors are there for the City of St. John? A. Three.

Q. On what principle do they value property for taxation in St. John? Is it based on the value of the property? A. We assess property on what we consider to be its market rates.

Q. Then, you are not guided at all in your assessment by the rental the property produces or will produce? A. Not in all cases. If the property is rented under a renewable lease we would take that as the basis of its valuation, but where it is rented from year to year we cannot do so very well.

Q. Can you tell us about the average value of the houses in St. John which are used by the mechanics? A. That is a pretty difficult question to answer, for there are very few houses in St. John where the whole house is occupied by mechanics. As a rule, there would be perhaps two or three families living in one building.

Q. About how many rooms would the average mechanic occupy? A. Two, three, four or five.

Q. Are there many mechanics living in tenements of two rooms in St. John? A. I could not say.

Q. Can you not tell this from your assessment? A. That is a matter that does not come within our duties at all; I could tell you what income we generally assess mechanics at.

Q. What would it be? A. Three hundred dollars a year. Under our law we tax every man on all of his earnings, and we generally tax a good fair, laborer on \$300 income.

Q. Are there very many men in St. John who are taxed below \$300 income? A. There is quite a number.

Q. Can you give us any idea of the number of the laboring classes who are assessed below \$300 income? A. I could not tell you off-hand.

Q. Could you get that information without any very great difficulty? A. It would be almost impossible to get that information just now. This is my busy season of the year; we are making up our annual assessment.

Q. Do you think there are many mechanics who are assessed below \$300? A. There are some.

Q. Are there a great many? A. There are not many, unless they are in bad health or out of work, that would be assessed under \$300. The larger proportion of mechanics are assessed on \$400.

Q. I suppose the assessment would be below rather than above their actual income? A. It would be rather below.

Q. Can you give us an idea of the number of laborers or mechanics in St. John who own the houses in which they live? A. I could not approximate.

Q. Would you say that in proportion to the number of mechanics and laborers that the number who live in their own houses is very small? A. It is very small.

Q. Do you think it would be possible for a mechanic to buy a house as cheap as he could live in a rented one? A. He could not get a house for the price, that is, capitalizing the money that he makes. He would have to get one occupied by himself, and there are very few such houses to be had in St. John. There are some such houses in St. Patrick street and in Erin street.

Q. You think that the rental that would be paid by a mechanic would be greater than the money invested in such a house, plus the taxes, insurance and necessary repairs? A. I do not think so.

Q. Then he could rent as cheaply as he could own a house? A. Yes; although property in St. John at the present time is very low. Persons are not willing to purchase property unless they really need it. They will not buy it as an investment, for they seem to have got frightened of investing their money in real estate, although I see no grounds for the fear.

Q. Are the water rates in the house generally paid by the tenant or the landlord? A. That is a matter I have nothing to do with; the whole matter of water assessment is under the charge of a commission.

Q. Can you give us any idea about the sanitary condition of the houses of the working classes in St. John? A. I know that some are not very good in that respect, but I do not think that St. John is any worse than any other place of the same population.

Q. Are the houses generally connected with the sewer? A. They are.

Q. Are they generally supplied with inside water-closets? A. They are not—I think they are not; those water-closets come under the supervision of the water commission, and they assess for them; the city assessors have nothing to do with them. You could get that information from the engineer of the water commission.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is the rate of assessment on income in St. John? A. (Producing paper).—We assess the same rate on income as on property. The percentage in

1887 was \$1.25 and that was the highest we have ever had it; that arose from losses sustained by the collapse of the Maritime Bank, and by the Bank of New Brunswick lessening the amount of its capital stock from \$1,000,000 to \$500,000. Then there were some failures that reduced the value of our personal property, but our percentage last year was \$1.25, as against \$1.20 the year before, so that it only rose 5 cents.

Q. If a workingman is not able to pay his taxes do you distrain his goods?
A. If he does not pay his taxes he is liable to be treated in that way.

Q. Do you tax everybody's income? A. We tax every body who earns anything, unless a man is disabled or incapacitated.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in getting at the income of people, other than workingmen? A. No; we get information from the factories and places of business that show us the wages they pay.

Q. And you would not be able to give us any more definite information respecting day laborers? A. No.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in arriving at the income of those who are not working people? A. We are authorized, under our law, to tax the merchant who is handling his stock in trade. We tax his merchandise to its full value, and we will then assess him on what we consider it is worth to him in managing his business. Of course, professional men, clerks who are working brain work, we have to get at their income as best we can.

Q. Do you think that the income tax is a just tax, and one that bears more lightly upon poor people or widows who have two or three children to support?
A. We do not tax females on income.

Q. Take a workingman who is earning less than \$300: do you think that he has any money to spare for taxes? A. There is no doubt that the laws in that case may be a hardship and a burden to him.

Q. Do your taxes bear more equitably and fairly than if your basis of assessment was placed upon real estate and your income exempted? A. I do not think in a country like ours, where there is so much vacant land, that taxes on real estate would be the correct system of taxation. If a country is fully settled and the lands all occupied there would be a different condition of things existing, and it would be a different means that you would have to take to assess the people; but in a new country I do not think that real estate alone would be the correct principle for taxation.

Q. Do you know the exemptions from personal tax in the other Provinces?
A. I could not tell you what they are.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. When you are going to assess a workingman's salary, how do you find out what he earns in a year? A. We get such information from any of the factories; we furnish them with a schedule, which they are obliged to fill up, and in these schedules they give us the names of their employés, together with the amounts they earn.

Q. Do you think that is a fair way of arriving at the matter? A. I know that it is our law.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Supposing a man only works six months in a year, how would you get at his case? A. I suppose that in that case the employers would put down what he really earned.

Q. In making up your assessment at the present time do you assess for the preceding year and not for the present one? A.—We assess for the coming year. The whole assessment for the ensuing year would be made up on the 1st of next April.

Q. How can any employer give you a man's wages before he has received them? A. The assessment for next year is based on the earnings of the past year.

Q. Would not that be an injustice, when you are assessing on what a man has not earned? A. We cannot tell what a man will earn in the coming year; that is the thing that no man can tell about. We assess him upon a certainty—what he has actually earned—to pay the expenses for the current year.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. If there was a tax placed on real estate alone, do you think that so much real estate would be held as is now held for speculative purposes? A. There are no properties held in the city of St. John for speculative purposes. I am not aware of any such being held; there may be one or two persons who hold property in that way but it is not held as a general thing. Property in St. John is divided up very much. There are only three or four individuals in this city who own any very large extent of property.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Are vacant lots taxed to their full value? A. They are taxed upon what we consider to be their market value.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:

Q. What is the general manner in which you arrive at the incomes of the professional classes? A. We get statements from them.

Q. Do you get these statements from themselves? A. Yes; and the law allows us to exercise our judgment, so that if we cannot get the information from the tax-payer himself we do the best we can and judge from appearances, and the information that we can get from other sources. This is not a very large community, so it is easy to get what information we need.

Q. Are the taxes collected *en bloc* or by instalments? A. The collector is supposed to collect them *en bloc*.

Q. How long a time is given for grace before a seizure of the goods may take place? A. The execution is due in thirty days after the Chamberlain issues his notice; he can issue an execution thirty days after he sends out his notice.

Q. Do you think that in that respect equality is maintained between the laboring and the wealthy classes? A. I do not know what course the Chamberlain pursues in that respect.

Q. Did you ever give any thought to the publication of the tax-list before the taxes were collected, so that people would know what their assessed income was? A. I cannot say I have.

Q. Don't you think it would be a good idea to do so? A. There is no doubt but that it would prevent a great deal of misunderstanding, for then the rate-payers would be better able to examine the list for themselves and judge accordingly.

Q. And fraud would be better detected? A. Likely.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Are the taxes pretty well paid up, or is there a deficit at the end of the year? A. There is a deficit always, for it is pretty hard to get people to pay their taxes unless they are forced to.

Q. As a general rule is it the working classes that are behind in the payment of their taxes? A. That is a matter that does not come within my department; I have no means of knowing that. If you had the treasurer here he would be able to tell you about that matter.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you know the amount of the earnings the laborers made in St. John last year? A. I do not know what the amount was.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Has complaint ever been made to you that large properties have not been taxed so much up to their full value as small ones? A. I do not know that such

complaints have ever been made. We have plenty of complaints made to us but that is expected.

Q. Do you ever have complaints made to you that the property is not valued sufficiently high? A. I do not think so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you know the amount of property in the city of St. John that is exempt from taxation? A. It is about \$3,000,000, as near I can come to it; all the property owned by the Dominion Government, churches, and charitable institutions are exempt.

Q. These are the classes of property that are exempted? A. Yes; and all the property owned by the city corporation also. The corporation own a great deal of land in the city, which was granted to them when St. John was incorporated. They are the owners of a large amount of property here. Churches, charitable institutions and school-houses are all exempt, and these amount to over \$3,000,000 in value. That is a pretty large percentage to come off. Our real estate here would be valued at a little over \$8,000,000 (handing paper to Chairman). I did not know what questions you would want me to answer, so I drew up a paper covering ten years, and it will give you the number of polls and non-polls.

PARTICULARS Collected from the Books of the Assessors of St. John, N.B.

EAST SIDE OF THE HARBOR.

Year.	Polls.	Non Polls.	Real Estate.		Personal Estate.		Income.		County Taxes.		City Taxes.		Total Taxes.	
			\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.
1878...	5,123	1,117	10,235,300	00	7,398,100	00	1,921,600	00	66,660	11	190,039	24	256,699	35
1879...	4,653	1,136	10,878,300	00	6,262,700	00	1,721,900	00	70,689	60	179,259	30	249,948	90
1880...	3,951	1,167	8,243,800	00	5,483,100	00	1,236,980	00	72,670	23	161,222	86	233,893	09
1881...	3,966	1,168	8,307,000	00	5,349,700	00	1,101,600	00	71,900	89	161,249	60	230,150	49
1882...	4,219	1,174	8,377,300	00	8,148,100	00	2,508,100	00	69,575	35	160,706	00	230,281	35
1883...	4,430	1,203	8,413,700	00	8,886,200	00	2,567,700	00	70,644	10	177,734	60	248,378	70
1884...	4,446	1,206	8,519,800	00	8,811,600	00	2,486,000	00	70,472	40	163,467	72	233,940	12
1885...	4,270	1,233	8,470,700	00	8,587,200	00	2,324,300	00	72,781	64	169,412	26	242,193	90
1886...	4,237	1,288	8,452,900	00	8,394,000	00	2,374,300	00	72,177	69	168,009	96	240,187	65
1887...	4,270	1,368	8,493,800	00	7,455,500	00	2,373,200	00	74,359	50	164,297	25	238,656	75

WEST SIDE OF THE HARBOR.

Year.	Polls.	Non Polls.	Real Estate.		Personal Estate.		Income.		County Taxes.		City Taxes.		Total Taxes.	
			\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.
1878...	1,208	233	745,000	00	212,300	00	274,500	00	3,796	70	11,269	24	15,065	94
1879...	1,122	234	743,600	00	158,900	00	232,300	00	3,995	70	10,912	80	14,908	50
1880...	1,038	245	609,200	00	130,700	00	151,600	00	4,000	25	9,523	50	13,533	75
1881...	956	266	613,300	00	122,200	00	130,200	00	3,705	25	9,953	70	13,658	95
1882...	1,038	224	595,500	00	354,600	00	334,700	00	3,086	06	9,784	80	12,870	86
1883...	1,047	241	606,600	00	371,000	00	346,400	00	3,174	55	10,038	00	13,212	55
1884...	1,079	241	602,200	00	341,700	00	347,900	00	2,853	35	10,167	16	13,020	51
1885...	1,021	236	600,000	00	320,300	00	336,300	00	3,271	09	10,720	40	13,991	49
1886...	989	227	589,800	00	267,800	00	335,900	00	2,872	95	11,304	40	14,177	35
1887...	969	233	591,000	00	236,000	00	329,100	00	3,016	89	11,208	86	14,225	75

W. F. BUNTING,

Chairman Board of Assessors.

ST. JOHN, N.B., 20th March, 1888.

Q. Are the city taxes assessed by you for both sides of the harbor? A. The assessment on the other side, Carleton, is levied for their own purposes, and the percentage is different. Their percentage is \$1.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—But that does not include Portland? A.—We have nothing at all to do with Portland. The value of real estate taxed was \$8,493,800; personal property was \$7,455,500; income was \$2,273,200; and the total amount of taxes was \$238,350.

S. L. T. BURNHAM, Furniture Manufacturer, St. John, N. B., called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been engaged in the furniture business? A. I have been in the business seven years.

Q. But the firm you belong to has been longer in existence? A. My father started business in 1853—thirty-five years ago.

Q. Has your business increased or decreased much in the mean time? A. It has both increased and decreased. It increased while we were manufacturing largely, but in the last four years we have dropped manufacturing largely and are now manufacturing on a very small scale. We are doing mostly a retail business.

Q. Can you give us any idea whether the furniture trade in St. John has gone back or not? A. I think there is less manufacturing of furniture done in St. John to-day than ten years ago.

Q. How many men do you employ? A. We only employ twelve now.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is that your average number of men? A. That has been our average for the last two or three years.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you do all kinds of manufacturing, upholstering and painting? A. We have six men upholstering, three painters and three wood-workers.

Q. What wages do you pay your men? A. We pay the best upholsterers \$11 and \$12 a week; cabinet-makers \$9, and painters \$8.

Q. These men are all supposed to be well up in their craft? A. Yes.

Q. Do you employ any females in your establishment? A. No.

Q. Have you any boys employed in your establishment? A. Yes.

Q. Are they apprentices? A. We have three—one in each department.

Q. These boys are supposed to be apprentices? A. Yes; they are all learning their trade.

Q. Are any of them indentured? A. No; we have no writings concerning them.

Q. Do you think it would be better to have your apprentices indentured? A. I think it would; we would then have the apprentices come to us with the intention of working out their time. As matters are now, when they have worked two or three years with us they leave us and go away, when they are just beginning to be of any use to us.

Q. Do you think an indenture would be a better means of holding your apprentices? A. I think it might be, in some cases.

Q. Do you think a written indenture would be the best means of turning out better workmen? A. I think it would be better than the present system, for if a boy stays in one place all the time he is better off, and will learn more than when shifting around.

Q. In your establishment, do the boys who are working as apprentices learn the business all through? A. They just learn whatever department they are in.

Q. As a general rule, do you find your workmen industrious and sober? A. We find that ours are.

Q. As far as you know of the men, are they of general good character?
A. Yes.

Q. Have many of your men been long with you? A. Yes; some of them have been with us nine years, I think.

Q. Do any of the boys that serve their time with you remain on and work with you? A. We have three men who served their time with us.

Q. What wages do you give your apprentices? A. They start at \$1.50 a week in the cabinet-making and painting department and increase 50 cents in each year. In the upholstering department they work five years and have an increase of \$1 a week each year.

Q. Do you find business comparing this year with the last couple of years—has it been on the increase? A. Yes; our business increased this year over last year, and last year it increased over the previous one.

Q. How many hours do you work a day? A. Ten hours.

Q. Do you work later than that at any time? A. Occasionally; sometimes in the spring, and when special work is on hand, we do.

Q. What do you allow your men for that time? A. We pay them extra; we make special rates with each man, but it is always more than we pay for day-work.

Q. Where do you find a market for your furniture? A. Our business is mostly local.

Q. Do you get all the wood you use in Canada? A. No; we import walnut, whitewood and cherry, but we get hold of birch here.

Q. Do you sell furniture that you do not manufacture? A. We do.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Where do you get the furniture that you do not manufacture? A. We get the most of it from Ontario, but some of it we get from Nova Scotia.

GEORGE McAVITY (T. McAvity & Sons, Brass Founders), called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What class of goods do you manufacture? A. All classes of gas-fitters' and plumber's supplies.

Q. How many men do you employ? A. I think we employ somewhere in the neighborhood of 110 and 115 at present.

Q. Are these all skilled hands? A. No.

Q. What wages do you pay to your skilled hands? A. They would average from \$1.50 to \$2 a day.

Q. And how much do the unskilled hands receive? A. According to what they are worth; we have always a number of apprentices on hand, and they start at \$1.50 a week, and after they have worked two or three years they command men's wages. We have some boys who have only been working for us for two years who are earning \$8 a week and some who have been working five years that do not earn so much. There are so many machines used in our business now that we do not require so much skilled labor as we did years ago.

Q. At what age do you take on these apprentices? A. Fourteen or fifteen years.

Q. And what do unskilled laborers earn? A. One dollar and seventy-five cents a day. Such men as furnace men we could get at a little less, but we pay them the same; our men work fifty-two weeks in the year.

Q. Have you any unskilled hands earning less than \$1.75 a day? A. We have a number of unskilled hands who only earn \$1 or \$1.25.

Q. Is your occupation considered unhealthy? A. I believe it is called unhealthy, but I do not think it is. The custom of considering the business unhealthy arose from the fact of foundries being carried on the old English custom, where the moulding and finishing shops were not separated. Here, both in the United States and Canada, the moulding shops are separate from the finishing shops.

Q. Is that the case in your establishment? A. It is.

Q. Where do you sell your goods, as a general rule? A. We sell most of our goods in Ontario.

Q. Are not freights from here there very high? A. Freight is high, but we offset that by our expenses being lower here. After the great fire of 1877 the only question we considered was whether we should locate ourselves here or go to Ontario.

Q. What determined you to stay here? A. The price of coal here, no labor troubles and fit material. We can buy a greater amount of old material here than we could get inland.

Q. What price do you pay for coal laid down in St John? A. At the mine we pay 75 cents a ton for slack coal; it is either 75 or 85 cents, I do not know which; the rates are fixed by the company there, but I think it is 85 cents for the short ton.

Q. Are wages lower in St. John than in Ontario—in your line? A. I think we can get men easier here than there.

Q. Were your workmen all St. John men? A. Yes.

Q. Do you educate most of your own men? A. Yes.

Q. When a boy finishes his time can you give him employment at his trade? A. When a boy finishes his trade we can give him employment, but most all of them, after their time is out, go away to the States. Every year we have perhaps half a dozen boys leaving us in that way.

Q. Do any of the boys that go to the United States come back to you? A. Quite a number; some of them do.

Q. What reason do they give for coming back? A. Well, some say the weather is too warm in summer for them; others complain that the work is too hard, and some say they want to get back home; we had a man come back to us last week who had been away for ten years.

Q. Did he act as if he was glad to get back? A. Well, he must have been glad to get back after being away so long.

Q. What wages would such a man earn in the United States? A. Two dollars and fifty cents a day.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Are there many workingmen willing to throw up a \$2.50 job to take a \$1.50 or a \$2 one? A. A man can live much cheaper here than in the United States.

Q. Is there \$1 a day difference in the cost of living? A. As I have never worked away from home I could not say.

Q. What wages are moulders paid in St. John? A. \$2.75 to \$2.25 a day; that is for brass moulders.

Q. What wages do finishers earn? A. Good finishers will average \$2 a day. A finisher's wages rest with the man himself.

Q. I suppose these finishers do very little fitting? A. Very little; every man fits his own work, more or less.

Q. Do you do any iron moulding? A. We do not do it ourselves, but we find the iron and have iron workers do it for us.

Q. What are the wages of iron moulders? A. They average about \$1.75 a day.

Q. Do your men have constant employment all the year around? A. Yes; they work full time—that is, they work fifty-nine hours a week, as we knock off at five on Saturday nights.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you pay your hands every week? A. We pay our hands weekly.

JOHN H. PARKS, Manager Cotton Mills, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What business do you follow? A. I am the president and manager of the St. John Cotton Mill, and also of the New Brunswick Mill.

Q. How many hands do you employ, all told? A. I think we employ 500 in the two mills. There are about 300 in the New Brunswick Mill and 200 in the St. John Mill.

Q. How many of that number would be full-grown operatives? A. I do not know as I can tell you that.

Q. How many of them would be children or young persons? A. I could not answer that question properly or very correctly. There might be a quarter of them; perhaps it is possible that a quarter or a third would cover the amount.

Q. What are the average wages that you pay to your youngest children? A. I could not say.

Q. What are the ages of the youngest children employed in your mills? A. There are none allowed to be taken in the mills under twelve years.

Q. Has there been a law passed regulating that matter in New Brunswick? A. There is no law in that respect, but that is our rule. There was a factory Act passed last year, but it is not in operation yet.

Q. What wages do you pay your operatives? A. They get from \$6 to \$30 or \$40 a week.

Q. I mean what do you pay your men hands? A. They run from \$6 to \$10 a week; foremen get from \$10 to \$40.

Q. What do the women earn? A. The women's work is mostly piece-work, and depends largely upon their skill, but I think \$3 or \$4 would be the lowest; some of them earn \$7 or \$8 a week, and a few go a little higher.

Q. What wages do you pay to the children? A. Well, they would earn all the way from \$1.50 to \$4, according to their ability.

Q. Have you ever had any labor difficulties with your working people? A. I never had any trouble at all.

Q. Do you impose any fines in your mills for dereliction of duty? A. Certainly.

Q. Could you tell us how these fines are imposed? A. I could not tell you that very well; it is a matter that does not come under my notice; they are all trifling fines, and are imposed for lateness and inferior work, but they do not amount to very much. Where a large number of people are employed in a mill you must have strict discipline. I insist upon having everything in our mill done systematically, but I have never heard any complaint concerning these fines.

Q. Have you ever heard of any harsh treatment to the children in your employ? A. I have never heard such a complaint.

Q. Have you ever heard of any harsh treatment being administered to the children by those who oversee them? A. Nothing of that sort has come under my notice, and if anything of that kind was going on I would be sure to know about it, because I am always about the mills, and am prepared to rectify any harshness or wrong-doing. In fact, I never heard of such a thing in our mills. Our foremen are the responsible men, and if the hands do not do as they ought to when directed by them they do not stay with us.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Can you tell what disposals are made of those fines? A. I could not tell you that; all the fines collected would come to a very trifling amount.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Could you give us a statement of what disposal is made of the money collected as fines, and separate those collected for imperfect work from those inflicted for misconduct? A. I do not know whether I could or not.

Q. Will you try? A. I will.

Q. How many looms does a woman generally attend? A. A very good weaver will attend six—that is, either man or woman; a very poor one will tend but two. If a weaver could only tend one it wouldn't be worth their while to come to work.

Q. Will the woman who tends six looms earn three times as much as the one who tends two? A. Yes; more than that.

Q. Are the weavers paid by the piece? A. By the yard.

Q. What hours do you work your mills? A. Sixty hours a week.

Q. Do you stop Saturday? A. The wages are paid Saturday, and we stop work at twelve o'clock on Saturday.

Q. What hours do you begin work in the morning? A. Half-past six.

Q. What hours do you close at night? A. A quarter-past six.

Q. Do the hands that take their luncheon to the mill eat it in the same room they work in? A. I do not know about that; that is a matter of their own choice.

Q. Have you separate conveniences provided for men and women? A. In the New Brunswick Mill there are separate conveniences, but I do not know as there are in the St. John Mill.

Q. If there was one on one flat would the women on another flat be able to get access to it? A. I could not tell you about that.

Q. When do you pay your hands? A. I pay them Saturday at twelve o'clock.

Q. For the week ending then? A. No; for the week ending the Wednesday before.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in paying your hands weekly wages? A. No; I think it is the proper thing to do. It makes very little trouble in the office, and a clerk can fix it up in a very short time. I think that all working people should be paid weekly, and I would like to see that principle embodied in the Factory Act.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you any rules in your factory posted up for the guidance of the operatives? A. Yes.

Q. Is it stated in these rules the offences for which operatives will be fined? A. I could not say, as I have not looked into the matter lately.

Q. Are the operatives required to sign an agreement before going to work? A. No; we used to require that, but we have discontinued that custom.

Q. Is any part of the wages of the hands confiscated in case they leave the mill without giving notice? A. Yes; if they leave without giving two weeks' notice their wages are confiscated.

Q. Do you give the operatives two weeks' notice before you discharge them? A. As a rule we do, but sometimes it is necessary to discharge them very suddenly.

Q. Could you give us the number of operatives that have been discharged during the past year? A. I could not.

Q. Could your foremen give us this information? A. I think they could.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Do you belong to the Cotton Mills Association? A. Yes; the company belongs to the Cotton Association of the Dominion.

Q. Has the association any connection with the mills in the United States? A. No.

“NEW BRUNSWICK COTTON MILLS,

“ST. JOHN, N.B., 22nd March, 1888.

“SIR,—I herewith beg to make the following report in connection with the matter of fines and uncalled-for and forfeited wages in both mills owned by this company, employing, on an average, about 500 hands, for six months ending 1st March, 1888:—

“In the St. John mills I find the fines amount to, for the six months, \$13.83. This is altogether for bad and careless work, and is no compensation to the company,

as ten times the amount would not cover the loss this small amount stands against. These fines are entirely in the interests of the employed, as if there was not any restriction whatever to carelessness, the weavers would not improve in this work and, therefore, not be in a position to earn better wages than they got at starting.

"In the New Brunswick mill I find the fines for the six months ending 1st March, 1888, to amount to \$9.75. These are nearly altogether for being late on the part of hands paid for piece-work. This, as can be very readily seen, is a restriction absolutely necessary. The amount held under the head of uncalled-for and forfeited wages amounts to, for the six months ending 1st March, 1888, say for uncalled-for, as near as possible, \$40.68; forfeited, \$13.57—\$54.25 in all. The uncalled-for portion stands subject to the call of the hands to whom it belongs; the forfeited goes into the funds of the company.

"Respectfully submitted,

"ARTHUR WRIGHT,

"Secretary-Treasurer."

"JOHN H. PARKS, Esq.,

"President, Wm. Parks & Sons (Limited)."

"NEW BRUNSWICK COTTON MILLS,

"ST. JOHN, N.B., 28th March, 1888.

"SIR,—Yours of 27th is to hand. The amount of wages paid in the cotton mills for the six months to which the fines applied, of which our president spoke when before the Commission, amount to the sum of \$49,920.

"Trusting the above will answer your purpose, I am,

"Your obedient servant,

"ARTHUR WRIGHT,

"Secretary-Treasurer."

"A. H. BLACKEBY, Esq.,

"Secretary Royal Labor Commission."

P. L. CONNOR (T. Connor & Sons), Rope Manufacturers, St. John, N. B., called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How many hands do you employ in your rope-walk? A. About 110.

Q. How long has your rope-walk been in working order under its present bases? A. My father started business about thirty years ago.

Q. Has your business been increasing ever since that time? A. Yes.

Q. What kind of material do you turn out in your rope-walk? A. We make large quantities of hawsers, manilla cordage, fishing cordage, and all kinds of bindery twine. We send a great deal of bindery twine to Ontario and Manitoba.

Q. What wages do you pay to the competent hands in your employ? A. We pay them from \$6 to \$9 a week.

Q. What wages do you pay the foremen of the different departments? A. They get about \$10 a week.

Q. What number of hours do you work? A. Sixty hours a week.

Q. Have you many boys employed in your factory? A. Quite a number.

Q. What is the age of the youngest boy you have employed? A. I think they run from thirteen years upwards.

Q. How many boys have you in your factory? A. We must have about fifty.

Q. Do you employ any girls at all? A. We do employ girls.

Q. What department do you employ these girls in? A. In the spinning room.

Q. Have you any very young girls at work? A. Some that are about thirteen or fourteen years old.

Q. Have you many of these girls at work? A. About fifteen.

Q. What wages do little girls earn? A. They earn from \$1.50 to \$3.50 a week. The salary of the older ones would be \$3.50.

Q. What wages do you pay the little boys? A. The lowest wages would be \$2 a week.

Q. And as they grow up are their wages increased? A. Yes; to \$4 a week.

Q. Have you any rules or regulations with regard to fines? A. We have regulations and rules in our factory, and they are posted up, but we do not fine the hands, as a rule. We usually caution them several times, and finally dismiss them if their work is not satisfactory.

Q. How many girls have you working in the spinning room? A. There would be about thirteen of them there.

Q. What wages do they get? A. About \$3.50 a week.

Q. Do any of them get any more? A. They all get about the same wages.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in obtaining hands? A. We have not had any difficulty.

A. Are your hands, as a rule, fairly intelligent? A. I think they are.

Q. And do they turn out pretty good work? A. Yes.

Q. Are your men steady? A. Fairly so.

Q. And industrious? A. Yes.

Q. Have you had any of these men for a long time to work? A. We have some of them for a long time.

Q. Do you know whether any of your hands own property? A. I do not know.

Q. Do the boys that serve their time with you work for any length of time after they become expert? A. Yes; when they understand their departments.

Q. Are these boys supposed to be apprentices? A. We do not look upon them in that light; the improvements made in machinery within the last few years have done away with the necessity, to a large extent, of skilled labor. We do not, in our factory, require more than six to eight skilled laborers.

Q. Then you do not look upon these boys as being apprentices? A. No.

Q. But if they develop into good men they are put to work by you? A. Yes.

Q. And the same rule holds good with the girls? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles with your hands? A. Nothing very serious.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you find constant employment for your hands? A. Yes; we furnish constant employment all the year round.

Q. And the wages you have given us would be average wages for the whole year? A. Yes.

Q. Are your hands compelled to work on holidays? A. Sometimes, when we are busy; we generally work the holidays.

Q. Is there any penalty attached to those who do not work the holidays? A. We do not inflict any penalty at all.

Q. When you require the hands to work on a holiday what notice do you give them? A. We go around the night before and ask them to be on hand the next morning.

Q. Are your hands ever engaged in night-work? A. Yes.

Q. Do the children work at night? A. Yes.

Q. How many hours in a day have the children to work constantly? A. Fourteen hours.

Q. Would that take place frequently? A. In the spring of the year it takes place.

Q. How many days together would the children be required to work fourteen hours a day? A. Probably three days in a week.

Q. For how many weeks? A. About twelve weeks.

Q. What extra pay do the children receive for working at night? A. The same as for time made in the day.

Q. Do the grown people receive anything extra for night-work? A. They receive the same rate of wages they are paid in the day time.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Do you allow your hands any time for tea when they work after hours? A. We allow three-quarters of an hour for tea.

Q. How many holidays do you keep in a year? A. As a rule, we keep the public holidays. We work on Queen's Birthday, but we keep Thanksgiving and Dominion Day.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do many of these children take their lunches to their work? A. Yes.

Q. Where do they eat them? A. In their rooms.

Q. Can many of these children read and write? A. Yes; some of them can; some of them attend school before they come to us to work.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Most of them attended school, I suppose, before they came to your factory to work? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Are the female operatives permitted to sit down any part of the day? A. No.

Q. Is their work of such a nature that they cannot sit down? A. It is necessary for them to stand at the spinning Jennies, in order to see that the work goes through all right.

Q. Could not they work at the machines just as well sitting as standing? A. They could.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you ever hear them complain of being obliged to stand on their feet so long? A. I never heard them complain about it.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Where do you find a market for your goods? A. We send our goods all over Canada.

Q. Do you send any goods west of Ontario? A. We send bindery twine to Manitoba.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Has the price of bindery twine risen or fallen during the year? A. It is a little higher this year than last, on account of the value of the raw material; its price is always governed by the price of the raw material in other markets.

Q. How does its price compare with five or six years ago? A. It is about the same.

Q. How does your bindery twine compare in quality with that made in the United States? A. It compares with the very best article of bindery twine made there, and it is superior to a large quantity of it. We have all the latest improvements for making bindery twine; we have the latest spinners.

Q. Do you meet with much competition from the States? A. Not much from the States.

Q. Your competition is mostly from other Canadian factories? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are your hands paid weekly? A. They are paid once a fortnight.

Q. Do they prefer being paid fortnightly to weekly? A. We prefer to pay them that way, because it makes less trouble in the books.

Q. Have you ever taken into consideration the inconvenience that the families

of your workmen are put to by being without money? A. The hands seem to be satisfied to be paid that way.

Q. Did you ever hear them ask to be paid more frequently? A. Occasionally some of them ask for a few dollars on account, and when they do so we always give them some money.

Q. Do you pay your hands interest on the week's wages you keep back from them? A. No.

Q. How much money do you pay out in a fortnight for wages? A. Probably \$800.

WILLIAM KANE, Stonecutter, St. John, N. B., called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been engaged in the marble and stone-cutting business?
A. Our firm has been in business for fifteen years.

Q. How does your business at the present time compare with fifteen years ago—has it advanced or gone back? A. It has increased a little, but very little.

Q. How many men do you usually employ? A. We are engaged in almost all branches of stonecutting, and in the summer season, when building work is brisk, we employ fifteen to sixteen hands, and in the winter season we do not employ more than seven or eight.

Q. Do you do much granite-cutting for buildings? A. No; not for buildings.

Q. Do you use much cut-stone of any kind here? A. Not a great deal.

Q. The material used here for building is brick? A. Yes.

Q. For what purposes do you cut granite? A. Mostly for graveyard purposes.

Q. Do you not cut marble for the same purpose? A. Yes.

Q. Where do you get your marble from? A. We get it all from Boston.

Q. Have you any granite in this country? A. Plenty of it.

Q. What kind of marble do you generally use? A. We use both Italian and Vermont marbles.

Q. Which do you use the most of? A. The Vermont marble is used mostly here.

Q. I suppose it is the best adapted to your climate? A. The Vermont dealers claim that it stands the climate of this country better, and I really think it does.

Q. What are the average wages you pay your men? A. About \$2.50 would be the average

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Would that be for granite or marble-cutters? A. That is granite and marble both.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you employ any boys? A. We generally employ one or two boys

Q. Do you look upon them as being apprentices learning their trade? A. We do.

Q. Are these boys instructed year by year by you and your foreman? A. Both of us instruct them.

Q. Do these boys stay with you till they finish their trade? A. They generally do, except in one or two cases. We have one who has been with us ten or eleven years.

Q. Do these boys generally turn out good workmen? A. I am perfectly satisfied with them.

Q. What wages do you give your apprentices? A. They start at \$1.50 a week and get 50 cents increase every year, except the last year, when they get \$1 advance.

Q. How long do the apprentices work? A. Four years.

Q. Have you any trouble getting hands in your trade? A. Very little.

Q. Are your men, as a rule, industrious and sober? A. Yes; we have a few intemperate men.

Q. Do you know any of your men building houses and owning property? A. I know of none of them.

Q. Are the tenement houses that would suit your men easily to be found in St. John? A. They are.

Q. Are they far away from the centre of business? A. Not more than ten minutes' walk.

Q. Are the houses of the mechanics increasing in rent? A. Rents, as a general rule, have decreased in St. John.

Q. About what would you consider he pays for accommodation for himself and family? A. About \$6 or \$7 a month would be about what he ought to pay

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What would be the earnings of polishers in your business? A. About \$1 a day, and we keep them at work the year round.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you employ women as polishers? A. No.

J. R. WOODBURN, Confectioner, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. Confectioner.

Q. Have you been long in that business? A. Since 1873.

Q. Has your business increased very much since then? A. It has probably doubled.

Q. What number of hands do you usually employ? A. In slack time like the present twenty-three and in good times just before Christmas and the fall of the year, fifty.

Q. How many men have you employed in your business? A. I have twelve men and boys; about eight or nine are men.

Q. About what is the average wages your men earn? A. They get from \$1.40 to \$2 a day.

Q. What wages do you pay the boys? A. From \$2 to \$4 a week.

Q. Are these boys presumed to be apprentices? A. No; I have some men who came to me thirteen years ago.

Q. You do not consider these boys apprentices, but use them in the business as they develop? A.—Yes; just as they grow up.

Q. How many women do you employ? A. At present we have eleven.

Q. Are any of them small girls? A. None very small.

Q. What is the age of the youngest? A. Sixteen years.

Q. What is the age of your smallest boy? A. Sixteen or seventeen.

Q. Are your children in any way educated? A. They are.

Q. What do you pay the women? A. They get from \$2.50 to \$6 a week.

Q. What do the girls get? A. They get at the start \$1.50 a week.

Q. Is your work healthy? A. I consider it so.

Q. Are your employes thrifty and industrious? A. They are. Occasionally we get hold of a man addicted to drink.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Is your factory well ventilated? A. There are several sky-lights in the roof and the windows are all open in summer.

Q. How many stories are there in your factory? A. Three and a basement.

Q. Have you a hoist, and is it enclosed? A. We have, and it is enclosed by rails. We have a fence around it on every floor.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Where do you find your principal markets? A. From Quebec down to the sea.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do you find any competition from Ontario? A. Lots of it.

Q. Do you know whether the price of sugar has increased lately or not? A. It has gone back a little within the last month.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Previous to that how was it? A. Well, it got down to quite a low price a couple of years ago; then it advanced till about a month ago, when it went down a couple of cents.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q. Has the price of sugar increased or decreased during the last ten years?

A. As a rule, decreased.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you find any difference between beet and cane sugar? A. There is; the grain of the cane sugar is not so strong as the beet sugar, and in making certain classes of candy you want to destroy the grain, and as the beet sugar is harder to kill we take the cane.

Q. Then you prefer cane sugar? A. I do not know as it makes much difference, so long as the workman knows which it is. Every new batch that a man makes he generally makes a trial of it, to know whether the sugar is well beaten and killed.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you import any classes of sugar for making some grades of candy?

A. Not since the introduction of the National Policy.

Q. Do you find the Canadian-manufactured article as good sugar for your purpose as what you imported? A. I think it is better than it used to be. A few years before the National Policy the American sugar was very much mixed with glucose, and it was a very difficult matter to grain or pulverize it.

Q. Is not glucose used in making confectionery? A. There are some kinds of candy that cannot be made without it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :

Q. How does the Scotch sugar compare with the Canadian? A. For making candy Scotch sugar works up very well; but there is not a great deal of difference between them. The most important matter is to get a good, clear color, for you can lower the color when you cannot raise it.

JOSIAH FOWLER, Manufacturer of Edge Tools, St. John, N. B., called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. How many men do you employ? A. I average about twenty.

Q. Into what heads are these men divided? A. Axe, edge-tool and spring-makers.

Q. And how do the wages of the different men compare? A. We generally pay more for axe-makers.

Q. Do they require more skill? A. It is hard to get good axe-makers.

Q. Do you make any other class of edge-tools besides axes? A. Yes; all kinds; and also axes.

Q. Do you make any springs? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay the men who make the axes? A. The forgers get \$2 and the men at the lathes \$9 or \$10 a week.

Q. Are the axes made by lathe or trip-hammer? A. Trip-hammers.

Q. What wages do the helpers get? A. One dollar and twenty five cents a day.

Q. Do the wages of spring-makers compare favorably with the axle-makers? A. They do.

Q. I suppose all your work is forging and fitting? A. Yes; forging and fitting.

Q. Do you manufacture any iron machinery? A. No; I do no iron-work.

Q. What hours do your men work a day? A. Ten hours a day.

Q. Are they employed all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. Do you find any difficulty to get skilled men in your business? A. I have had some men with me a great number of years, and if they should leave me I hardly know what I would do.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do you use machinery in making axles? A. Yes; I have some lathes, but I do not do any iron-work.

Q. Do you take any apprentices at all? A. Yes; I have one young man in the shop who has been with me for some years. They come to me as boys, and if they suit me and I suit them they may remain with me.

Q. Do you sell much of your goods west of New Brunswick? A. I have sold some of my goods in Montreal and Quebec—mostly springs and axles. I also sell quite a number in the State of Maine—Aroostook county.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you make springs for all kinds of vehicles? A. Yes; and car springs also.

Q. Are there any American springs imported by your customers? A. I have not seen an American spring in the market for over twenty years.

WILLIAM ROGERS, an operative in Simms' Brush Factory, St. John, N. B., called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is broom-making a large industry here? A. Yes; it has been pretty good.

Q. About how many hands do you employ in broom-making? A. There are now altogether, men and boys, between eleven and twelve.

Q. How many of those are men that are experts at their business and how many are boys—the average number will do—how many do you employ on an average in the year, taking one season with another—you may, perhaps, have only ten in the winter and thirty or forty in the summer? A. There are about seven or eight men; that is about the average.

Q. How many boys? A. About the same number of boys.

Q. Taking the average of these men, what wages do you pay them? A. The average they would make would be from \$9 to \$10 a week.

Q. What would be the average of the boys' payments? A. The average of the boys is different; they are paid according to their worth.

Q. They are paid by the day? A. Yes.

Q. And the men by the piece? A. Yes.

Q. What do they take in at first—that is, at what price do you take in the boys?
A. From \$1.25 to \$1.50 a week.

Q. Do you ever take them as apprentices or are they supposed to remain with you until they make themselves finished brush-makers? A. Some remain with us and learn the trade, most every one of us has done that.

Q. But you have no regular system of apprenticeship at all? A. No.

Q. What is the highest one of these boys will earn? A. Some of the boys will earn from \$5 to \$6 a week.

Q. Do you employ any machinery in connection with your business—that is machines for squeezing up, and that sort of thing? A. There are two steam sewing machines.

Q. Do any accidents occur from any of those machines? A. I never knew of any accident, that is, not in the part I am working in.

Q. Where do you get the most of your material from? A. From the United States.

Q. How much do you get from there? What portions do you get in your own country here—Canada? A. Well, we only get our handles, I think, in Canada; the corn we cannot get here.

Q. Do you not get your wire here? A. I could not exactly say whether he gets his wire in Canada or the States; I think it is from the States.

Q. Is your establishment getting larger than it was? A. It has increased a little—it increases off and on at times; sometimes we are not so busy as at others; it is just according to the times.

Q. Has your trade increased from what you recollect it was when you first went there—how long have you been associated with it? A. I have been there now going on fourteen years.

Q. Has the business increased since you have been there? A. Yes; it has increased of late years.

Q. Do you find competition from any source in your business? A. Yes; there is competition.

Q. Do you find any competition from prison labor? A. Not around here.

Q. On what day do you pay your men? A. On Saturday.

Q. Once a week? A. Once a week.

Q. Have you any females connected with the broom business? A. Not in my part of the work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you bleach your own corn? A. Yes.

Q. Is that bleaching done in a separate part of the factory? A. That is, a place where they bleach the corn?

Q. Yes? A. It is in the same part of the factory.

Q. Do you use sulphur? A. Yes; we use sulphur.

Q. Do you find that the sulphur has any bad effect upon the health of the employés? A. I cannot say it has; some think it has, but I have been there quite a long while and it never took any effect upon me.

Q. Would it be possible to bleach this corn in a separate building? A. I suppose it could be done—we could put a bleaching house any where and bleach it, but we generally have it where it is handiest to take to work with.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Do you ever try to export any of your product? A. Yes.

Q. Have you succeeded? A. That is, to export outside of New Brunswick?

Q. Yes? A. We have exported to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and also Newfoundland, and all around to different parts; we do not export any of our goods to the upper provinces—that is, to Quebec or Ontario; we find a great competition from there, more than we can stand.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you export to any foreign country? A. No.

Q. Do the men get pretty constant work all the year round? A. It is pretty fair except in odd years.

Q. The factory is not closed for any considerable time? A. In some years we may be idle probably one month or so in the year, and may be some years two months.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. That covers holidays and all, or do you shut down for repairs? A. We have shut down for repairs, and there are years we have not been doing much. The year before last I know that we found great competition from Ontario, which kept us idle quite a while.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. In consequence of that you had to close the factory? A. In consequence of that we had a good many idle hours.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. From what part of Ontario did that competition come, do you know? A. I could not exactly say where it came from.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Did you ever think that it came from the Central Prison at Toronto? A. I think, if I am not mistaken, that some did come from there.

Q. Do you know if the brooms made in the Central Prison can be sold cheaper in St. John than the brooms you manufacture? A. I cannot say as to that, I am sure; in fact, I never looked into prices; it does not come within my province or under my observation.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. There is one thing: you will not have to deal with that difficulty again, as that work is entirely stopped. Have you anything further you would wish to state? A. I have heard a great deal about that and about people in the upper provinces—that is, brush-makers buying corn and sending it into the prison and allowing so much for each man, I think 50 cents a day. Well, I do not think that is right, that is keeping good men outside from getting work. They should get something else for prisoners to do, the same as they have in the old country. The worst of it is that the people in the upper provinces take advantage of us here very often, and if we had not a very good man to try and keep them out I do not think we would be doing much, if we were like some of the manufacturers here in the shoe business.

JOHN CULLINAN, President of the Cartmen's Union, St. John, N. B., called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there many cartmen in St. John? Yes.

Q. Are they all enrolled in the union? No; not all the cartmen.

Q. What are the regulations of the city of St. John governing carters? A. The corporation lays a law down—25, 28, 30, 33, 35, 37, 40 and 42 cents for hauling coal a load.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. That is in the several districts? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How do those prices compare with the prices fixed by the Cartmen's Union? A. They are the same.

Q. Is that for work for the city? A. Yes.

Q. Do you get more for your work for the people outside—for instance, for hauling from vessels? A. It is from the vessels, I mean.

Q. Have you to pay any license? A. Yes.

Q. What is the license here? A. Two dollars a year.

Q. Have you to go upon certain stands that are appointed by the city? A. Yes.

Q. Do you consider that these regulations are fair to the carters? A. Yes; they are fair to the carters if they could be carried out.

Q. What are the difficulties in the way of carrying out those rules, then? A. There is one difficulty, namely, that we have to pay \$2 for the privilege of standing on the square, and if they choose they can come and order us to go off; that is at the option of the mayor or the policeman appointed over us.

Q. When they order you off the square do they provide other places for you to stand? A. No; they have done it, they have made a rule that they can come and tell us to make room for other parties.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is there no stand but the one there? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:

Q. Have the carters to carry a number? A. Yes.

Q. What are the regulations about numbers—are they on the horses or on the cart? A. On the cart.

Q. What are the penalties if you do not comply with those rules? A. Two dollars in the lowest fine; I do not know what the highest is.

Q. You never reached that? A. No.

Q. Do you find plenty of business here? A. No; not a present.

Q. Can you tell us what the average earnings of a carter is? A. How would you mean—the man that has the most or the least work?

Q. Just the horse and cart—what would the earnings of that be? A. I could not tell you very well, because the season might be better this year than it was last; it is all owing to what coal is consumed and how the vessels come in.

Q. Have you any competition from the railways in delivering freight? A. Yes; in delivering coal, I mean.

Q. Tell us what the competition is? A. Here some years ago we used to haul all the coal from the wharf to the round-house, and now they run the coal themselves and yard it out of the cars; they run it upon these coal sheds, and so yard it, and we have none of that hauling to do.

Q. Have the railways any horses and carts of their own to deliver freight? A. No.

Q. You have the privilege of hauling freight to the railway stations and taking it away? A. Yes.

Q. They have not got into the system of carting their own freight? A. I am now only talking of cartmen, and we do not haul anything but coal and wood.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. But are you allowed to do so? A. We could not haul flour on our carts; ours are dump-carts; there are slovens for that kind of hauling.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you no class of cartmen in it besides dump-carters? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is there another class of men who do trucking? A. Yes; there is, outside of ours.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have they got a union? A. No; there are only a very few of them.

Q. Do you know if these men are allowed to draw from the railway stations? A. I could not say.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are you allowed to drive one of those carts if you had one? A. No; I have only leave to drive one cart; of course, they would give me a license for more than one cart, but not for a sloven.

Q. Is it the driver or the cart that is licensed? A. It is the man that drives the cart they license. If you have more than one cart and one driver you have to bring the driver to the mayor's office before he would give a license.

Q. Could a man owning more than one horse and cart use them himself without paying two licenses? A. No.

Q. Supposing he drove one himself and another one behind him, would he have to pay two licenses for that? A.—I could not tell you that.

Mr. CLARKE.—I do not think the city would allow him to drive that way, without a driver.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do the carters find it a benefit to themselves to be organized? A. Yes,

Q. Tell us some of the advantages, if you please? A. I will tell you one benefit: We used to get 8 cents a load for yarding coal; now we get 15 cents.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q. Have you any benevolent fund in connection with the union? A. No.
 Q. No sick benefits? A. We have given benefits; if a man lost a horse, why, we would generally make up the money to get him another one.
 Q. Yours is just simply a working union? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH :—

- Q. How many members do you number? A. From 100 to 120.
 Q. Are your numbers getting larger? A. No.
 Q. Had you as many as that when you went into the union first? A. Yes.
 Q. How long has it been established? A. Six years.

JAMES MURRAY, Carter, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. You have heard the testimony of the last witness? A. Yes.
 Q. Can you corroborate it all? A. I did not exactly keep it all in my memory and I would not like to say.
 Q. Substantially, as far as you remember, is it correct? A. So far as I can remember it is.
 Q. Do you desire to make any additional statement? A. He was not asked about the steamers interfering with us. Six or seven years ago we carters used to earn \$15 or \$20 for ballasting ships, where we can't earn \$5 now—that is, from the steamers coming in here instead of sailing vessels.
 Q. And that takes away largely from your earnings? A. Yes.
 Q. Could you tell us what a fair average day's earnings are? A. Four dollars.
 Q. Can you make that, taking one day with another? No.
 Q. Can you make \$3 a day? A. No.
 Q. Could you make \$2.50 yourself and horse? A. There are years we have made it—there are years, I think, I have made it, but not these last four or five years.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q. How much does it cost a carter to keep his horse in a week? A. About \$3.50 a week; it costs me that, feeding and keeping it in shoes, and repairing harness.

By Mr. WALSH :—

- Q. Stabling and other things? A. Yes; it costs a little better than 50 cents a day.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. That would not cover the interest on your investment? A. That would cover the running expenses of the horse alone, not counting cart or anything else, only just the horse himself.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q. Has the cost of keeping a horse increased this past two years? A. I do not think it has; hay and oats are cheaper this year than last.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

- Q. Tell us the price of hay and oats here at the present date? A. Well, there are a couple of carters in the locality I live in, and some of them got four, three and two tons of hay, and it averaged \$10 a ton, that is this winter, and oats are retailing at 45 and 42 cents.

By Mr. WALSH :—

- Q. Is that an average price for hay? A. No; last winter it was as high as \$16 for bundled hay; this is loose hay on the market.

(Volunteer.)—One of the grievances of the carters is that they generally paid their taxes on the corporation, but these last four or five years the corporation has given out their work by contract.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. The corporation gave their hauling to the carters, and let them pay their taxes out of it? A. Yes.

Q. And how do they do now? A.—They let the work by contract.

Q. Is the contractor a licensed carter? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Are the licensed carters allowed to contract for it? A. Yes; the contractors use their own teams and pay no license; these men that contract for the streets can use as many teams as they like—we have to pay license; they have to pay none.

Q. Can any citizen do that? A. Yes; and get all the horses he can.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Can he hire outside teams—yours? A. Not to make a profit of it; we have to get the law prices.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Can they do any work outside the corporation work? A. Yes; they have done it; they have taken work from us.

JOHN C. MYLES, Artist, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. You have given some attention to the question of technical education? A. Yes.

Q. Have you studied it in Canada only, or have you done so in other countries as well? A. No; I studied and got the preliminaries in Boston.

Q. Do you think that a technical school could be successfully carried on in St. John? A. What do you mean by a technical school—what does that imply?

Q. It implies the teaching of the rudiments of mechanics, with freehand drawing, and perhaps mathematics—it implies the teaching of those branches which would be of benefit to mechanics, whatever that may be? A. Not a school of technology.

Q. Not in the sense of the word as used on the other side? A. Yes; I believe with competent teachers it could be done.

Q. You think pupils could be found in St. John? A. I will give you my experience in a limited way, and I wish to correct a statement which was made here yesterday in regard to free schools. It was stated that the only free school in the city was that run by the Young Mens' Christian Association, but the gentleman evidently forgot and in mentioning it I do not wish to make any imputation against him, as I know him well and that he did not think of it—but I now state that I have been running a free school for the last four years. I have taught freehand drawing, and would teach mechanical drawing if I had the paraphernalia to do it with—that is instruments, and so forth—not having the means to get them myself, neither have the pupils, who attend my free class; I, of course, could not teach it without the means to do so. My son, however, teaches it two nights a week—25 cents a lesson.

Q. You are reimbursed for this tuition? A. I am not reimbursed at all; it is voluntary. There were several reasons for this. My main reason is this: My day school increasing, and not having the means to procure casts, and not having a sufficient number. I knew that the Mechanics' Institute had a lot that was presented to them, I believe free, from the South Kensington Museum, and they were lying idle for some years; and knowing that I made application for the casts, and stated in my application that I would run one free night school for the use of them, and on this condition they

let me have them. I knew that the Royal Academy of Arts, of which I am a member, were getting \$15,000 a year from the Dominion Government for art purposes, and I wrote to Mr. O'Brien, the president—you probably know the gentleman—for a portion of that fund; but he stated he could not let me have any part of it; that it was contributed to Ottawa, a part to Quebec or Montreal, and a part to Toronto, but that I had better apply to the Local Legislature, as the Local Legislature in Ontario gave the Ontario Society of Artists \$3,000. I did apply to the Local Legislature and word came back, "No funds." The matter rested, and I saw and interviewed one or two of the members since, and Mr. Crockett, the Superintendent of Schools at Fredericton, and he recommended me getting a petition signed by the people and they would consider the matter. That is the latest phase of my free art school. I have exhibited in London at the Royal Canadian Exhibition and at the Academy my pupils'—free school—work, and I saw it reported in the press that I had made the nearest approach to a technical education of all the exhibits in the exhibition. I believe Mr. Payne (the editor of the *Daily Sun*) will remember that? (Mr. Payne: That is correct). The witness here exhibited a drawing done by his pupils and also a photograph of his exhibits). That was taken from a plaster cast made by my son. My drawings are from models of cones, cubes, cylinders, pyramids, and so forth, all mechanical figures, and I explain to my pupils the object in drawing from a cone, a cube or a ball, as the case may be. Mr. Brymner, the Librarian from Ottawa, called to see me while here, and stated that they had nothing of the kind at Ottawa. I think that I am the originator of that kind of drawing in Canada.

Q. Do many apprentices attend your classes? A. Quite a number; I have had as high as 105 attending my classes; I average about thirty.

Q. Have you any information from the employers of any of these apprentices as to whether it benefits them in learning their trades? A. I think Mr. Howe, the furniture manufacturer, has often spoken to me of the advantages to be derived; and said that I deserved to be encouraged and should receive encouragement, but unfortunately there is nothing of the kind.

Q. How much money do you think would be required to establish a school of technology in St. John? A. I do not believe a school of technology could be established in St. John, as I understand it, but there could be one in the Dominion. It requires a very large staff of professors, and it requires large buildings and machinery for each department—mechanical appliances—and it is not necessary in St. John. What we want here is rudiments.

Q. Perhaps that would cover the question as to how much would be necessary to cover these expenses? A. Since exhibiting in London I have received illustrated pamphlets, books and that sort of thing, with drawings suitable for schools, similar to the one I am running, designs of bridges and that sort of thing, and machinery, and I could not say how much, I am sure; but for a year or two \$500 would be ample; if I got \$500 I could make it a success for a couple of years.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You teach drawing from the scale? A. Yes; I can show you, if you care to visit my rooms, specimens of freehand drawing from interiors of churches, which you know is a difficult thing to do—one on brown paper, with the medium of charcoal: thus showing it was knowledge that did it—knowledge of the rudiments, that is what we teach; our aim is to give pupils knowledge—not fancy business.

Q. Was this drawing on brown paper from the pencil of one of your pupils? A. Yes; by a lady, and another is a drawing by a young boy.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. This school would not include instruction in mechanics, only drawing? A. My son, who has that department, can explain that.

FREDERIC H. MYLES, Artist, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you give instruction in mechanics? A. In mechanical drawing only.

Q. Apart from that, no technical instruction is given in the school with which you are connected? A. No.

Q. How many or what proportion of the pupils attending those classes are apprentices or mechanics? A. The greater part of them—that is, of the male portion.

Q. With what trades, principally, are they connected? A. Carpentry and furniture-makers, painters and engravers.

Q. When pupils begin do they generally remain and complete the course, or do they get tired and give it up? A. Those who take an interest in it complete the course.

Q. Do the paying pupils remain and take a greater interest in it than those who attend the free class? A. Of the pupils who pay, a great many—the most of them—are ladies, who take it up as a pastime; we have some who intend to teach, and are teaching at present, and they attended all the way from a year to two years, and some of those have taken prizes at the various exhibitions.

Q. Have they expressed a desire to get further technical instruction? A. Yes.

Q. And you think they would avail themselves of it if they got the opportunity? A. I have no doubt of it; the only reason that we do not carry the instruction further is, that we have not working models—you must have working models; but, at present, the only way for us to do is to illustrate.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Do any of them that are young mechanics at the present time—when you get them, have they any knowledge of mensuration, or anything of that kind? A. Very few of them; I teach them geometry with the drawing, beginning at the beginning with a very simple process. I use a method of my own, deduced from various works, together with my own experience.

Q. Do you find that for the most part, they have been grounded in the figuring department, in order to reason out anything according to measurement? A. I think they are taught that in the public schools here.

Q. Is there any freehand drawing taught in the public schools? A. Yes; the teachers teach it from a text-book.

Q. Are the teachers supposed to be up in freehand drawing themselves—is that a necessary qualification? A. I believe they are examined in Fredericton, at the Normal School, but they are not taught from nature, but simply from copying plates, which is useless, so far as teaching drawing is concerned.

Q. From your experience of those who come under your own immediate inspection, do you see any one that was or is likely to develop anything beyond the ordinary? A. I think we have one or two attending the school at present that will make their mark if they can carry their studies out, but they have not the money; if a free school were maintained here there would be a great many—these are mechanics. I have three or four boys that have been with me two years, who are mechanics; one of them is in Burnham's and the other is Mr. Lordly's son, the gentleman who was here yesterday, and he is going into some kind of engineering, I believe.

Q. Do you think this matter of mechanical drawing could be as well given in the public schools as in a class specially adapted for that purpose? A. No; they do not have the time in the public schools to give to it; they could not be taught drawing from nature in the public schools.

EDWARD STEPHENSON, Machinist, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. Are you engaged in wood-work or iron-work? A. Iron.
- Q. Are there many machinists employed in St. John? A. Yes; a good many.
- Q. What are the earnings of that class of mechanics here? A. To a fair workman, I should say from \$9 to \$11 a week.
- Q. Constant employment all the year round? A. There are times when a machinist's business is dull, though in past years it has been pretty good.
- Q. What class of goods do you principally do here in the machinists' shop? A. Almost every class of work—that is, take the shops altogether.
- Q. Marine work, mill work and agricultural work? A. Agricultural work not to any extent at present, as it was some few years ago, but just at present there are no agricultural works of any extent in St. John.
- Q. Is there much engine building here, do you know? A. Nothing like there is in some places in Ontario; there is nothing to compare with them here; they do not make a speciality of it, as they do there.
- Q. Do you get very much mill work to do here? A. Yes; some shops do a great deal of mill work; there are a number of saw-mills in the vicinity of St. John.
- Q. Would \$9 or \$11 a week be the average earnings of a machinist here? A. Yes; I think so.
- Q. There would be very few under \$9 a week? A. There are some under it, I know, for I was asking a foreman of one of the largest shops here some time ago about it, and he told me that some of them were only getting as low as \$7 and \$7.50 a week.
- Q. Would these be skilled workmen, or just mere handy men around a machine shop? A. They would be skilled enough at some kinds of work, but not men that could take hold of any part of the work that came along.
- Q. Do they take on many boys as apprentices here? A. Yes; a good many.
- Q. How many boys do you think there are in proportion to the number of journeymen working? A. I do not know just what proportion; in my own shop, which is small, I do; but in the larger shops I hardly know what the proportion would be.
- Q. What would be a fair proportion of apprentices to journeymen—one apprentice to how many men? A. I do not know; I have never worked in any large shop.
- Q. What is the usual time a boy serves to learn his trade? A. Now, I think about four years is the average time.
- Q. Do you know if they have any difficulty in keeping the boys when their time is out? A. Yes; a good many of them, I think, when they have worked a couple of years, go away to the States; they can get more wages there than they do here.
- Q. Boys who serve their four years faithfully, as a rule, do they turn out good mechanics? A. Yes; if it is in them.
- Q. Do many of them remain here after they have served their time? A. Well, a good many go away.
- Q. To get better wages outside? A. Yes.
- Q. Are the machinists organized here—have they any union? A. No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. Do many of those who go away come back to work here again? A. No; I think not; there are some, but the majority of them do not.
- Q. Do you think if the wages were higher there would be many go away and leave their homes here? A. I think wages is the principal object they go away for; if they could get work here at the same wages as there they would stay here.
- Q. A boy in learning the business learns every branch of it? A. Yes; here in St. John he does.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do they build any engines in the city? A. Yes; they build locomotives, stationary and marine engines.

Q. You do not do any of that work? A. No; my work is principally repairing work.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Generally speaking, what is the age of a boy when he goes to work first? A. Generally, I think, about fifteen; perhaps younger than that; some of them are about fourteen.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What wages does he get at that time? A. Usually \$2 a week commencing.

Q. According as he progresses afterwards, what rise do they give him annually? A. Perhaps \$1 a week, although, I think, it depends upon the boy himself.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do you not think the dearth of work has something to do with the boys going off to work at other places? A. Yes.

Q. That has just as much to do with it as low wages, has it not? A. Well, I rather think not.

Q. Then there is an opening for work here for machinists coming here? A. At times; there are other times when they could not get work. There is no manufacturing carried on very extensively here, except cars, and that sort of thing; and so there is no such demand for workmen as there is in places where manufacturing is carried on to a large extent.

FREDERIC MARVIN, Horse-nail Cutter, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you work at making nails by day work? A. I do, to a certain extent, I work piece-work as well; I have men under me.

Q. Are you foreman of the nail works? A. Of a certain part.

Q. Have you any boys in your department? A. No.

Q. What are the earnings of the men under you? A. I could not give it exactly, for it is piece-work.

Q. Give us an average of what they make in a week? A. I could only give a sort of guess at it. I think the statement that Mr. Pender gave is about as near as I could go—from \$8 to \$9 a week; there are some who average more than that, but on the whole I think that is a fair statement. I am now speaking of the fine feeders; I know one of them told me he had averaged about \$12 a week for about six months but there are some who do not work so hard who do not make that much.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is that a journeyman—a man capable of doing the business? A. Yes; it does not take long to make a journeyman; it is not a trade.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do these men attend to machines? A. They feed the machines.

Q. Have you anything further to add to the statement made here yesterday? A. I do not think there is anything I could add.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do those men on piece-work hire their own help? A. They have no help; there is one man to each machine, who feeds it.

By Mr. MCLEAN:

Q. You only speak of those in your department? A. That is all.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Is the shop healthy—is it well ventilated? A. I find it healthy enough; there is a little gas there in the morning at times, but we keep out of that generally till it clears away; it is as healthy as can be reasonably expected in a shop of that kind.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. What kind of coal do you use for heating? A. Hard coal.

JOHN GORDON, Horse-nail Manufacturer and Machinist, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Are you in the same trade? A. Yes; I work for Mr. James Pender, in the finishing department.

Q. With regard to the number of men employed and the wages, are you satisfied with the deposition of Mr. Pender? A. Yes; perfectly satisfied, I thought he gave it about correct; in fact, I could not give a statement of the wages at all as well as he could. I never kept the run of mine to know how much I made in a year.

Q. In the matter of waste of the iron, have you any knowledge whether the statement of 25 per cent. being lost was correct? A. As far as I know, the waste runs from 22 to 25 per cent (Mr. Marvin—I think it has not gone under 24 in four years, and once it was 26).

Q. I do not question Mr. Pender's statement at all, but it is simply to see if you confirm his statement that I ask the question now? A. He gave it about correct; he gave a good average, I think, in giving 25 per cent. waste.

Q. The information he gave us in regard to the horse-nail trade is about as much as can be had—have you anything to supplement it with? A. No; I have not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Have you a boy there seventeen years of age who hires other boys to work for him? A. There is one in my department who has a finishing machine who hires his own help; one is his half-brother, younger than himself, and there is another young fellow with him who is taller and larger, and possibly older.

Q. Is the firm responsible for these boys' wages? A. I think Mr. Pender would make himself responsible, so far that he would see them paid. I do not know whether he knows the amount they get from this young man or not, but I think he would hold that man responsible for the boys being paid.

St. JOHN, N.B., 21st March, 1888.

CHARLES L. NELSON, Paper Manufacturer, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What classes of paper do you make? A. We make manilla, brown and sheathing.

Q. Where are your paper works? A. At Springdale.

Q. How many hands do you employ in this industry? A. Forty hands—that is, in the paper mill.

Q. How many of these would be skilled men? A. There is an engineer, a boss paper-maker, two machine men and two pulp-engineers.

Q. What wages do you pay a machine man? A. What kind of a machine man do you mean?

Q. What kind of machines do you use? A. Fordiner machines.

Q. Well, what do you pay the men who work on the Fordiner machines? A. The man who works that machine would get \$2.33½ a day.

Q. What wages do pulp-makers receive? A. One dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q. Do they require much training before they learn this art? A. I think they do, although I do not really know, for I have not had the mill more than six years.

Q. Do they require as much training as an ordinary mechanic? A. I do not think that pulp-engineers do.

Q. Do you employ any unskilled labor? A. Some.

Q. What wages do they receive? A. About \$1.25 a day.

Q. Do you employ many boys in your mill? A. Some; but none under seventeen years of age.

Q. Do you employ any women or girls? A. I do employ some.

Q. How much do they earn? A. About 40 cents a day—that, is the girls.

Q. Do you require grown up women for your work? A. No.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest girl employed by you? A. I do not think we have any girls in our factory less than seventeen years old, and no young children.

Q. Does it cost less to live in Springdale than to live in the city? A. Decidedly so. We own the dwelling houses where our hands live, and the work-people can live cheaper there than in an ordinary rented house. In fact, they can live very cheap indeed there.

Q. Have you any difficulty in getting hands to go to work? A. No.

Q. Do your hands remain with you any considerable length of time? A. I have not had to make a change in my hands for the last four years. That would be among the skilled laborers; sometimes the machine hands go away.

Q. Do you have separate conveniences for the men and women in your employ? A. Yes; but there we are not shut out or hemmed in like a city factory, and the hands have the whole country to roam about in.

Q.—Are the houses you rent to your employés rented merely for the convenience of your work-people or did you purchase them as a monetary speculation? A. We purchased them merely for the convenience of the work-people themselves; in fact, we could not get along without them. We merely charge our hands a nominal rent for the houses, and to tell you the truth some don't pay any rent at all. The houses out there are quite inexpensive.

Q. Do you know what it costs to build these houses? A. I can scarcely answer that question, because the houses were there when I bought the property. I do not think they would cost more than \$250 to \$600 to build.

Q. How many rooms would there be in a house costing from \$250 to \$300? A. There would be two or three bedrooms, a sitting room and a kitchen.

Q. I suppose they are frame houses? A. Yes.

Q. Are they well sheathed and protected against the weather? A. They are good board houses; they are both shingled and clap-boarded.

Q. Do they make reasonably comfortable houses for your people? A. I have lived in worse houses myself.

Q. Where do you sell the bulk of your paper? A. In the Maritime Provinces.

Q. Do you send any west to Ontario? A. I rather think so. We have a great deal of competition in our trade, and the heaviest part of it comes from Ontario.

Q. Is it possible for you to export to foreign countries the classes of paper you make? A. I am not very well versed in the prices of the different classes of paper outside of our own market, but I do know that we could not export it to England or the States. So far as South America or the West India Islands are concerned, I must confess that I am not well posted on them.

Q. What classes of books do you make? A. We do not make any books at all; we make paper and paper bags.

Q. Is the paper-bag industry a large one with you? A. We make about 7,000,000 bags a year.

Q. Do you do the printing on them? A. We have them printed outside.

Q. What wages do your pasters earn? A. They earn, I think, about 60 cents a day; they are not paid by the day, but by the piece, and they come in and go out

when they like ; some of them come to work about ten o'clock in the morning and go home at half-past five.

Q. What would be the ages of the youngest girls you employ ? A. The youngest girl in our employ is seventeen years old.

Q. Is their work all done by hand ? A. It is all done by hand except the cutting, which is done by the machine.

Q. Do you make any envelopes ? A. No.

Q. If the smartest of your women should work ten hours a day what would she earn ? A. I have had a girl to work who repeatedly earned from \$6 to \$7 a week, but that kind of hands are very few. In order to earn that money they have to be very smart and work hard all the time.

Q. Would she have to work more than ten hours a day ? A. She would hardly be able to work ten hours a day, for we do not open the store till half-past seven or eight in the morning and we shut at six sharp.

Q. Do you ever have any night work to do ? A. No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do all your employés at the mill live in the houses you own ? A. No ; I think there are two of the men that own the houses they live in ; they bought them since they went there to work.

Q. Is it part of the terms of agreement between you and your hands that they shall live in your houses during the time they shall work in your mill ? A. It is not.

Q. Is the machinery in your mill fully protected against dangerous accidents ? A. It is just the same machinery that is in all other paper mills ; all our machinery must be open, so that the hands can work at them. We use the Fordiner machine, and the man who operates it has to work around it all the time.

Q. Have you ever had any dangerous accidents take place around your machinery ? A. We had one, I am sorry to say, day before yesterday ; one of the young lads went around to oil one of the engines, and as he went around he went entirely contrary to the orders he received, and instead of going round got caught. He was an assistant engineer.

Q. How old is this boy ? A. He is seventeen.

Q. How long has he been in your employ as assistant engineer ? A. I think he has been on the pay-sheet about two years.

Q. Was he an apprentice, learning the business of engineer ? A.—Yes ; he was an apprentice, but he was not bound by any writings or indentures.

Q. Is it the duty of the boy to oil the machinery, or is it the duty of the engineer ? A. It is the duty of the assistant engineer to do that work.

Q. Would it be that boy's duty to oil the machinery, or would it be the engineer's ? A. In all mills that I know of it is the duty of the assistant engineer to oil the engine ; it is quite a simple matter.

Q. Do you make any provision for your employés who are injured by accidents in the mill ? A. There is no such provision, that I know of.

Q. If there had been a box up from the floor, to a certain distance around this machine, would this boy have been able to crawl through the belt ? A. I do not suppose he would ; but the belts could not be boxed up, for we run the machine in such a way that to do so is an impossibility.

Q. Could not guards be placed around these belts in such a way as to protect the lives and limbs of the employés in your mill ? A. I do not think we could very well do that. The nature of the machinery is such that we must get at it from all sides and at all times. We cannot box it up, for if we did so, the machinery would be entirely useless to us.

Q. Are your employés ever engaged at night-work in the mill ? A. It is the rule in every paper mill that the machine never stops, but all last summer and this year, so far, we have only run what we call a single shift—that is in the day-time.

Q. How many hours a day do your paper-makers work ? A. Every paper-maker is supposed to work twelve hours a day.

Q. Are the boys and girls supposed to work twelve hours too? A. No; they can work or not, as they please.

Q. Do they work twelve hours a day? A. I do not think so; they may work twelve or fourteen hours sometimes; they may work part of the evening sometimes, in order to finish up their work.

Q. When these children are required to work more than an ordinary day are they paid for extra time? A. They are.

Q. Do they receive more than an ordinary day's pay for night work? A. I do not think so; I think they are paid at the same rate as in the day time. During the last two years we have found that we could get all our work done in the day time.

Q. Are your employes required to sign an agreement before going to work in your mill? A. Not as a rule; the last machine-man signed an agreement with me for a year's work.

Q. Are there any rules posted up in your mill for the guidance of your employes? A. I do not think there are any posted up. The place is a small one, and the men who are engaged in the mill were almost all brought up in it; some of them were there before I bought the mill, and know all about it.

Q. Do you impose any fines upon your employes for offences which they commit? A. No.

SAMUEL GARDNER, Immigration Agent, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. How long have you been employed as immigration agent in St. John? A. Since March, 1880; I was appointed 14th February, but I did not enter upon the duties of the office until the 1st of March.

Q. Are there more immigrants coming out to St. John yearly than at the time you were appointed? A. Yes; there were hardly any came here then, but the number has been increasing yearly since then.

Q. Were many immigrants, as a whole, landed in St. John last year? A. There passed through my hands 477, but I got, through the various inlets, a great many more. The amount that I got in that way was nearly 1,700.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. That is in the whole Province? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Did all these people you speak of remain in the Province? A. I could not say.

Q. Did they come with the ostensible intention of remaining in the Province? A. They did.

Q. What class of immigrants were they? A. The majority of them were boys, from fourteen to seventeen years of age. I find that almost every farmer in the Province wants either boys or agricultural laborers.

Q. Are those the only class of immigrants that came out last year? A. We had a variety last year, but the majority were boys and agricultural laborers. The Government only give inducements to that class of immigrants.

Q. Were these boys bound at the place from which they came? A. They were sent out by various institutions from Bristol; they were sent from the schools there.

Q. What class of schools were they sent from? A. Their industrial schools.

Q. Were there any among them that you could call pauper immigrants? A. I think not.

Q. Did you find employment for all that came out? A. I could have found employment for many more than did come.

Q. Do you think that the immigration to this Province was composed of many tradesmen? A. I think not; they do come at times, but not many. There has been no encouragement given to them to come here.

Q. Then it is principally the boys and agricultural laborers that come here ?
A. Yes ; they come here with the idea of purchasing farms.

Q. Do you know whether these boys, after they leave your hands, remain with the people who get them ? A. I do ; from personal observation I know that they do. I have occasionally to visit them, and I find that 95 per cent. of those that come here do well.

Q. And remain in this Province ? A. Yes ; I have asked them all if they would like to go back home, and they always answer me " Oh, no, sir." The object of sending them out here is to make farmers of them.

Q. Under what conditions do the farmers hire these boys ? A. I place the lads in a respectable family, and for the first twelve months they get their board and clothing, and at the end of the first year everything depends upon themselves. There is no person in the country who wants to go bound for strangers, so it all depends upon the boys themselves as to what they make themselves worth.

Q. Do the people who take these boys keep good faith with them ? A. The moment good faith is not kept with them the boys are removed to another place.

Q. Do any little girls come out, too ? A. They do.

Q. From what institution sent out ? A. Hitherto, some came from the Bristol school and some from Scotland.

Q. Is there any special name for that school ? A. The one in Scotland is called the Mary Hill School.

Q. Do you also find places for these girls ? A. Yes.

Q. With farmers also ? A. Yes.

Q. Do any of them remain in the city ? A. Yes ; I could find places for 100 for every one I get.

Q. Are you able to say, from your own knowledge, that they were all of good character and gave satisfaction ? A. Yes ; I think they were.

Q. Is it part of your duty to have a supervision over them ? A. Yes.

Q. And report upon them ? A. I give them all to understand that I act as guardian to them.

Q. Do the farmers where they go to seem to like them ? A. Yes ; they cannot get enough of them.

Q. And do they keep good faith with them ? A. Yes.

Q. Are these girls allowed to make their own bargains with the housekeepers they engage with after the first year ? A. They are allowed to do so immediately after they come here.

Q. How many of these girls turn out well ? A. I should say 99 per cent.

Q. And you still have places for more if they should come this year ? A. Yes.

Q. Is it desirable to bring any other class of immigrants than those you speak of to New Brunswick ? A. I think not.

Q. All those kinds you speak of are able to find employment ? A. Yes ; I think we have in our country a field for lots of farmers, and instead of being here four or five years they can begin at once and save \$150, and go to the woods and how out for themselves a home. The Local Government gives 100 acres of land free, and if those agricultural laborers come out here they can take these grants and make homes for themselves.

Q. Do any of the agricultural laborers that come out here return into the city in the fall of the year or in winter time, and become a charity, to be looked after by the community ? A. No, sir ; they are required in the woods in the winter time ; I could give you the data from 1880 to now.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What expenses are incurred looking after these boys and girls after they land here ? A. The Dominion Government, so far, has paid all their expenses ; the Local Government has repudiated everything concerning them, saying that there has been no appropriation made for that purpose in the New Brunswick Legislature ; therefore the Dominion Government has paid for their meals and transport, but after the coming session of Parliament that will be stopped.

Q. Who pays the expense of looking after these children after they are placed with the farmers? A. There are no expenses incurred after they are placed.

Q. What portion of those who come to St. John would you consider undesirable? A. I have not seen any, to speak of, that turned out bad; but, as I said before, about 95 per cent. of them turn out well.

Q. Do you get many boys from the London district here? A. We have had some of them, but not lately. We had a lot one season from the east of London folks, but I had hard work with them.

Q. Have you ever had any boys sent out from the Red House Reformatory of England? A. No.

Q. Do these boys who come from the east end of London turn out desirable? A. They are placed just where they cannot misbehave themselves, but I should not say they are a desirable class of immigrants for New Brunswick. We have got a good country here, and there is not much chance for a man or boy to misbehave himself. The great trouble with these boys is that they have been helped too much. There is no better country to be developed than New Brunswick, and if they make up their minds to go to work in earnest—root hog, or die—they will make good citizens.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you find an increasing demand for the young women as servants in this Province? A. They are in large demand.

Q. Is the demand increasing? A. Yes.

Q. Do these young women, after serving their time of service, come into the towns and cities to enter the factories? A. None of them; I have had some of them who have gone to the factories leave them and go to the country. The reason for that is that they are well kept there, and are treated as members of the family; they go to the same table to eat.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you any knowledge as to the number of people who are leaving the country? A. I have not had an opportunity to gain that knowledge. I have taken very good care of the ins, but I have not paid much attention to the outs; but when I do so I have always found that, as far as New Brunswick is concerned, a great many go to and fro from the United States every winter and summer. They would average 8,000 a year—3,000 females and 5,000 males.

Q. In which direction is the largest travel? A. As far as my knowledge is concerned, I would say the most of them go by rail.

Q. Could you give us any idea of what number go by the boats? A. Yes; I could give you that, too; I could give you the ins and outs of the boats.

Q. Have you got those statistics? A. Yes.

Q. And will you supply them to us? A. Yes.

TOTAL Immigrants Arrived and Settled in New Brunswick.

GOVERNMENT IMMIGRATION OFFICE,

ST. JOHN, N.B., 22nd March, 1888.

For 1880:—

St. John office.....	370
York County.....	200
Charlotte	42
Northumberland.....	23
Carleton	2
Victoria	9
	— 646

For 1881:—

St. John office.....		174
Charlotte.....		80
Carleton.....		26
Victoria.....		24
	(No others reported.)	— 304

Travel:—

	INS.	OUTS.
Per I. S. S. Line.....	15,571	14,431
Per St. John & Maine Railway.....	26,934	24,666
	(This for eleven months only. Whole returns not in.)	

For 1882:—

St. John office.....		301
Charlotte.....		130
Northumberland.....		12
Restigouche.....		4
Victoria.....		25
Carleton.....		92
		— 564

(All heard from. One hundred and thirty of these returned Canadians.)

Travel:—

	INS.	OUTS.
Per I. S. S. Line.....	19,024	12,287
Per St. John & Maine Railway.....	25,958	31,777

For 1883:—

St. John office.....		367
Other inlets.....		257
		— 624
Charlotte.....	112	
Carleton.....	116	
Victoria.....	29	
	(Mostly returned Canadians.)	— 257

Travel:—

	INS.	OUTS.
Per I. S. S. Line.....	18,734	12,347
Per St. John & Maine Railway.....	11,655	13,347

(Only report obtainable from St. John & Maine Ry. for four months—January to April.)

For 1884:—

St. John office.....		568
Other inlets.....		880
		— 1,448
York (including McAdam Junction).....	500	
Charlotte.....	148	
Carleton.....	159	
Northumberland.....	50	
Victoria.....	23	
		— 880

(Of this 880 a large majority were Canadians returned.)

Travel:—

	INS.	OUTS.
Per I. S. S. Line.....	13,555	8,176

(Owing to change of St. John & Maine to N. B. Ry. Co., could not get any returns—books being re-arranged.)

For 1885:—

St. John office.....		364
Carleton		191
Northumberland		13
Victoria		65
Restigouche		93
York.....		500
Kent.....		1
Sunbury		14
Charlotte.....		169
		—1,420

Travel:—

	INS.	OUTS.
Per I. S. S. Line.....	14,340	12,671

(No returns from N. B. Ry. Co. this year.)

For 1886:—

St. John office		377
Other inlets.....		1,776
		—2,154
Northumberland		44
Charlotte.....		239
Carleton		189
York.....	1,150	
Victoria		70
Restigouche		12
Westmoreland.....		73
		—1,777

Travel:—

	INS.	OUTS.
Per I. S. S. Line.....	19,864	14,303
Per N. B. Railway Co.....	15,178½	17,629

(For eleven months.)

For 1887:—

St. John office.....		474
Other inlets		1,269
		—1,743
Albert County		7
Charlotte		120
Carleton		218
Northumberland		50
Restigouche		80
York.....		794
		— 1,269

This exclusive of that regularly reported at the different Custom-houses, and they gave: for 1885, 992; 1886, 782.

The officer from McAdam reports going to and from the United States yearly 5,000 males and 3,000 females.

Shall be pleased to furnish anything more if wanted.

Yours, &c.,
S. GARDNER.

LABOR COMMISSION,

Now in Session, St. John, N.B.

JAMES LEE, Tile Manufacturer and Brick-maker, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you employ many men in your brick-yard? A. I employ about fifty-two hands in the summer season?

Q. What wages do the brick-makers earn? A. They earn from \$1 to \$1.50 a day.

Q. How many hours in a day do you work? A. Ten hours, except Saturday, which is one hour shorter.

Q. Do these men do any moulding? A. We do not employ that system here; we use machinery here.

Q. Would these men that you say earn the above wages be the men who tend the machine and take the bricks away from it? A. Yes; they take the bricks away and put them up for burning.

Q. What would a man receive for wheeling to the machines? A. He would receive about \$1.40 a day.

Q. Is not this considered to be the hardest work in your yard? A. It is hard work, but it is not the hardest.

Q. What would the men receive who do the racking? A. They receive about \$1.40 a day.

Q. Have you any boys employed in your yard for any purposes? A. We have one boy.

Q. What does he attend? A. He puts what we call the board on the alley; he puts the board in the machine and receives the brick and puts back the board; the board weighs about six or seven pounds. This boy is about twelve or sixteen years old, generally. He may stop work sometimes for a week or a day during the summer season, but we find no trouble in getting a boy when he leaves; but we do not want any boys who are less than twelve years of age.

Q. Do your men get paid by the day or by the thousand? A. By the day; that is the brick-makers.

Q. What are the wages of the tile-makers? A. The same men work on tiles that work on brick.

Q. Do they work the same hours? A. Yes.

Q. When burning the brick do the men receive any extra pay? A. They get no more.

Q. Do the same men work in the day and at night tending the furnace? A. The same men work night and day. Skilled men can work day and night, and desire to do so. Some of those who make the kiln of bricks prefer to burn it themselves.

Q. Have you any trouble about getting clay for making bricks? A. We have the best clay in this country for making bricks; we have the best, at least, this side of Eastport.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you lose much bricks by storm in the fall? A. We lose a great many in the fall of the year by reason of the frost coming. One year I have known us to lose as many as 200,000 or 300,000 from frost striking them and throwing them right down.

Q. Do you find a market for your bricks outside of your own Province? A. We do in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island; we make the bricks for the building of their houses. We make as good a brick as they do in any part of Massachusetts—that is, red brick; but we sell our brick around our own Province chiefly.

Q. Is your business increasing? A. No; it has been decreasing for the last two years.

Q. That would be on account of the fire of 1877? A. Yes; after that fire we built the city up too rapid, and much of the work was done by foreigners, and of course they took away the profits. The manufacturers now have been doing very little. At that time the duty was taken off the raw material here, and that allowed a great deal of bricks and other goods to come here, and they have been a drug on the market since then. I know that a United States firm sent 20,000,000 bricks down here and they were sold very cheap, and our vessels not being very busy brought them for \$2 per thousand.

Q. How do your bricks made in this Province compare with those manufactured in others? A. Ours are cheaper than those made in American States, and eighteen of our bricks make a cubic foot, and so are larger and better. In other places it takes twenty to twenty-four to make a cubic foot; I should say twenty-two would be a good average.

Q. Do you find any trouble in employing the skilful help that you require? A. No.

Q. Have your men been with you long? A. Some of them have been with us all their lives, from childhood, and some of their children are now with us. They are all experienced hands.

Q. As a rule, do you find the men in your employ industrious and sober? A. Yes; they are all sober men. There may be one or two of them that go off on a time once in a while, but taken all through they are all good, sober men.

Q. You have only one boy at work in your yard? A. Only one.

Q. You have no apprentices? A. We have taken none since we have been using machinery, seventeen or eighteen years ago.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is the standard size for bricks in New Brunswick? A. There is no legal size. Our bricks are 18 by 2, and $\frac{2}{3}$ by $3\frac{1}{4}$. Eighteen of them make a cubic foot. They are the largest made in this Province, but I do not know about outside of it—in other Provinces.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do your men get work at any other employment during the winter? A. We send our men into the woods to cut cordwood for us in the winter.

Q. Does this work keep them sufficiently employed during the winter? A. It simply helps them through.

Q. What wages do they earn at it? A. Some of them can cut a cord and a half a day.

Q. How much would they get for cutting a cord? A. From 70 to 80 cents. Good spruce would be worth 80 cents; sometimes they get \$1 for cutting it. All they earn at it is about enough to keep themselves living until spring, when our work opens up.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Have any of your men houses of their own? A. There are two of them who have houses of their own.

Q. Have they acquired them from their own earnings? A. Yes; one of them has been the acquirement of twenty years' work.

Q. What kind of tiles do you make? A. In speaking of tiles I meant the large draining tiles. That is the kind we make.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Are there any glazed sewer pipes made in New Brunswick? A. None.

THOMAS A. RANKINE (T. Rankine & Sons, Biscuits,) St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been engaged in your present business? A. Our establishment has been in existence since 1826. We date from that time our present location, but my father started business in St. John the year before.

Q. How many men do you employ? A. Our present help is about thirty.

Q. Is that your average for a year, or do you sometimes employ more? A. We sometimes employ more.

Q. Do you ever employ any less? A. Not very often.

Q. Then what would you call your average? A. We will call thirty an average, for any number beyond that is transient.

Q. What number of skilled men have you among these thirty? A. We have not more than perhaps three or four men among this number who have served a regular apprenticeship.

Q. How many boys do you employ? A. The number I gave you included the total of our employes up to last June; about ten of that number are boys.

Q. How many girls or young ladies, according to their ages, do you employ? A. There would be, I suppose, seven or eight.

Q. What wages do you skilled men receive? A. The highest wage of our men is \$2 a day.

Q. Is that an average for your skilled men? A. That is not an average, for there are only two men in our establishment who earn those wages.

Q. What is the next highest wages you pay? A. The next wage below that is \$1.60 a day.

Q. Are they men that receive those rates of wages? A. A man gets \$1.60.

Q. What do you pay the hands that you call boys? A. They begin at 25 cents a day.

Q. Do you ever take on apprentices in your business? A. We have taken them on.

Q. What is the grade of wages that a person after serving his apprenticeship could earn in a day—or, what would he earn while serving his time? A. We have one of those boys who is earning \$1.10 a day; we have another earning \$1 and another earning 75 cents a day. Of the two employes at \$2, one is one of our own boys; what I mean is, that he served his time with us.

Q. Do these boys, as a rule, remain with you after they serve their time? A. Some of them do, but very few.

Q. What wages do you pay the young ladies in your establishment? A. From 40 to 50 cents a day.

Q. Have you any saleswomen? A. We have one behind the counter.

Q. What would be the average wages for those employed in your bakery? A. We pay them as I said before.

Q. How many hours are your hands supposed to work? A. Ten hours a day, and in winter sometimes less.

Q. Do you ever do any night work? A. No; we sometimes have an oven full of biscuits after regular knocking-off time, but the man who tends to the oven gets extra pay for tending to that work. When he has an oven of biscuit to tend to after hours he is generally paid for half an hour's work.

Q. Where do you find a market for all the biscuits you make? A. New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. We sell to Newfoundland, but very little though.

Q. Is your trade increasing? A. Trade in our business is very variable. I will give you a demonstration of that, by giving you a list of our consumption of flour for the past eleven years:—

	Brls.
1877.....	3,311
1878.....	4,320
1879.....	3,578
1880.....	5,014
1881.....	5,025
1882.....	7,059
1883.....	6,706
1884.....	5,736
1885.....	5,712
1886.....	5,355
1887.....	5,602

Last year we used of the following articles: Sugar, 43 tons; butter and lard, 51 tons; currants and raisins, 9 tons; new boxes, 12,760. That is the number of new boxes we used, but we also used all the old boxes we could get.

Q. Do you manufacture all kinds of cakes and crackers? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you any knowledge, from captains of vessels and others, as to the estimation in which they hold Canadian ship-bread as compared with what they get in other countries? A. I cannot answer that question very well, but I know that in former years, when we had a line of vessels called the Black Ball Line, running between here and Liverpool, we used to supply them with bread enough to bring them back here.

Q. Where do you purchase most of your flour? A. We use Canadian altogether.

Q. Do you find the north-western flour better than that which you formerly used? A. No.

Q. Do you find Manitoba flour to be the best? A. We do not use Manitoba flour in our business; its use is confined altogether to loaf bread-makers.

Q. You do not require so strong a flour, then? A. No.

Q. Where do you find the chief market for your goods? A. New Brunswick.

Q. Is it possible to ship goods of the classes you make to foreign countries? A. That would depend upon whether England has access to the markets.

Q. Can you profitably export any kind of bread to the West Indies or South America? A. We could not compete with the English market; we could not compete against free sugar, free lard, and free butter.

Q. Have you exclusive control of your own markets—I mean New Brunswick? A. No, sir; we have not.

Q. Where does your competition come from chiefly? A. Ontario and Quebec.

Q. Can they send bread down here and sell at prices that you are compelled to ask? A. We are compelled to sell at their prices; they send bread down here and slaughter it at lower prices than they get in their own market. They sell at a great deal lower prices than they get for the same article at home.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you do any night work in your factory? A. None at all.

Q. What is the standard wages paid to bakers in St. John? A. I have no knowledge of what wages are paid to bakers in other establishments outside of our own.

Q. And you say that you pay 40 to 50 cents a day to your girls? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any girls in your employ to whom you pay less wages? A. No.

EDWIN C. FOSTER, Tack Manufacturer, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. In what business are you engaged? A. I am a tack and nail manufacturer.
- Q. How many men do you employ? A. Forty people altogether.
- Q. How are these divided up, as to boys and girls? A. One-third are young men and one-third are boys sixteen to eighteen years of age.
- Q. Have you any boys under eight years of age in your employ? A. There is one boy who, I should judge, is about fourteen or fifteen years old.
- Q. What work is he engaged at? A. At the grinding machine.
- Q. What are the earnings of machinists in your employ? A. We pay them \$12 a week.
- Q. What are the earnings of the next class of employés? A. They would be what you call machine feeders, and they would earn from \$6 to \$9 a week. We pay them so much per hundred.
- Q. What work are the boys of sixteen or seventeen years engaged at? A. They attend the self-feeders and they are paid by the piece.
- Q. What wages do they earn? A. They earn from \$3 to \$5 and \$6 a week.
- Q. As these boys get skilful in the business are they advanced in other branches? A. All the men that we have with us have been boys in our employ and have grown up with the business.
- Q. What particular lines of goods do you make? A. We manufacture all kinds of tacks, shoe-nails, finishing-nails and all kinds of spikes and cut nails.
- Q. Do you manufacture any bolts? A. No.
- Q. You simply confine yourself to nails and tacks? A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Have you any female employés in your factory? A. Yes.
- Q. What are they employed at? A. Packing the nails and tacks in papers and boxes.
- Q. Do they make the boxes? A. They make the old style of tack-box but not the new patent boxes.
- Q. What is the age of these females employed by you? A. I should judge that they would be from eighteen to twenty years old.
- Q. What wages do they earn? A. From \$3 to \$6 a week.
- Q.—Are your hours of labor the same all the year round? A. In winter they generally make eight hours or so. They are not bound by any particular hours, but are paid by the piece.
- Q. What are the ordinary running hours of your factory? A. Ten hours a day.
- Q. Summer and winter? A. In summer we make a good deal of over-time. We work sometimes three nights in a week, when we are in a great hurry.
- Q. Is there any increase of payment made for work at night—that is, higher than when working in the day time? A. We pay them the same rate of wages, but they seem to have more ambition to work at night, and earn more in proportion to time than in the day.
- Q. When you are working night work what time are the hands allowed for meals? A. Those working piece-work take whatever time they choose.
- Q. But you do not stop the machines? A. We do for about twenty minutes when the day workmen go out to their meals. The piece-workers are then back and start to work again.
- Q. Do you find that your industry is on the increase? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you plenty of demand for the goods you make? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you send any goods out of the Province of New Brunswick? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you send any of your goods west? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you compete successfully with the foreign manufacturers? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you compete with the nail manufacturers in the west? A.—We do in our own Province; our output is consumed in the Maritime Provinces, and so we do not have to push to any very large extent for a market.

- Q. Do you manufacture the clubs-nail? A. No.
 Q. Do you manufacture tin clubs? A. No.
 Q. Do you manufacture copper clubs? A. We do.
 Q. Do you manufacture all sizes of copper clubs? A. Yes.

JAMES KENNEDY, President Phoenix Coal Company, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

- Q. Where are your mines situated? A. Nova Scotia.
 Q. How many hands are employed in your mines? A. We employ 150 hands at present.
 Q. How many boys are in your employ? A. There are about eight or ten, I should think. Of cutters we have seventy or eighty.
 Q. These are all men, I suppose? A. Yes.
 Q. How many hours a day do the cutters work, as a rule? A. They work piece-work, and they generally work about ten hours.
 Q. What would the average wages of the cutters be? A. Some of them are better men than others, and some work steadier. I think that \$1.50 would be about the average, although some of them make over \$2 a day—that is, taking the wages by the month.
 Q. Do not some earn a good deal less than \$1.50? A. Yes; that is taking them by the month.
 Q. Do you employ many unskilled laborers? A. We have about forty or fifty, I suppose—that is, surface men.
 Q. What wages do they earn? A. They ought to earn from \$1 to \$1.50.
 Q. Are they constantly employed? A. They will be after this. Our mine has only opened in connection with the Intercolonial Railway since the first of the year. Before that there were four months in the year we were shut down, on account of navigation being closed. On this account we could not reach here from the mines from December to April, but now we have opened a branch line of railway from the mines to Maccan, Nova Scotia, so that there will be no more necessity of the men losing any time, and they will have steady work all the year round.
 Q. What is the thickness of your seam? A. It is about 6 feet; half way up the seam there is a layer of clay between. The seam is $3\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick, with a layer of clay between. The layer of clay is 1 foot.
 Q. Do your men have plenty of room to work? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

- Q. What is the length of the branch from Maccan into the Joggins? A. About thirteen miles.
 Q. Is there much of a grade there? A. There is only one place where there is a grade, after passing over River Hébert, but it is mostly all down hill from the mines to Maccan; there is more of a grade going to the mine.
 Q. Are there plenty of houses there for your miners? A. There are.
 Q. Does the company own the houses? A. We own most of the houses—the company does.
 Q. Do you make a profit on these houses, or do you let them at cost? A. We make a small rental charge for them.
 Q. What would be an average rent for these houses? A. \$2 to \$2.50 a month.
 Q. Have you any idea of what it cost to build these houses? A. They cost about \$300 for a single house; some of the double houses may have cost \$400 or \$660.
 Q. How many rooms are there in each tenement of a single house, or half of a double house? A. In a single house there would be a kitchen, and a bedroom or two; in fact, I was never in them.

Q. Can you give us the sizes of the houses over all? A. No; for I never took the dimensions of them.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—They are something like on a straight line? A. I have never seen the inside of them.

Q. Have you ever heard any complaints about them? A. I never heard the people complain about them; the sleeping apartments are up-stairs.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are provisions found near your mine or do you send for them from a distance? A. We get them mostly from St. John.

Q. Then they are dearer than they are in St. John? A. No; in the summer they go up by schooner, and there is not much difference in the price; there is only a little freight added on.

Q. Is there any farming community around you? A. Yes; there is a fine farming country all around; the railway branch goes through a fine country.

Q. Could not the farmers of the district supply you with the provisions you want in the mine? A. Yes; but the flour is drawn from St. John and the merchants of St. John get the benefit of their own investment. The company has no store of their own at the mines. The men opened a store there last fall, which they run themselves and to a certain extent they buy their provisions wholesale.

Q. Do you know whether they are satisfied with their venture? A. I do not; I have not heard; it has not been going long enough to tell much with certainty; I know they buy their flour by the car-load.

Q. Do they sell their provisions only to stockholders or to all comers? A. I think they sell to all comers.

Q.—Do you know whether their prices are lower than the same goods can be bought in the local stores? A. I could not say, for I have never bought anything from them myself and have never inquired particularly into the matter.

Q. You do not think they have carried it on long enough to know whether it is a financial success? A. The object of the store is to benefit the men. There is a great deal in the management of these things as to whether it will pay and I cannot see why, if it is well managed, it should not pay; but it has not been long enough going to form an idea as to whether it will pay or not.

Q. What would be the ages of the youngest boys employed in the mines? A. I suppose about fifteen years of age.

Q.—What wages do they receive? A. Some get 65 cents, some 75 and some 90 cents a day.

Q. Are there schools situated convenient to the mine? A. There is a school and two churches. It is a good school; a new church was built there last year.

Q. Are not the miners anxious to get their boys employed in the mines about as quickly as they can do so? A. Yes.

Q. Are they anxious to get them employed too early to get a good common English education? A. I do not think so, because work of that kind takes quite a lump of a boy to do it. We have no use for children of tender years; we have no use for children of ten or twelve years of age. A boy has to be about fifteen or sixteen years of age before he is of any use to us.

Q. Do the children get as good an education as the average of children throughout this country? A. I do not know of anything to the contrary.

Q. Then you have a good, prosperous and fairly intelligent community? A. Yes.

Q. And since the opening of the railway it promises to be a very prosperous community? A. Yes.

Q. And your output is increasing? A. Yes.

Q. Where do you sell the most of your coal? A. Since the opening of the railway we have sold to the Intercolonial Railway; that is the round coal, but the nut coal we send down to St. John—some goes as far as Quebec. The slack coal we have sold

a good lot of to Mr. Parks for his cotton mills, and to others in St. John we have sold largely.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Are not these men who buy coal from you in St. John all interested in the mine? A. Mr. Parks has no interest in it.

JOHN THOMPSON (Messrs Thompson & Co., St. John, N.B. Ship-owners and Agents,) called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Is the shipping business in St. John increasing or decreasing? A. It is decreasing.

Q. What particular kind of vessels are becoming scarce? A. The large, square-rigged vessels—vessels from 500 tons and upwards. Of course, we are still building some, such as schooners from 50 to 300 tons (register). I do not think we are building so much as a few years ago.

Q. Is the aggregate amount of freight less than it was five years ago. A. We are sending more to the United States than five years ago, but our export to Great Britain and the continent of Europe has decreased from 220,000,000 and 240,000,000 down to 150,000,000 and 160,000,000; probably our trade is not more than two thirds of what it was five years ago.

Q. That would be annual trade? A. Yes.

Q. Have steamers, to a large extent, taken the place of these square-rigged ships? A. That is pretty hard to say. Last year there were seventeen or eighteen steamers came here; the year before only ten, and the year before that forty or fifty. The reason for that was that the prices of freight have decreased, and so these steamers will not come here if they can get freight any where else. Another reason for the decrease was that the laborers' association increased the rate of wages so high that these steamers would not come here.

Q. Apart from the question of labor, to what cause do you attribute the falling of in shipping in the port of St. John? A. I think the reason is largely due to the fact of the Baltic producing such large quantities of deals. The second reason is the opening up of small places all through Nova Scotia, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Quebec from which deals go forward to the old country. From such places as Pugwash, Baie Verte and other small places in Nova Scotia, large quantities of deals went last year to the old country.

Q. Then you think that the trade has not decreased, but that it is spread all over the country? A. I think that as many deals go forward from the whole Province as ever, but not from St. John.

Q. What is the difference between Quebec and St. John? A. Quebec ships more timber than we do; we send nothing but birch and pine to the old country, while they send all kinds of wood. I think that freights from Quebec on deals rule from 5s. down to 2s. 6d. higher than ours.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. That is a standard? A. Yes.

Q. Would that difference in freight make the vessels prefer to come to St. John or not? A. I think vessels would prefer to come here rather than to Quebec, as our expenses are a little less than theirs.

Q. What is a standard of Quebec prices? A. One dollar and twenty-five cents a standard on 250 tons.

Q. What were vessels loaded for in Quebec last season? A. I could hardly tell you; I think the charge in Quebec last year was somewhere about \$1. I know that a few years ago we paid \$1.75 for stowing.

Q. On steamers? A. No; sailing vessels. We paid \$3.50 to \$5 for laborers on

steamers three years ago in St. John; that was for a day of nine hours. Last year the laborers reduced the price on steamers to \$3.

Q. Do they charge more on steamers than sailing vessels? A. Yes.

Q. Why do they charge more to load deals on steamboats than on sailing vessels? A. I think a great deal of it is due to prejudice. The laborers say that a steamer comes here and is loaded with 800,000 deals in eight or ten days, while a sailing vessel would be three weeks in loading. They also claim that the steamer loads with winches, and the men who are engaged loading her are in danger of losing their lives. Two men were killed on a steamer last year by being knocked down.

Q. Would it take longer to handle deals on a steamer than on a sailing vessel? A. The steamers take a large number of deals, but on the steamers two men will do more work than on a sailing vessel. It takes double the number of men to load a vessel than a steamer.

Q. What is the difference between the price of a standard on sailing vessels and steamers? A. Last year the price for loading was 85 cents a standard for sailing vessels and \$1.25 for steamers.

Q. Have you ever tried to stow vessels by contract? A. Yes; often.

Q. Do you prefer it to loading by the day? A. It comes to about the same.

Q. What is the difference? A. Oh, it is about the same thing; it depends upon the size of the vessel you are loading. A vessel that is loading on the outside birth may cost 5 cents more. We have loaded vessels and kept the time of the men, and it cost us from 2½ to 5 cents a standard with the stevedore.

Q. Have you ever heard the men complain that the stevedores got more than they ought to out of the business of loading? A. They do on steamers, but not on sailing vessels.

Q. Is it the rule in St. John to load vessels by contract? A. Some merchants load entirely by contract; others have confidence in the stevedore, and let him go on and do the work as best he can, giving him \$40 or \$50 for loading. He pays the men and they keep the time. Some do their loading by contract but no matter how you do it it comes to pretty near the same thing in the end. I think it is better to pay a good A1 stevedore, and let him do the best he can.

Q. How much do the laborers get for loading deal? A. \$2.50 a day on sail and \$3 on steam; from the 1st of April to the 1st of November that is the prevailing prices, but during the winter months it is \$2 all round.

Q. Why are less wages paid for that work in winter? A. Because a good many of the mills are shut down, and the hands do ship-work during that season; also, because the fishing is poor, and many fishermen are willing to load ships.

Q. Are these men as capable of loading a vessel as a regular ship-laborer? A. I think not.

Q. Do you think they would be worth the same amount as a skilled laborer? A. I do not think so.

Q. Do you not think that the work is more trying in winter than in summer? A. It is. I know they work less hours in winter, for they commence at eight in the morning and finish at four, and in summer they commence at six in the morning, and finish at five.

Q. They are paid for three-quarter time in winter, then? A. They are paid at the rate of \$2 a day. I am speaking of last year, because that was the first time the merchants and the laborers had an agreement between them. Before that time the laborers' society had been charging \$3.50 a day in winter, and sometimes \$5 in summer on steamers. At that time a majority of the well-feeling and intelligent laborers of the community met with the merchants and ship-owners, and agreed that the men should get \$3.50 in summer and \$2 in winter. That agreement is still in force, and the laborers are better satisfied than they were before.

Q. Do you think \$3 a day too much for loading steamers, considering the risk that is run? A. The laborers reduced the rate on steamers \$2 a day, reducing it from \$5 to \$3, and only reduced the rate on sailing vessels 50 cents. I understand that the feeling among the laborers was that they ought to charge on steamers

40 cents an hour; that would be \$3.60 a day; but they decided to leave it the same as last year. There was a strong feeling among some of the laborers to raise it to 40 cents an hour, but they finally agreed to let it rest at last year's prices.

Q. Then, during the summer season there is not much difference between the rates of wages here and Quebec? A. Not much.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Is there an agreement to this effect between the laborers and the ship-owners? A. There has been since last season, but that was the first season they had an agreement.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How many merchants in St. John are owners or part owners of steamers? A. There are no steamers owned in St. John—that is, ocean steamers.

Q. I see that it costs less to load ships than steamers. Did that idea come from the merchants or from the men? A. From the men.

Q. How many merchants in St. John own ships? A. I think almost every family owns more or less in sailing ships. The feeling among the laborer's society, and I think it went throughout the entire community, was that the rate for loading ships should be lower than for steamers, and that any advantage that could be given should be thrown in favor of the ships.

Q. Did the laborers acquiesce in this high rate for steamers? A. Yes.

Q. For what reason? A. Partly because it took less time to load the steamer and partly because it was more dangerous.

Q. Is it harder to load a steamer than a sailing vessel? A. They do not drive them so hard on a sailing vessel as on a steamer; that is, the laborers.

Q. The loading of deals is \$1.25 a standard on the steamer and 85 cents on the sailing vessel. Who gets that charge? A. The stevedore has that; he gets more in proportion than any other men.

Q. Do you employ steamers to do your tugging? A. We have our own tug, and we tell the captain of it to go on and do the work, and we pay him for his services. With others, we make a contract for doing the work. We paid 85 cents on a contract last year. Last year vessels were loaded as low as 65 and steamers as low as 85 cents.

Q. The total amount that is put down to the credit of the ship for labor the stevedore makes out of it? A. Yes; unless he gets it out of the captain. When a steamer comes in port the broker has nothing to do with it. The stevedore goes to the steamer and makes his own bargain with the captain. A steamer pays \$2.25 sometimes; I know that was the case some two years ago, and the captain may get a shave off of that, as the case turns out to be. At the present time the rate is \$1.25 or \$1.50.

Q. In working for an outside stevedore are the men always sure of getting their money? A. The stevedores are members of the laborers' association. The positions here are peculiar. The merchants have promised to give the men the wages they ask for. There was no complaint made last year of any injustice being done, but before that time although, the rate nominally was \$3 on sailing vessels and \$5 on steamers, still the laborer often had to work for less money, sometimes 15 cents to \$1 lower than the standard price, and that is why the most intelligent of the laborers approved of an arrangement being made between them and the merchants. Formerly the laborer did not always get his \$5 a day, for he had sometimes to pay a rebate to the stevedore.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Can you give us any more information? A. The feeling of the port of St. John is that we are losing our business. Agents who used to charge \$6 are now charging \$3 to load. They had a meeting amongst themselves, and their combination was broken up; agents or owners will now undertake the tow for half the rate they would last year. The wharf owners had a combination, too, and put the rates

up high; but some of the wharf owners thought that the rates charged were too much, and consequently they reduced the rates of wharfage one-half. The consequence of all this is, that the expenses of a vessel in St. John which a couple of years ago, were \$2.25 a standard, are now reduced to \$1.50.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do many steamers come to St. John in the summer? A. We had seventeen last year, outside of the Furness and Donaldson lines. The Furness Line is a regular line of steamers to the place, and is subsidized.

Q. Do you have many Red Star Line of steamers here in summer? A. They do not come here in the summer. The Furness Line comes here all the year round.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Did it have a tendency to create good feeling for the merchants and ship laborers to meet and arrange matters? A. Yes; they looked upon one another as trying to do their best to benefit the community.

Q. Do the merchants pledge themselves to employ no men outside the Ship-laborers' Union? A. They do.

Q. And do the stevedores generally pursue that course? A. They have got to, because the merchants agreed to employ no stevedore who will not engage the union men; therefore, they must carry out the agreement with the merchants or they will never be employed again. These rates for steamers only apply to trans-Atlantic ones and large sailing vessels. Any one can go on and load a schooner.

Q. Can you tell what are the average earnings of a ship-laborer in the port of St. John? A. Some of them claim that they get about \$300 a year; some skilled men can earn \$400, and some go down as low as \$225, but \$300 would be a fair average all round.

Q. Have you ever known items in the ship's disbursements that ought not to be there? A. That might be in the stevedore's bill for extra work, such as trimming and ballasting.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you know how much it costs for discharging a general cargo? A. Do you mean by steam or sail?

Q. By steam? A. I could not answer that question thoroughly; but for sailing vessels the cost of discharging coal is 15, 17 and 20 cents a ton in the winter and 23 and 24 cents in summer.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Can you tell us the percentage and brokerage? A. It is not more than $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and sometimes it is as high as 5 per cent. The 5 per cent. is divided into thirds—one-third to the vessel, one-third to the broker and one-third to the stevedore.

Q. Is there much competition here now among the brokers? A. There is a good feeling now between them.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What are port charges here? A. They are about \$1.50 a ton on sailing vessels. If you take the inward and outward pilotage, discharging, towing and wharfage, you will find it comes to about \$1.50. That does not include shipping a crew.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is the charge for discharging bituminous coal the same as for anthracite? A. I think so.

Q. Would the cost be any less, if it were not for the tide, than it is now? A. I think so; they could then work the vessel more advantageously, for she would then be high, where they could load her more easily.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is there any limit as to the amount they carry on a vessel in St. John? A.

There is a deck-load law, which commences on the 1st of October and ends the 11th March. You can then carry 4 feet of deals on deck, and after that you can put on whatever you like.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do many in St. John go abroad to seek custom—many ship agents? A. Very seldom; some time ago, when the steam tramps came over here, some of our folks went across to England to get the vessel, but they never go to the States. There are very few vessels building here now, and each man has his own friend, to whom he generally sends his ships and allows him to look after it.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What is the reason that no wooden ships are built here now? A. Because of iron sailing and steamships, which are being produced much more, chiefly. They do three and a-half times as much work.

Q. What is the difference between the wooden and iron ships when ready for sea? A. The wooden ship could be built at a cost of £8 ready for sea and the iron ship would cost £9 to £10. I suppose that in Liverpool and in Glasgow an iron ship would cost £10, while on the east coast of England you could get one built for £8. 10s. or £9.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—That is per ton? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do the iron ships carry as much as a wooden vessel of the same capacity? A. The wooden vessel would carry more.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Does the increase in the building of iron have a tendency to do away with caulkers and riggers in the port? A. All shipping agents look upon the shipping in St. John as being used up. I do not believe that there will be a large square-rigged vessel built again in St. John; a man would be very foolish to do so. The employment for ship-carpenters and caulkers is dying out. The only employment they can get now is in repairing ships, much of which work is done in St. John just now, a great many ships coming here for repairs since the port charges were lowered.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Can the iron ship compete with the wooden ship in the carrying trade in all parts of the world? A. We would not be afraid of the iron ships if it were not for the steamers, as the insurance companies give us the preference.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What is the carrying capacity of an iron vessel as compared with a wooden ship of the same measurement? A. Our wooden vessels carry more. Take the exports from San Francisco as showing the quantity shipped by the iron and wood sailing vessels, and you will find that the wooden ship carries by far the most. They are the more buoyant, and they carry seven and a-half times more than the American shipping vessel—that is, our wooden ships carry more than the American ones. Their ships are built of oak and ours are built of spruce, and ours are therefore more light; but the iron steamers being built every year, and with all the latest improvements, such as exhaust engines, where you use your coal over and over again, are our greatest competitors; so that it is useless to expect to run them out. In fact, the day for wooden ships is about played out; it is only a question of two or three years.

GILFORD FLEWELLING (G. & G. Flewelling, Box and Match-makers), St. John. N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. What classes of matches do you make? A. Card matches altogether.
- Q. How many hands do you employ? A. In the winter seventy-five to eighty, and in summer ninety to one hundred.
- Q. How many of these would be men? A. Three-quarters of them.
- Q. Do you employ any girls or women? A. Generally ten girls.
- Q. Do you employ many boys? A. The rest would be boys—about ten or twelve; but we never have many boys.
- Q. What would be their ages? A. They are from fifteen to eighteen years old. We very seldom have young boys.
- Q. How much would the boys be able to earn when they begin work? A. We usually give them from \$2 to \$3 a week.
- Q. What wages would the girls receive when they begin? A. It is all piece-work with them.
- Q. What would they average when they begin? A. It would not be over 15 cents a day.
- Q. When she has been to work five or six years what would she earn? A. From 60 cents to \$1 a day, according to the nimbleness of her fingers.
- Q. What are the lowest wages you give to unskilled men? A. To the man that carries the lumber we give \$1 a day.
- Q. And what do your skilled men earn? A. They earn from \$1.25 to \$1.50 a day; some get \$2.
- Q. Do you employ boys in nailing up boxes? A. No; men altogether. We find it cheaper to employ skilled men for nailing boxes, as we get more and better work from them.
- Q. Where do you sell your matches, mostly? A. In this Province and Prince Edward Island, and some small quantity in Bermuda and Cuba.
- Q. Who are your principal competitors in the West Indies? A. I do not know anything about who they are; I only know that when we receive the orders that we ship the goods.
- Q. You have made no special efforts to increase your trade? A. No special effort.
- Q. Do you meet with much competition from Ontario? A. No; only from Quebec.
- Q. Do any matches come down here from Hull? A. They are all the time coming into this market and Halifax.
- Q. Do your hands remain with you pretty constantly? A. Yes; quite constantly.
- Q. Do you know if any of them purchase houses for themselves? A. Several of them have bought land and built for themselves.
- Q. Do you think they have paid for these houses out of their wages? A. They had no other way of paying for them. Some of them are paid up and some are not.
- Q. Is your trade increasing or decreasing? A. There has been a great deal of increase during the last three years.
- Q. Have you separate conveniences for men and women? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you a system of fines in your factory? A. No.
- Q. Have you good protection against fire, or have you fire-escapes for your operatives in case of fire? A. Our match factory is a one-story building, and it has a door on both sides. Our box factory is joining, and it is a two-story building.

By Mr. WALSH :—

- Q. Is there good ventilation to your factory, or are your operatives subjected to the fumes of sulphur? A. We have good ventilation; we have a blast from a fanner that keeps a good circulation in the room and drives all the fumes away.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Is your match-room separate from the other part of your factory? A. It is.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What kind of boxes do you make? A. Every kind of packing boxes required, from the smallest to the largest.

Q. Do you make onion boxes? A. Yes.

Q. Where do you find a market for them? A. In Bermuda.

Q. Do you sell them there altogether? A. Yes.

Q. Do you ship very largely there? A. Fifty thousand to two hundred thousand a year.

Q. What kind of wood is the onion box made of? A. Spruce and fir.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you pay box-makers by the day or piece? A. Chiefly by the day.

Q. How much do box-makers receive by the day? A. We have very few who make less than \$1 a day; some \$1.25 to \$1.50. As I have said, we employ skilled labor in mostly every department, as we find it is cheaper in the end; they give us more labor and better work for our money.

Q. Is your nailing done by hand? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Where did you get the machinery you use? A. The planer is imported.

Q. Where did you get your match machinery? A. Manufactured it ourselves.

Q. Do you hold patents on your machinery? A. Yes; we have two or three patents in match machinery.

Q. Are they used any where else? A. We have sold them in Boston, Mass., and Maine.

Q. Are your employés, as a general rule, healthy—do they feel any deleterious influence from the sulphur? A. I don't think so; we have had no cases of complaint; I think our hands are generally healthy.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. How long have your dippers been with you? A. We have one, and he has been with us fourteen years.

Q. What wages do you pay him? A. Two dollars and fifty cents a day; I mean, he gets about that—he works piece-work.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What do you pay the man who mixes the ingredients? A. The dipper does that; the helping is done by another party.

FRANK LANE, Cabinet-maker, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Tell us the wages of cabinet-makers in St. John? A. From six dollars to \$10 a week.

Q. What would be a fair average between \$6 and \$10 a week? A. About \$8.

Q. Do cabinet-makers find constant employment at that rate of wages all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any demand for cabinet-makers here beyond the supply? A. No; not that I know.

Q. You think there are quite enough men here to fill any vacancies? A. Yes.

Q. What hours do they work? A. Ten hours a day, except Saturday, when it is nine.

Q. Do you work piece-work or day work? A. Day work in the shop I am in.

Q. Do you know if it is the practice to let chair-work out at piece-work? A. It

was in the factory where I worked three or four years ago—that was common chair-work; parlor chair-work is by day's work, and sometimes it is done by piece-work. The factory I am in has stopped piece-work.

Q. Do they take apprentices? A. Yes.

Q. What is the usual time boys serve? A. There is no real stated time, but four years, I think, is allowed.

Q. Do the boys, as a rule, stay their time out? A. We have not had any lately; formerly some did, and some did not stay their time out.

Q. What wages do apprentices get? A. It starts, I think, at \$2 or \$1.50—I started at \$1.50.

Q. Does it increase every year? A. Yes.

Q. Half a dollar a week each year? A. That was the first agreement, and then it was changed. I think it was 50 cents a week till the last year, when the rise was \$1.

Q. Do these young men, when they finish their time, generally stay in St. John? A. No; chiefly they go away; some return and some stay away.

Q. Do you know if many of those who go away return and settle? A. No; I think the majority stay away.

Q. Do you know where they principally go to? A. To the United States; I never heard of any going to the upper provinces, except one.

Q. Do you use machinery in your factory? A. Yes.

Q. Have you special men for the machines? A. Yes; two or three men run the machinery, but then, sometimes, when there would not be enough work for bench-hands, perhaps one of them would help on the machinery.

Q. Do you know what the earnings of those men are? A. I should say a little more than the bench-hands.

Q. Are boys put to work on the machines? A. On some machines.

Q. What ages are the youngest boys put to work on the machines that you have known of? A. I should say about fifteen—that is, on machines we call dangerous.

Q. Are boys ever put to run shapers—that is, moulders? A. That work is left for the men.

Q. You consider that machine a very dangerous one? A. It is considered dangerous, because it is one of the machines that men get cut on.

Q. Have you a sand-paper machine in your shop? A. No; not now, but when they had a larger establishment they had one.

Q. Do you know if there is any appliance for carrying the dust of the sand-paper machine away? A. I heard there was one here in one of the mills.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Are dangerous machines protected in any way? A. I heard there was protection for the moulder, but I have never seen it.

Q. Are the men paid weekly or monthly? A. Weekly.

Q. In cash? A. Yes.

Q. Are any of the wages held back? A. Yes; there is.

Q. How much? A. One amount one week and perhaps a different amount the next. When a person to whom money is owing leaves the factory he does not get it right off; he has to call several times for it before he gets it. I do not know whether it is a rule in every shop; I speak of my own.

Q. Supposing a man is discharged, is he not paid up to the time that he is discharged? A. Well, he would be, if there was not any back money owing to him; but I do not know a case, and therefore cannot speak.

Q. If a man wishes to leave, is he supposed to give notice? A. There is no set time, that I know of, though the boss might expect a notice out of fairness; but sometimes men are discharged at short notice.

Q. Can you tell us how many apprentices are turned out as journeymen in the year, in the cabinet-makers' business, in this city—the average number? A. No; I cannot.

Q. Is there not a certain number of apprentices to a certain number of journeymen? A. Not that I know of.

Q. The cabinet-makers have not any organization? A. No.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. What wages do wood-turners receive here? A. I do not know that there is any stated wages; wood-turning has been done by piece in some places.

Q. Is it generally done by piece-work? A. In the factory I work in it is not, because there is not enough work of that kind to give it out.

Q. You are not able to say what a turner would earn? A. No.

Q. What would furniture-finishers receive per week? A. It is all according to the ability of the finisher; it would average \$8 or \$9 a week.

Q. And upholsterers? A. I cannot speak from experience, only from hearsay, that he would get higher than \$10 or \$11; I am not acquainted with those branches of the trade, either finishing or upholstering.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How many journeymen in your shop are working for \$6 a week? A. One.

Q. Is he an average skilled hand? A. Yes.

Q. Are many working at \$7? A. None that I know of.

Q. Many at \$8? A. I cannot speak positively; I should judge there would be about three at \$8 or \$9; I did not know their wages.

Q. Is there any fixed sum which you would look to as being about a fair average sum which a good, fair cabinet-maker would expect to receive? A. Nine dollars, I think.

JOHN McMURKERY, Cabinet-maker and Finisher, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Did you hear the evidence of the last witness? A. Part of it.

Q. Which portion did you hear? A. Where he was talking about the finishers' wages.

Q. Do you agree with what he said about the wages of finishers? A. Yes; he is about right.

Q. Is there anything you wish to add to his statement? A. No.

Q. Is the shop comfortable? A. Yes.

Q. Is it kept nice and warm in the winter? A. Yes; pretty warm. It is a pretty large shop, and it is hard to keep it warm; but in winter it is warm enough to finish in.

Q. Are the wages the same in winter as in summer? A. Yes.

Q. Do you ever work on holidays? A. No; unless something came in urgent.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How many hands have you in the shop? A.—Three.

Q. Three first-class hands? A. No; there is an apprentice and two finishers—that is, in winter; there are more there in summer.

Q. How many upholsterers have you? A. Two, I think.

Q. What class of furniture do you mostly make? A. Parlor suites; we furnish all kinds.

Q. What kinds of wood do you mostly make them from? A. All classes of wood—there is pine, ash, birch, walnut and mahogany.

Q. Did you serve your time with the firm you are working now for? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been out of your time? A. Six years.

Q. Have you been working there all the time since? A. Yes.

JOHN MILLER, Cabinet-maker, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

- Q. Do you work in the same concern as the other witnesses? A. Yes.
 Q. Have you heard their statements all through? A. Yes.
 Q. Do you agree with their evidence as regards the rate of wages, and things of that kind? A. In regard to cabinet-makers I do.
 Q. What wages do you get? A. Nine dollars a week.
 Q. How long have you been working in the concern? A. Ten years in April.
 Q. Did you serve your time there? A. Yes.
 Q. With regard to this machinery, is all the belting, &c., protected, so as to secure the men from accidents? A. All the belting is secured from accidents, generally.
 Q. Have you ever had any accidents there? A. Two or three.
 Q. What was the nature of them? A. One was a splinter which flew from a saw and stuck in a man's hand, and another man lost a joint from his little finger.
 Q. What machine was he at work on? A. A buzz-planer.
 Q. Was it through carelessness in any way? A. There have been a good many accidents in the factory we work in, on buzz-planers; they are generally dangerous to work on.
 Q. But it is very easy to guard against accidents on buzz-planers? A. It is principally the man's own self that has to guard against them.
 Q. Was it from any neglect of his own, or did anything go wrong? A. I could not say whether it was any neglect of his own or not; the piece of wood he was working at the time was about 8 feet long and 18 inches wide, and there was a hard spot in the wood and it kicked back.

By Mr. CARSON:—

- Q. Is a buzz-planer necessarily a very dangerous machine? A. It is considered dangerous; of course, it is not necessarily dangerous if a man has plenty of time to work on it.
 Q. Have you had any accidents with your moulding machines? A. There has been none since we were where we are now.
 Q. Is it an iron bed? A. A wood bed.
 Q. Has it any guard to it? A. No.
 Q. Is there a man employed specially to run that machine? A. One man does all the moulding for us.
 Q. Are there any guards on the buck-saws? A. No; with the saws we use we could not have guards very well; they would be dangerous.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. You said that the planing machine is not dangerous if a man had plenty of time—are they pushed for time on those machines? A. On the buzz-planer they are not, except they are short pieces; if it is very small stuff, and jointy, that makes it dangerous. We are never pushed for time; we always take our time over the machines.
 Q. If a man meets with an accident and is laid up for some time do his wages go on? A. I never knew of any wages to go on since we have been where we are now.
 Q. If a man goes off on a holiday are his wages deducted for that day? A. Yes.

HENRY FREDERICKSON, Foreman in Cigar Factory, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. Have you many hands employed in your factory? A. We have employed thirty-eight to forty mostly all of the winter.
 Q. Are those all men? A. No; we have six journeymen in the shop.
 Q.—How many apprentices? A. The rest are apprentices and girls working at the trade.

Q. Would that be only six journeymen out of the forty hands altogether—are the rest all apprentices? A. Yes.

Q. How long do these apprentices serve before they learn the trade? A. The boys serve three years.

Q. And the girls? A. They do not have any special time; they leave when they choose.

Q. Do the girls become proficient as cigar-makers? A. As a rule, they do.

Q. Do you know if they can make as good a cigar as a man? A. No; they cannot.

Q. Do they learn handwork? A. Some do and some do not.

Q. What ages are those apprentices taken at? A. Fourteen years.

Q. None under fourteen? A. No; we have none to our knowledge under fourteen.

Q. Amongst those forty do you include the stemmers? A. Yes.

Q. How many would there be? A. Perhaps four or five.

Q. Do they work by the piece or by the day? A. By the week.

Q. What are the average earnings of a journeyman cigar-maker for a week? A. According to the man's fastness.

Q. What would be the average? A. Eight or nine dollars a week.

Q. Do any of them make as much as \$12 or \$14 a week? A. Yes; a good many of them do; it is all piece work, and so it is pretty hard to say what they make in the run of a year.

Q. What wages do women make? A. We have two girls there who can make from \$5 to \$6 a week.

Q. What do the others get that are doing day work? A. The wages vary from \$2, \$2.50 and \$3.00.

Q. Have you any idea of how many of them earn less than \$3? A. The last that came on—then we advance them as they are able to make a cigar.

Q. What wages do boys get the first year? A. We advance them according to their ability; some make only \$1 for the first year a week, and there are others would get \$2, \$2.50 and \$3.

Q. Do they work at day-work or piece-work? A. Day-work.

Q. Out of these forty, how many are hand-workers—that is, make cigars by hand? A. Five.

Q. The others work moulds? A. Yes; they work on different moulds; it is nearly the same as hand-work.

Q. Can you tell us what wages the packers earn? A. One of them, I think, gets \$3 and the other \$5 a week.

Q. Are journeymen cigar-makers paid for imperfectly-made cigars? A. No.

Q. When cigars are imperfectly made who is it that takes them or culls them out of the men's work—for instance, if a man makes fifty, and five are imperfect, who is the judge? A. The foreman would be the judge.

Q. Are such cigars worked over again, or what becomes of them? A. They are taken down and worked over again if it is possible; it is not often we have imperfectly-made cigars.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. The men who earn from \$12 to \$14 a week, are they employed on high-class cigars? A. Not necessarily so.

Q. How much a thousand do they receive? A. Different prices—from \$8 to \$10 and \$12 a thousand.

Q. Do you manufacture such a class of cigars that you pay \$10 a thousand for the making of them? A. We have just started to manufacture since Mr. Bell returned from Havana.

Q. Where do you find a market for these cigars? A. Throughout the different Provinces; there are some sold in Upper Canada.

Q. Any in the Province of Quebec? A. Yes; I think so.

Q. Is it principally local consumption? A. Yes; principally so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Can you tell us if the cigars made by child labor in Montreal come into competition with you here, to any extent? A. Yes; they do.

Q. Do you know how much they can undersell you in the market? A. I could not give you the exact figures; any way, they make this Province a cut-rate market for cigars.

Q. Do they send a cheaper grade down, or a higher grade, at the same rate as here? A. They send some good and some cheap.

Q. However, they have done an injury to your trade down here? A. Yes; cheap goods of all kinds are an injury to a trade.

Q. We were told in Montreal that in one of these factories, or in some of them, these children turned out from 1,000 to 1,500 cigars in a week, and that they would get \$1.50 or \$1.75 for them. How much would you pay for making the same quantity of cigars here? A. On some kinds \$5 and \$5.50; and on others \$6, \$7 and \$8.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. The lowest would be \$5? A. Yes; the lowest would be \$5—that is, for journeymen, you know.

Q. Are they fined if they spoil any? A. No; no fines.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you know why women cannot make as good a cigar as a man? A. I could not tell you that, I am sure.

Q. Your observation is that they do not? A. They do not.

Q. Have you known women who were able to make as good a cigar as the average man? A. I have.

Q. Do they lack strength to do the work? A. No; for it is not hard work.

Q. Are their hands strong enough? A. Certainly; they do not require any labor at all.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Are there any grades of cigars that women can make as well as men? A. Yes.

Q. Do they receive as much per thousand as a man for making these cigars? A. We have not any made in this town; but in other organized towns they do—that is, they belong to the organization.

Q. The cigar-makers in St. John are not organized? A. No.

Q. Were they ever organized here? A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Did you ever work in any place outside of St. John? A. Yes; in different places.

Q. Have you worked in the States? A. Yes.

Q. What is the difference in wages between St. John and a city in any of the New England States of about the same population? A. Well, it is according to whether it is a union town or not; in some towns they have a regular bill of prices, and they work by these prices; every town has not necessarily the same prices, as living is cheaper in some towns than in others.

Q. Then, we are to take it for granted that the union towns demand more wages? A. Yes; they demand more wages.

CHARLES ENGLE, Soap-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Have you many men engaged on your works? A. Seven men and two boys. I am now speaking of the establishment of William Logan.

Q. Have you charge of that establishment? A. Yes.

Q. What are the wages of a good soap-boiler here? A. I think I am the only one here; I get \$20 a week.

Q. What do you pay your help around the factory? A. From \$6 to \$7.

Q. It does not require any great amount of skill in those men who help?
A. No; I do not think so.

Q. Do you make any special kinds of soap? A. We make resin soap, castile, electric and all laundry soaps.

Q. Do you get all the ingredients that you use for these soaps in Canada?
A. We get caustic from England and all the grease from the States.

Q. Do you use any palm oil? A. No; we use cocoa-nut oil, which we get from New York. Tallow and grease we get here.

Q. Do you use glycerine in the soap? A. Very seldom.

Q. What wages do you pay your two boys—what do they generally do?
A. Just wrap up the pressed soap and put it in boxes.

Q. The boys do not do any pressing? A. No; the men do that.

Q. Do you make your own boxes? A. We have the wood brought ready sawed, and we nail it together.

Q. Do you keep a man there for that purpose? A. Sometimes we get a man to nail up the boxes, and then the next day he is, perhaps, doing something else.

Q. Do you make your own frames? A. No; we have the frames there.

Q. You only know as to the making of the soap, and nothing of the business?
A. Only the making of the soap.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How long does the work continue? A. From twelve to six.

Q. Is there night work? A. Yes; we have night work; a couple of hands do that—then they work from seven to ten; and the boss pays them half a day for it; he generally treats his men well, and pays them for every holiday—for Thanksgiving Day and all. Of course, the wages are low all over Canada, and I am astonished how a man with a family gets along.

Q. The men are paid weekly? A. Yes; on Saturday night.

Q. Do the men prefer being paid on that day to any other? A. They like Saturday better than any other day. If a man ran short, even in the middle of the week, and asked the boss for a couple of dollars, he would give it to him, though.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you think a man with a family of three or four can live comfortably on \$6 or \$7 a week—that is, here in St. John? A. I think not; I do not know how some of them manage it; I am astonished, any way.

Q. Give us an idea of just what it would cost to keep a family of four people in St. John for a week? A. I think it would cost from \$8 to \$10 or \$12 a week.

Q. Do you think it could not be done comfortable under that? A. No; I could not do it comfortably under \$15.

Q. What do they generally pay for house rents here? A. I think from \$80 to \$100.

Q. Eighty dollars would be a fair rent for a comfortable house of three or four rooms? A. Yes; \$80 would be a fair rent.

Q. Tell us the price of bread here? A. I do not know, as my wife looks after that; but I know it is dearer here than in New York—a little dearer.

Q. Do you know what fuel costs here? A. Wood is cheaper, but the coal is dearer here—the hard coal.

Q. Which is principally burnt here—wood or coal? A. Coal.

Q. How much is coal a ton here? A. I think \$6 or \$7 now.

Q. That is hard coal? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. That is higher now on account of the strike A. This year it is a little higher on account of the strike.

PETER QUINN, Cigar-maker, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

- Q. How long have you been at the cigar business? A. Going on four years.
 Q. Are you now supposed to be a competent hand? A. Yes.
 Q. What wages do you get, or, not to make it personal, what do first-class men get? A. From \$11 to \$12 a week.
 Q. How many hands are in the establishment that you work in? A. Thirty-eight, thirty-nine or forty.
 Q. Are there any boys there? A. Yes.
 Q. Do you know what wages the boys get? A. They get different wages, according to their ability and their time in the business.
 Q. What do they begin with? A. With stripping.
 Q. What wages do they get at first? A. For the first year from \$1 to \$1.50.
 Q. According as they get on are their wages advanced? A. Yes.
 Q. What is the rate of advance, or is it advanced according to what they turn out? A. Apprentices are generally raised every six months.
 Q. How much is the raise, do you know? A. I think it is 50 cents every six months.
 Q. Are there many women working in that factory? A. Yes.
 Q. Are there any cigar-makers amongst the women? A. Yes.
 Q. What do the women, as cigar-makers, get a week? Do they work by the week or by the piece? A. By the week.
 Q. What wages do they earn? A. Some earn more than others; some earn between \$5 and \$6 a week.
 Q. What do the lowest of them earn? A. I think it is \$3, or between that and \$3.50.
 Q. How much is the best of the boys able to earn in a week when they are getting towards the expiry of their apprenticeship? A. I can hardly give you the stated price; for myself, I was getting \$4.50 a week before I was out of my time.
 Q. What kind of a shop do you work in—is it healthy, and are the surroundings good? A. Yes; quite a healthy shop.
 Q. Is the water-closet there all right? A. Yes.
 Q. Different conveniences for men and women? A. There is only one water-closet and the urinals.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. How many cigar factories are there in St. John? A. Two.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. Do the men and women use the same closet? A. Yes; generally.

EDWARD QUINN, Cigar-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

- Q. Do you work in the same concern as the last witness? A. Yes.
 Q. Did you hear his evidence all through? A. Yes.
 Q. Have you any new matter to add to it, or do you agree with what he said?
 A. I agree with what he said.
 Q. You have nothing to add to it or nothing to alter in it? A. No; nothing at all.
 Q. Do you know if there is any such thing as fines in your establishment?
 A. No.
 Q. Are your boys there, as a general rule, well treated? A. Yes.
 Q. Never heard of any of them having been beaten, or anything of that kind?
 A. No.

Q. You have no system of punishment, that you are aware of? A. No.

Q. If any of them were to do anything out of the way, what is generally done with them? A. I could not say.

Q. Have you never been a wild boy in your time? A. No.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Are the doors locked at a certain hour in the morning? A. No.

Q. They are always open? A. Yes.

WILLIAM DAVIS, Cigar-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH :—

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

Q. Do you work in the same concern? A. Yes.

Q. Do you fully agree with all they have stated? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any system of punishment at all in that place? A. No.

Q. You have nothing new to offer? A. No.

WILLIAM HAMILTON, Apprentice Cigar-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. How long have you been an apprentice? A. One year and four months.

Q. Have you always been a good boy there—industrious, and all that? A. Well, I do not think I was ever accused of anything out of the way.

Q. When you went first to the business what wages did you get? A. I worked, when I started first, two weeks for nothing, and the next two weeks for 50 cents a week, and then after that I got \$1, and then raised according to my ability.

Q. What does your ability make you worth now? A. Three dollars and fifty cents a week.

Q. How many cigars a week can you make? A. I average about 850 a week.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do you make cigars by the mould? A. I work with two moulds; it is nearly the same as hand-work.

Q. How old are you? A. Sixteen next May.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Had you any schooling before you went there? A. Yes.

Q. Have all the boys in your establishment been to school—can they all read and write? A. I could not say they all could; I guess they can all read and write some.

Q. Have you any complaints at all to make with regard to the factory or how you have been treated there? A. No.

Q. You are getting \$3.50 a week now? A. Yes.

DAVID CARMICHAEL, Currier, called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Have you been long in the currier business? A. About twenty-eight years.

Q. Is there any tanning done there? A. We tan some leather that they make larrigans and moccasins out of.

Q. No sole leather? A. No.

Q. Are the shop and surroundings that you work in comfortable? A. They are.

Q. Do you consider your trade a healthy one? A. Yes; I have always had very good health for my part, as far as I can say.

Q. Do you know of any one complaining in the concern from the effects—there is a great effluvia sometimes from the skins, is there not? A. Not in the business we work in—not any. Tanning is considered a healthy business, any way.

Q. These sides that you curry, are they not sometimes offensive? A. No; there is no smell, except when tanning.

Q. How many hands are working there? A. Only four in the currying shop now.

Q. What are the wages, as a general rule? A. He is paying, I think, from \$6 to \$12 a week, according to capacity and what the men are capable of doing.

Q. Then it is piece-work? A. No; we work by the day.

Q. Are those the only hands employed in the concern? A. Those are in the currying shop.

Q. Are you ever fined if you make a hole or shave too close in on any of the skins? A. No; none whatever.

Q. What other parties work in the place, do you know, besides the curriers? A. There are not any, except the engineer and a teamster; these, I think, are the only men employed at the present time.

Q. Can you answer as to the wages of these? A. I do not know what wages they are getting exactly.

Q. Are there any boys employed at all by the concern? A. No; not any.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Constant employment all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. How many of the four men earn \$10 a week—you say they run from \$6 to \$12? A. Yes; I do not think there is any of them getting \$10 a week; in fact, I know there ain't, except myself.

Q. How many of them are earning \$6, or near that? A. Only one.

Q. And the others are between \$6 and \$10? A. Yes.

Q. Can you give us any idea of the cost of living here? A. No; I could not give you any idea or any definite answer to that question.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Where is your leather tanned? A. We buy it in the rough from tanneries in the country; we buy both in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Q. Are they made with green hides? A. No; they are dry when they come to us.

Q. There are dried salted hides and there are fresh hides? A. I think what we curry are made out of slaughter hides altogether.

Q. Have you any idea of what that leather is worth in the rough? A. Twenty-five cents a pound we pay in the rough dried.

Q. And the grubby hides? A. It is all according to what they are like; they average from 20 to 23 cents.

WILLIAM MCKENZIE, Currier, called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you work in the same building as the last witness? A. Yes.

Q. Have you heard his testimony? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything to add to it, or do you want to alter it in any way?
A. No.

Q. What wages do you receive? A. Six dollars.

Q. How long have you been at the business? A. Seven years.

Q. Do you endorse in every particular the evidence of the last witness? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Can a married man keep a family comfortably on \$6 a week? A. He has to be very saving.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q. Do you consider that you receive remuneration enough for your services ?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know any where you could go to work to better your condition ?

A. No.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. How much of a family do you support ? A. Four, besides my mother.

Q. Do you manage to make both ends meet ? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Does any one in the house besides you work ? A. No.

JOHN LYNCH, Machinist, called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Have you been long in the machinist business ? A. About twenty-five or thirty years.

Q. That is, working as a machinist ? A. Yes.

Q. Is that at a foundry ? A. At present.

Q. What kind of work are you engaged upon ? A. At present I am running an engine—have done that for this last fortnight or three weeks; before that I was engaged in general machinery.

Q. Have you a certificate as an engineer ? A. No.

Q. What capacity is your engine ? A. About 25 horse power.

Q. What kind of works does the engine run ? A. She only drives a couple of emery wheels and a saw, and at times a planer is put on her.

Q. What kind of establishment is it in connection with ? A. Foundry for slate mantel-making and register grates.

Q. Do you make the register grates there yourself ? A. Yes; in the establishment.

Q. Have you had any experience with regard to an engine ? A. Yes; between making and fixing and repairing.

Q. And yet you have not a certificate ? A. I never tried for one; I always worked in a machine shop up to lately.

Q. Do you understand everything about an engine ? A. Principally.

Q. Is your engine at present in good repair ? A. In very fair; it has been laid up all the winter.

Q. How often do you consider it necessary to clean out your boiler ? A. I think about once a year I would clean out mine, and then find nothing in it, of course, if you don't run it the whole year steady; but every time we go on we open her up.

Q. Do you think once a year sufficient to clean her out ? A. I use nothing but water from the water pipes, and so nothing gets into it; I do not suck from wells, or anything like that; if I did it would make some difference.

Q. At what pressure do you generally run her ? A. Fifty horse-power; that is enough to drive here—that is all we want.

Q. How much is she built to bear ? A. To carry out 80, and they used to do it, but I found 50 enough to do the work, and so I run her at 50.

Q. Have you ever found anything wrong with her—that is, the boiler ? A. No.

Q. Has there ever any accident happened ? A. No; nothing excepting breaking a shaft, or the like of that, but nothing like an accident.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. How much can an average workman in St. John, at your business, earn—that is, as a machinist ? A. From \$8, \$9 and \$10—\$10 would be for a good man.

Q.—How many hours a day do they work ? A. It depends upon the shop; some work fifty-four hours a week and others work ten hours every day.

Q. Is there a surplus of hands for the work to be done, or is there any difficulty in getting work? A. Now it is difficult to get a position, on account of some of them going out of the trade. Higgins and Kerr went out, and they have thrown a flush of machinists on the market, but now it appears as if we would straighten out again.

Q. A good man, running a stationary engine—what wages will he receive? A. It depends upon whether he is a mechanic or not; if he is he should get from \$8 to \$9 and \$9.50 a week.

Q. Are there many boys learning the machinist business? A. There are a good many, but not so many this last couple of years as there used to be.

Q. How many years do they serve? A. They have got it down now to four years.

Q. What do they receive the first year? A. That depends upon the shop; some give \$1.50, some a little more and some only \$1.

Q. In their last year how much do they receive? A. Five dollars and fifty cents, probably.

Q. After a boy finishes his time is he able to find a position in St. John, or is he compelled to go away? A. He is, generally, compelled to go away for a few years, at any rate.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do any of them come back? A. Some few do, now and then, but the majority prefer staying away.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do stationary engineers undergo any examination? A. No.

Q. Does any engineer? A. Steamboat engineers do.

Q. Do you think stationary engineers ought to undergo an examination—that is, as well as steamboat engineers? A. I do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you know if stationary engineers, as a body, would prefer being examined and get certificates? A. As a body of men, I am not very well acquainted with it, but I am sure that mechanics would prefer it.

Q. Have you any branch of the Canadian Stationary Engineers' Society here? A. No.

Q. Do you know if there are many men in St. John in charge of engines who are not skilled men? A. Yes; there are a great many.

Q. Have you ever heard complaints as to the condition of boilers in St. John? A. No; I have not.

Q. How frequently do you think a boiler should be inspected? A. Well, if it is run by a non-mechanic it ought to be looked after pretty sharp, about every three months; if they pump their water from wells, and there is not a mechanic looking after it, it should be looked after pretty sharp.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Are there many machinists in St. John? A. There are, but not nearly so many as there were a few years ago.

Q. Do you think that first-class machinists are sufficiently paid in St. John for their labor? A. They are not at present, any way.

FREDERICK WILLIAMSON, Machinist, called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH :—

- Q. Did you hear the evidence of the last witnesses ? A. Yes.
- Q. Are you a machinist in ordinary ? A. Yes.
- Q. What kind of work are you generally engaged upon ? A. Repairing work—repairing engines and mill machinery, and building general machine shop-work.
- Q. Are there many men in the establishment you work in ? A. I think there are four journeymen in our shop.
- Q. How many boys ? A. Five, I think.
- Q. What ages are those boys ? A. I should think they go from sixteen to nineteen.
- Q. Are these in the name of apprentices ? A. Yes.
- Q. What wages do those boys get when they first enter ? A. I think they get \$1.50 a week.
- Q. How are their wages advanced afterwards ? A. I think it is 50 cents a week a year.
- Q. How many years do they serve ? A. They serve five years there.
- Q. Do they get anything extra for the last year of their service ? A. I could not say ; I think they get \$5.50 a week during the last year.
- Q. What wages do first-class hands get ? A. About \$10, I think.
- Q. Are these men that you speak of in your establishment considered first-class men—are they all first-class men ? A. It is only the best men get that ; wages are from \$8 to \$9—that is for fair, average, good men.
- Q. Then, from \$8 to \$10.50 would be a fair range ? A. Yes.
- Q. Have there been any labor troubles in your establishment ? A. No.
- Q. Have you built any engines there at all ? A. Not since I have been there.
- Q. But you take all classes of work ? A. Yes.
- Q. Turning, planing, and all that ? A. Yes ; we build elevators, sugar mills and other patent machinery.
- Q. Are you the foreman ? A. No.
- Q. What does the foreman get ? A. I could not say ; the owners generally superintend themselves ; they do in this case.
- Q. What hours do you work ? A. Ten hours a day.
- Q. What kind of shop have you—is it a good healthy shop—plenty of air ? A. Yes ; as good a machine-shop as there is in town.
- Q. Do you do your small castings in the shop ? A. No.
- Q. None of your own castings ? A. No.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

- Q. Do you think it requires five years to make a boy efficient since the introduction of machinery into business ? A. That depends upon the boy altogether.
- Q. Do you think a good, intelligent boy could not learn to handle those machines in less than five years ? A. To make a thorough workman of him I think it requires four years, any way.

WILLIAM F. MYERS, Machinist, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q. What are you, Mr. Myers ? A. A partner in the firm in whose employ the last witness is.
- Q. You heard the statement of the last witness ? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you agree with the statements regarding your own trade which he and the other witnesses made ? A. Yes ; I think they are correct in every particular.
- Q. Have you anything to add to what they said with reference to the rates of wages ? A. I think that was correct, but we pay rather more than what he said.

Q. Do you think the statement made would be a fair average for the town?
A. Yes; I think it would be a fair average; of course, some are more and some are less.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in getting skilled machinists? A. The class of work that we do mostly does not require extra skilled labor, but when we do require good work it is hard to get it.

Q. Do many of the young men in your business who learn the trade go away?
A. Most of them we had learning their trade have gone away.

Q. Do you know that of the many that go away there are many who return to settle here? A. That I could not say—that some of them come back I know.

Q. Can you tell us the difference in the wages of machinists between St. John and Portland, Me., or Boston? A. I have not the slightest idea.

Q. You do not know the wages there? A. No.

Q. Do you know if the inducement for the young men to go away is the higher wages they will get away? A. It must be.

Q. Have you heard any of them say when they came back that they could do better away? A. I think I have.

Q. Do you know if there is as much work in St. John for machinists as there used to be some four or five years ago? A. I think there is far more.

Q. Is there any statement you wish to make concerning the trade here? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. If these men could do better away, can they give any reason for coming back?
A. I do not know of any, except that this place is their home.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Are your apprentices indentured? A. No.

Q. Did you ever know of any system of indenturing apprentices here? A. No; I did not.

Q. Do you not think that if the boys were indentured it would have a tendency to make them steadier in their habits and more attentive to business, and on the other hand compel the proprietor to teach them their trade properly? A. I think not; because if the boy was not satisfied he would have to remain against his will, and he would not do his employer justice, either.

Q. How long would it take a proprietor to know whether a boy has an aptitude for the business or not? A. You can generally tell in a year.

Q. Would it take a year? A. Yes; I should think so.

Q. Do the boys stay for any length of time with the proprietors? A. As a rule, they go away as soon as they are out of their time—in fact, most of them go away before their time is out.

Q. You say it is difficult at times to get good machinists here? A. Yes.

Q. Were you to give higher wages than you now give in St. John do you not think you would get them easier? A. I think not.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you any idea of the degree of education the boys have when they come to you—are they fairly intelligent? A. Yes; I think so; they generally have a common school education.

Q. They can read, write and figure sufficiently? A. Yes.

Q. In your trade they require particularly to have some idea of lines, and things of that kind? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think it would be of some advantage to them to have some such training before going to work in such places? A. Yes.

Q. You consider the boys fairly intelligent when you get them with an ordinary common school education? A. Yes.

Q. It would be an advantage if they went further, and knew something of geometry, and like things, would it not? A. Yes; certainly it would, and of drafting.

GEORGE EMERY, Foreman in Sash and Door Factory, called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

- Q. You are foreman of the concern? A. Of the carpenters' shop.
- Q. What kind of work do you generally do in the carpenters' shop? A. Generally, we work at door-sashes, blinds, counters, shutters, and so on.
- Q. Every kind of panel and frame work? A. Yes.
- Q. As foreman, is it a fair question to ask you what wages foremen get? A. One dollar and seventy-five cents a day.
- Q. How many journeymen have you there—men supposed to be up in their business? A. There are about twenty men there altogether, but they are not all journeymen.
- Q. On an average—take the twenty—what do the highest get, next to yourself? A. I think about \$9 a week.
- Q. What does the lowest man get, in the name of a joiner, there? A. Seven dollars and fifty cents, I think.
- Q. Are the men in your establishment, generally speaking, attentive to their work—sober and industrious? Yes.
- Q. How many boys have you in the shop? A. One boy.
- Q. Only one boy? A. That is all.
- Q. Is he an apprentice? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you any boys for cleaning up the shop? A. He cleans it up.
- Q. And the one boy does it all? A. Yes.
- Q. Sends away the shavings to the fireman, and all that? A. Yes.
- Q. The one boy? A. Yes; but he gets help.
- Q. What wages do you pay that boy? A. I think boys start at \$1.50.
- Q. What age is this boy? A. I do not know.
- Q. Do you know if he has any education—do you know if he has been to school? A. Yes.
- Q. How many men do you say you have? A. Twenty, all told.
- Q. Do you get sufficient work all the time? A. Well, not all the time; we are not all the time kept busy; we could do more if we had it.
- Q. Has the trade of your establishment increased this past few years—has it decreased? A. It has been at a stand for the past few years.
- Q. How long have you been engaged in the establishment? A. Since the big fire—1877.
- Q. Do you know if there are any men connected with your establishment who own their own houses? A. Yes; I believe so.
- Q. How many of them? A. Three, I think; perhaps there are four.
- Q. Have they been a long time working in this place, these men? A. Some of them since the fire.
- Q. On what days do you get paid? A. On Saturdays.
- Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten hours a day, except on Saturday we work nine.
- Q. Have you had any labor troubles in this place you are now in? A. No; none.
- Q. Are you paid at mid-day on Saturday? A. No; in the evening at knocking-off time.
- Q. Do you consider that Saturday is the best day for you to get your wages? A. It suits me all right enough.
- Q. Are there plenty of joiners in this city? A. I think there are plenty for what there is to do.
- Q. Are the prospects for the coming year good? A. I can't say.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. Are there any machine-hands in your shop working machinery? A. Yes.
- Q. What wages do machine-hands earn? A. \$9 to \$10.50, I think.

- Q. Have you a sand-papering machine in your establishment? A. Yes.
 Q. Has it anything to carry off the dust from it? A. Yes.
 Q. How do you find it work—does it take nearly all the dust away? A. Yes.
 Q. Is there any difference between the wages paid bench-hands and outside hands? A. I could not say for certain.
 Q. You have nothing to do with the outside hands? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

- Q. I suppose what dust remains after your fans is about the ordinary dust that would remain after a man sand-papering himself? A. There would hardly be so much, I think.
 Q. You work all kinds of machinery there—moulding machines as well? A. Yes.
 Q. Have you a buzz-planer there? A. Yes.
 Q. Has any accident occurred there? A. Yes.
 Q. What was the nature of it? A. I have cut my own hand on the circular-saw.
 Q. Is there any protection for the belting—have the dangerous machines any protection? A.—In which way?
 Q. So that a man will not be caught in passing by? A. They won't catch in the belting very handy.

ROBERT BOYER, Employé in Sash and Door Factory, called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

- Q. Do you work in the same factory as the last witness? A. Yes.
 Q. Do you do any outside work in that factory? A. I do not.
 Q. Has he any outside hands? A. Yes; two men, I think.
 Q. Do you know anything about the outside work at all? A. No; the part I do is to keep the machinery in order and repairs.
 Q. Have you anything to add to the evidence of the gentleman who went before you? A. Nothing more than he said.
 Q. Have you morticing machines there? A. Yes.
 Q. What else? A. Tennant and circular-saws, and planers.
 Q. Is it one man who attends to the morticing machine for the most part? A. Almost every carpenter does his own morticing and his own tennanting, too—they are two simple machines and do their own planing, too—they are all simple machines.
 Q. Have you a special man for the moulding machines? A. Yes; two men specially for the machines.
 Q. Has any accident occurred that you know of? A. A few, but not many; about the worst I know of is that man that was up who had his hand cut; that was the most serious I can think of.
 Q. How long have you been working there? A. I have worked there the last six months, and off and on at different times, I have worked for the same firm repairing and fixing up.
 Q. You have nothing to do with the engine or engine-room? A. No; I have not; I sometimes give a help towards it. It is wood-work machinery I look after.
 Q. Would it not be necessary to place some precaution on this belting in narrow passages? A. We do not place any belting in narrow passages if we can avoid it—it is very difficult to put beltings in passages. It is very difficult to put guards over wook-working machinery; in a factory like that you have to look out for them.

By Mr. CARSON:—

- Q. Do your beltings run around or are they through the floor? A. Some are run round and some through the floor, and then they are boxed up generally.

Q. What other machinery have you there ? A. We have a fanner to carry all the shavings away from the machines, and that is one reason why there are not more boys.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. You take all the shavings from the machines by fans ? A. Yes; the fanner takes most of the shavings away.

HOWARD MARSHALL, Employé in Sash and Door-frame Factory, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are you a general wood-work machinist ? A. I understand it generally—that is, the machinery I have to run.

Q. What are the earnings of wood-working machinists in St. John ? A. According to the different machines; on the machines I work on you can earn from \$7 to \$10.

Q. What class of machine do you work on ? A. A matching machine is the only machine I take care of, and the circular-saw.

Q. Do you know if men who work on shapers and other difficult machines get more wages ? A. I do not know.

Q. Have you any band-saws ? A. No.

Q. Jack-saws ? A. Yes.

Q. What does a jack-sawyer get here ? A. Eight dollars to ten dollars, I think.

Q. Have you anything to add to the statement of the previous witness ? A. I do not know that I have anything particular to say. I only get \$1 a day at the work I do, and I have a family to keep. I do the matching and planing down-stairs, and the big circular.

Q. Do you do your own grinding on the knives and filing on the saws ? A. Yes.

Q. A dollar a day is all you get for that work ? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. You say you have a family ? A. Yes.

Q. Can you live comfortably on a \$1 a day ? A. No.

Q. How many have you in family ? A. Three—but there are four of us altogether; one of them supports himself.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Have you a son working ? A. My son, he is his own master—he works for himself.

Q. Does he live with you ? A. He boards with me.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you know if that is the prevailing rate of wages for that class of work ? A. I do not think it is.

Q. You think this low ? A. I worked there before the St. John fire and got \$8 a week for the same kind of work.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. What do other men get in St. John for the same kind of work ? A. I do not know what they get.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. What do laboring men get in St. John ? A. \$1, \$1.10 and \$1.25 a day.

JAMES REYNOLDS, President Relief and Aid Society, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you president of a relief association in this city? A. I am.

Q. What is the character of the funds you administer? A. Without some little preface or some little history of the origin of the funds, I could scarcely reply to your question.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do as you think necessary? A. Perhaps some little *resumé* of how the funds came into existence and an account of the origin of the society would enable the gentlemen of this Commission, who are not familiar with the details, to better understand this matter. Eleven years ago, 20th June, 1877, a fire took place in St. John, which destroyed over half the city. At that time the whole world went out with its aid to St. John, and assistance, in the shape of subscriptions of money and provisions, came here to the extent, as near as could be calculated, to a sum equal to \$275,000 or \$280,000, and goods to the value of the same amount. These were sent to the mayor, and were distributed for a short time in a crude sort of a manner, there being present some 4,000 or 5,000 people both day and night. A few days after the fire there came from Chicago a gentleman named Truesdale, who brought with him the forms and blanks copied from the Chicago Relief and Aid Society, and these were accepted by the citizens, who formed a society for the distribution of this money in St. John. That society is composed of the principal men in this city, who have given their services for this length of time gratuitously. After its formation there came into the hands of this society, as near as I can recollect, about \$173,000. After that there were some contributions came into the hands of the society; the Government of New Brunswick gave \$25,000—and some other money came from the different towns of Canada. The society, ten years ago, took charge of that fund, and placed at their head General Warner, a gentleman who took an active part and a great interest in the city; but some dissatisfaction having arisen concerning this gentleman's administration, a few days after its organization he resigned his office, and I was elected president of the association, and have held that position for the last ten years. The fund now represents \$63,000 and as I had occasion to write to one of our prominent men, a short time ago, with reference to the society, he having written to me for information, I shall read a copy of my reply to him, which will put the members of this Commission in possession of information concerning the mode of the constitution of the society and what has been done with the funds entrusted to it:—

St. JOHN, N.B., 19th March, 1887.

“To the Honorable ———

“DEAR SIR.—At the last annual meeting there was a balance to the credit of the society of \$65,697 (that would be in 1886); it has an annuitants' list (this reply shows what it means) on which is at present being paid the sum of \$5,200, divided among about 100 persons and families, mainly to those aged and infirm heads of families who had, prior to the fire of 1877, made provision for their old age. Many of them owned small properties, from which they derived incomes sufficient for their need; the houses were uninsured or insured in the St. John Mutual Company, which did not pay. With but one or two exceptions all are over seventy years of age, too old to labor, many without other sources of income, and failing the allowance from this society, have no other resource than the almshouse. The payments on this list take from capital every year. Again, scarcely a week passes but the society is called upon to aid new cases, whose claims are often found as good as if made in 1877. Usually, on Christmas of every year, a sum of \$1,000 or \$1,200 is given in small sums to many that the board have knowledge of as being in want consequent on the fire of 1877.

“From the above you will fully understand what claims there are on the society which cannot be set aside, and why the executive are compelled to guard the trust so carefully.

“Yours most respectfully,

“J. REYNOLDS.”

That letter about covers what is done with the funds and to what purposes it is appropriated. There are a large number of persons whose names would be very familiar to almost any resident of St. John, some of whose families, descendants, daughters and widows, who lost and lost largely, who had, some of them, insurance, and some not, who have attempted to build on these properties, but which property passed out of their hands, and they have struggled and fought up to a month ago, but finally had to succumb. During the past summer eight or nine new cases, clearly traced to the fire, were relieved of their need. We have a record kept up to date of 4,000 families, and heads of families, on which to base all requests for assistance. We are often asked by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, of the Catholic Church, and sometimes from the Young Men's Christian Association, as to the character of the families asking assistance from them, and then we refer to our books, so that this record is becoming valuable to the city. When an application is made the society inquires about the applicants, what they do, their circumstances, and all matters in connection with their previous life. I feel quite pleased to-day, although we make a report every year, to be able to state before this Commission the disposition we have been making of these funds; we have on our board the very best men in the city. On the executive we have His Honor Judge Tuck, Messrs. Geo. S. DeForrest and Chas. A. Everett, than whom no men stand higher in the respect of this community. They never fail every Friday to come together at the council board, and have done so for the last seven or eight years. Although to-day there is somewhere about \$60,000 in the hands of the society, that sum does not represent that amount of actual subscriptions, but the accumulated interest of the whole, and the premium for one or two bonds. A great portion of the money is invested in securities of long dates, and some of these were sold this summer, within a month or two, and brought 22 per cent. premium. As a proof that the funds have been wisely fostered, I state that in 1882 Mr. Chas. A. Everett, in conversation with some of the directors, assumed that there were a great many people who were suffering, in want and distress, who had not been assisted in any way, and so we took a record and made a visit to them, and since that time we have given assistance in money amounting to about \$42,000 to those persons, and we are at present giving to people who did not make applications before, and whose self-respect prevented them from coming to ask for it, or allowing their friends to do so, but whose applications are just as good as if made at the time of the fire.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. And therefore are actual objects of charity? A. Yes; they have never assumed that word or allowed it to be used in connection with their affairs.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Yours is a relief fund for persons who are in need, rather than an incorporation? A. The Act of incorporation precludes us from giving aid only to the persons burnt out at the time of the fire.

Q. Is the fund at your disposal sufficient for all the claims that will arise out of the fire? A. It is quite sufficient if the fund is retained for the purposes for which it was given. A good many persons on our list are aged persons, but occasionally one goes away from the city, and once in a while we strike out of that list the names of boys that have gone away.

Q. Outside this particular work, is there much need of assistance being given to the poor in St. John? A. From my work on this society I have formed a pretty good idea of what is the condition of the people of St. John, and except among the extreme poor, and those poor from improvidence, I do not think there is much distress in this community. There are always some who are suffering in every community and have to eke out an existence as best they can in January and February, but they make their means go as far as possible. From close inquiries which I have made and from conversation with members of St. Vincent de Paul Society, in which I

have an interest, I find that it is their opinion, as well as my own, that there has been less given to the extreme poor of this city, and less asked for, under certain circumstances, such as intemperance. Many families, of course, suffer; but in our city the absence of people begging on our streets, (which is very rarely seen,) is proof that we are in a fairly prosperous condition compared with other places of the same size in Canada and the United States.

Q. Is there a considerable class of people in St. John who are able to earn their own living in the summer but fail to do so in the winter? A. Some portion of our trade-people who are improvident and not over industrious make that complaint, but a good deal of it is not from the class of people to whom aid should be given. In the winter carpenters, painters and masons may occasionally do a little jobbing, but very seldom do they find anything like steady employment during what are called the winter months. But during the past winter I have heard very little complaint in that direction.

Q. Is relief given to the poor by the city authorities, or is it wholly confined to the benevolent associations? A. We have an almshouse, which is supported by the city and county, but they give out-door relief in very few cases. They object to doing so, but almost every church has its charitable institution. The Catholic Church, I know, has three or four.

Q. Are there not families in St. John who need temporary relief during the winter? A. Yes.

Q. Do they get relief from the city authorities or from the benevolent associations? A. Some get relief from the benevolent associations, but from conversations that I have had with those who are at the head of the poor-house department, I am under the impression that they do not like giving out-door relief, although I know it has been given in some cases. In speaking of the benevolent associations, I mean those in connection with the different churches.

Q. In your opinion, then, the distress in the city last winter and at the present time was and is not so much as it has been in former years? A. It is and has not been so apparent to me. From conversations I have had with people who are connected with the charitable associations I am of the opinion that there was less distress this season in St. John than usual. At all times there are some charitable people to be found who are giving help to those whom they know to be in poor circumstances, but from close observations and inquiries which I have made I think that this class of people have had less calls made upon their generosity than in former years.

JOHN TAPLEY (Tapley Bros., Lumberman, &c.), called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What is your business? A. Handling lumber and logs, and steamboats.

Q. You are log surveyors and transporters? A. We are log scalers and transporters.

Q. How many men do you employ? A. I think that what we call raftsmen, including head scalers, would come to about twenty men.

Q. Does that include your whole staff of steamboat-men? A. No.

Q. About how many men altogether, scalers, raftsmen, steamboat-men, &c., do you employ? A. My clerk puts down thirty men as raftsmen, that is at the present time.

Q. Don't give us from a March standpoint, but a fair average? A. I can only speak in a general way; we are doing nothing but repairing just now, and the raftsmen are not on now. We have about twenty raftsmen, and the steamboat captains and full crews on our four tug-boats would come to about thirty-six hands.

Q. What wages do you give to raftsmen? A. \$1.75 to \$2.75 a day; that higher rate we only give to three or four men. Our men are divided up into crews; the majority of them do not earn more than \$2.25.

Q. Their work is to receive and deliver logs down the river and the harbor?
A. Their work is to take the steamboats through the falls to the mills.

Q. What are the wages of the captain of a steamboat? A. \$50 to \$60 a month; firemen, \$30; they work in the summer. Deck hands from \$20 to \$30.

Q. Are your steamers laid up any part of the year? A. Yes; the harbor tug-boats make something over eight months; the raftsmen make about eight months. Sometimes we have some work in the winter, which is supplementary, but that is the average time. River boats make about seven months; we have two boats working exclusively on the river.

Q. I suppose some of the men are engaged on these tugs all winter? A. The engineer stays about the boat all the time.

Q. What is the charge for the transportation of logs down the River St. John?
A. Forty cents from the Fredericton boom.

Q. Forty cents a thousand? A. Yes.

Q. And what is the charge for delivery? A. Thirty cents.

Q. What is the charge for surveying? A. It is 15 cents.

Q. About how many logs do you handle in the run of a season? A. This needs explanation about the towing from Fredericton boom. We have to pay there 15 cents for bracketing and for shore rates, and this takes more than half of our pay. It seems to be small pay enough for the service we do, but we could not get any more without putting a tax on the lumber industry, and the people do not feel very well able to pay out any more, so we have to put up with the hardship and say nothing about it.

Q. It seems to have all it can bear? A. We tow down from the Fredericton boom 50 million on an average every year. A portion of this we hold in charge and deliver to the different mills. We tow them to the mills above the falls and deliver them there at 40 cents. We take them to King's mills and to Miller Woodman's; we tow some ten or twelve million to Cushing's mill and other mills above the falls.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. By fifty million you mean board measurement? A. I mean superficial.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are not the mills below the falls a second delivery? A. Second; to mills below the falls there is a second rate, which we charge to cover the passage through the falls.

Q. Do you not often work at night? A. Yes; often. I might say right here that we do not work on time, but on tide altogether, in this raft business.

Q. About what time of the year do these men who make \$1.75 and \$2.25 work? Do they not work on tide altogether? A. Yes; and sometimes they put in a long day—that is, in the summer time. My brother, Archibald, has charge of this matter, and very often when they have to work hard and long he will come in the office and say: "Allow these men \$1 a day extra for their work." We never make any half days, or anything like that, in our business; if a man goes out at all to work we pay him for a day.

Q. Is there perfect harmony between the raftsmen and their employers?
A. Yes.

Q. And has been for years? A. Yes; there has been for years. Some years ago there was some little trouble; The price was then \$1.40 a day, and the raftsmen thought it ought to be \$2. When they raised the contention we yielded; but of strikes we know nothing.

Q. Were the raftsmen organized at that time? A. They had an association.

Q. Have they one now? A. No; there is no necessity, for they have nothing to complain of.

Q. Are their circumstances better off now than they were under the organization?
A. The idea that the organization wanted was to have men paid on time, but this would not work, on account of the tide. We have to keep the mills going, for it does not do to let them get out of logs. There are days in the fall of the year when

we cannot go through the falls, and then there come days when we can, and have to go through more than once, so that sometimes the men have to work longer hours.

Q. Do the men earn better wages now than under the organization? A. Proper organization might have something to do with it, perhaps, but we have always felt like meeting the men. Their pay at that time did seem small enough, so we did what we could to meet them, and there has been no trouble since.

Q. Is the inspection of boilers and hulls satisfactory to steamboat owners on the River St. John? A. I cannot say anything to the contrary. We used to have a resident inspector, and it was always convenient, for we could go and get him to come and look at the boilers early in the spring of the year; after that a change was made, and the office was given to a Halifax man. At first we did not like it, and we thought we would rather have a man from here; but the man whom the Government sent from Halifax we have no objection to, for he is a good, first-class man. Last year we thought he was over-worked, and that there ought to be another man or a deputy appointed, because there is so much work comes in at one time of the year that he cannot attend to it; that is in the spring of the year, and the work comes from other places in Nova Scotia and the northern part of this Province all at once, in the spring of the year, so that it is very difficult for a man to keep up to his work; but we have no single word of complaint to make against him, for he seems to be very obliging.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Could not the boiler inspection be done in the fall of the year? A. No; because there are always some little repairs to be made after the boat is laid up, which, in the case of the river boats, is always in the winter time; and the law is, that the inspection must be made after the repairs have been made.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Is the system of lights on the River St. John satisfactory to steamboat owners? A. I think it is; I am not a navigator, and I never go on the boats.

Q. Have you ever heard any complaints from the steamboat captains or owners? A. One of my brothers is captain of a river steamer, but I never heard him say much about the lights.

Q. Is there any law regulating the navigation of the River St. John that is in any way obnoxious to steamboat captains or owners? A. We got an experience out of it—we had a case before the court. The captain of one of our boats sunk another boat in a fog, and a case was brought against us in the Admiralty Court, when a new point of law was brought up, when it was stated that he ought to draw a central line; it seems that the boat going up the river must keep to the east or the right-hand side of that line—it is only an imaginary line. There is a place at the head of the Narrows where the captain ran into this other boat, and when the captain got there, in order to get good water, he went to the other side of the river, where there is a very heavy tide, when, the first thing he knew, a ship came down on him without any lights, and as she was right under his bow he could not get clear of her, but struck and sunk her. The case was brought into the Admiralty Court and the judge decided that we were wrong in part, because we were out of our water; and the other vessel was wrong in part, because she had no light; and the way he decided placed it so that we had to pay damages. Nobody seemed to understand this law, for it was an old English law that Mr. Weldon dug out of the old law-books; it seemed to be a revelation to all concerned, the judge and every body else.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. How many hours work do these men put in who do the rafting? A. They have to put through three tides in the bay.

Q. How many hours would they put through the three tides rafting? A. In long days, in the summer time, they would have to put in, perhaps, ten or twelve hours some days. In the fall of the year, when dark comes on sooner, they do not put in more than eight hours. We have to work just when the tide suits.

Q. Then, eight hours would cover two tides? A. We cannot get two tides all the time; some days we can only get one and some none.

Q. Do you get two tides in one day in summer? A. Just at certain times we do; when the tide comes pretty early in the morning, and the day is long, you will get another tide before dark, but those days are exceptions.

Q. Does each tide constitute a day's work by itself? A. No; the men would get their pay if they did not go through the falls.

Q. In summer time would two tides mean that the men would be required to work sixteen hours a day? A. No.

Q. How many hours a day would they be required to do your work? A. Well, if the tide is five o'clock in the morning it will be three-quarters of an hour later in the afternoon, and that day the men would go through about five o'clock in the morning and somewhere between five and six in the afternoon. When that occurs, and it is exceptional, the men would have to work the two tides; but later on there would be only one tide that could be used.

Q. At the time that the increase was made in the raftsmen's pay did they go to you and ask for it? A. I can't just remember about the matter, but the men asked for the increase, I think. I know that Arch. seemed to think that they ought to have that money. I know that the men first went into the society and then came out of it, for they did not think that societies did them any good, and they thought they would rather deal with us on the merits of the case than remain in the hands of the society. That is a matter I would like to speak to you about here. It is this: we have a man in Fredericton that brackets our logs, and he has fifty men employed at the work. Last spring I think he had 160 men to work there for three or four months' picking up logs. He lives in Gibson, and can give you all the information that you desire.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. This man conducts your business in Fredericton? A. He does. He is merely our man there, and when last there I had a talk with him on the navigating of the river near the bridges at Fredericton. The Government built a bridge across the river, at the upper part of the town, and it stops all rafts that come from above, for they cannot go down through.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. The river is navigable some miles above Fredericton. I know that Spring Hill is four or five miles above Fredericton, and we often have to take logs from there, and they would be stopped at this bridge. The Government saw the disability of this, and they remedied it by putting down some shear booms, so that we got along pretty well there the year before and last year; but now there is another difficulty in the way, and it is that there is another company building a railway bridge at the other end of the town, and they are making no provision for shear booms. I talked to Mr. Gibson, who is connected with the company, but he did not promise to do anything, and I don't know how the logs from above Fredericton can be brought down now. I know that we bring about 20,000,000 from Glasier's mill, and don't see how we will get them down now. I only speak about this matter so that you may be able, if it lies in your power, to make a representation of the case to the Government at Ottawa.

C. H. FAIRWEATHER (Hall & Fairweather, Wholesale Merchants), called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you given any attention to the market prices in St. John. A. I have.

Q. Have you compared the prices of ordinary articles of family consumption lately with the prices of the same articles in former years? A. To some extent I have.

Q. About what would be the price in St. John of the four-pound loaf of white bread? A. We use the two-pound loaf here altogether.

Q. What is that worth? A. I sell flour, but I do not know the price of bread; I think it is 7 cents a loaf.

Q. What is good family flour worth to-day by the barrel in St. John, retail?
A. Five dollars.

Q. What was that flour worth five years ago? A. I can tell you pretty closely (producing paper)—\$5.50 to \$5.75.

Q. What was it worth ten years ago? A. \$7.25 to \$7.50.

Q. Can you go back beyond that period? A. I can go back to 1876.

Q. What was it worth in 1876? A. About \$6.50.

Q. Can you tell what is the price per pound at retail of roasting pieces of beef?
A. No; I cannot.

Q. Can you give us the prices of beef in any form, so as to make a comparison with former years? A. I can give you the price of American plate beef, duty paid; I give it to you per barrel, which is \$11 to \$11.25.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. That is the price to-day? A. Yes.

Q. What was it worth five years ago? A. I am not able to tell you, and for this reason, that it has only been since it became so cheap of recent years, and so cheap as it is at present, that it has been brought here in any quantity. Our firm dealt in it, but my impression is that at that time it was over \$16 or \$17; but our firm did not buy or sell it five or ten years ago.

Q. Are you able to tell what beef is worth by the quarter in this market? A. I am not.

Q. What is the price of salt pork in St. John? A. The grade known as mess pork, which governs every other pork, is sold to-day, duty paid, at \$17.50 to \$17.75. I can give you the full price of mess pork for a good many years. In 1883 it was \$22.75.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Can you tell us what the price of mess pork was in 1882? A. That year it was \$21.25. I am taking these figures from my clerk's hand-writing, and the memorandum was made up two or three years ago, but I take it for granted that the figures in it are perfectly accurate.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. What was the price ten years ago? A. In 1878 it reached a very low point; in April it was \$12.50; possibly that was as low as it ever was.

Q. What was the price in 1876? A. That year, it was \$24; it is subject to great variations.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Would the price in July, 1878, be a fair average for the year? A. I think in January it was \$16; in April it was \$12.50; July, \$13.75; October, \$13. It seems to me that probably this was the lowest point it ever reached in any one year.

Q. Can you give us the comparative prices of butter? A. I cannot, except from vague recollections, which would not be of any use to this Commission.

Q. What other articles of provision do your firm handle? A. We handle molasses.

Q. Can you give us the comparative prices of molasses? A. At present, taking one of the best grades of Barbadoes, it is 35 to 36 cents a gallon; six months ago it was under 30 cents. It is now a little higher, on account of its scarcity.

Q. What was its prices five years ago? A. Five years ago it seems to have been very high. It began in January that year at 51 cents; April, 50; July, 47; and October, 45 cents.

Q. What was the price ten years ago? A. In January, 42; April, 40; July 41; and October, 39 cents.

Q. At this time was the measure the same as now—the Imperial? A. It was not.

Q. It was sold by the wine gallon then? A. Yes.

Q. And that would make a difference of one-sixth? A. Yes; so that the price was still higher.

Q. Does your firm handle sugar? A. We do.

Q. Can you give us the quotations of any standard? A. I can give you general quotations. At present the standard of granulated sugar governs the quotations. I speak now of five-barrel lots, the price of which is 7 and $7\frac{1}{4}$ cents.

Q. What would the price be five years ago? A. Anything I would say about that time would be in the region of guessing, for I have not any figures to hand. I remember it was exceedingly low last year. At one time in 1887 it was down as low as 6 cents.

Q. Can you give us any idea of the prices five years ago? A. Speaking off-hand, I should say the average, coming down to two or three years ago, when it got to its lowest point, it was 8, 9 and 10 cents. I have sold it at 12 cents. Five years ago it was the general talk among sugar dealers that when we saw standard granulated selling at 8 cents we would buy all we could of it for speculation.

Q. Did not the price of raw sugar fall steadily for a number of years? A. It appeared to.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. That would be since the bounty began? A. Yes; since it became so plenty

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Of late the price has been rather increasing? A. Yes; 1 or 2 shillings in foreign markets.

Q. Are you able to tell us whether the margin between raw sugars and granulated is greater or less than it was ten years ago? A. I am not able to give you an opinion on that point.

A. Is there any other information you can give us? A. We deal largely in tea. At present tea is abnormally low; it seems to have been settling year after year, until present quotations bring it down to a very low point—as low as 10 cents a pound.

Q. Does any tea come to St. John direct from the countries of growth? A. Yes; we ourselves import about half our stock from Foo Shoo, China, direct, by way of New York.

Q. Can you tell us anything about the prices of coffee? A. My information on coffee would be very limited; we only took up the handling of it within the last three years. It was then moderately low, and ran up to a very high point—34 cents a pound; since it has gone back 2 cents.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. How much was it when you commenced selling? A. I think when we commenced selling, three years ago, it was 30 cents for a good grade, and since then it ran up to 34, but it is now 32 cents.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Would that be the price for Java? A. Yes; a high grade of Java.

Q. Take provisions all round, so far as you are acquainted with the prices, and say how they compare with those of five years ago? A. I can scarcely think of anything that is not cheaper now.

Q. How do they compare with prices ten years ago? A. I should say they were a great deal cheaper. About cheese I would say very little, for it is a secondary thing here. The information you have received at central points, where it is made, would be of more value than anything I could give you.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you not manufacture some cheese in New Brunswick? A. There is a little

made here, some in Woodstock and some in Penobscuis, and some also in Nova Scotia, but it is not sufficient for our local consumption.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Can you tell us what are the wages of storemen in St. John? A. I can only tell you of my own.

Q. What are their earnings? A. I pay them \$9 to \$10 a week—\$1.50 a day.

Q. Would that be for first or second storemen? A. First and second storemen.

Q. What are porters or cellar-men worth here? A. That I could hardly tell you; I have heard of men being hired as low as \$4 a week in one or two places. We have not any business of that designation here, for there is scarcely a store in St. John that has a cellar.

PATRICK MOONEY, (B. Mooney & Sons, Masons and Builders), called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. What is your business? A. Mason work, building houses and general contractor.

Q. Do you take general contracts to build houses? A. Sometimes we take the whole contract and sometimes only one branch.

Q. What wages do you pay to such masons as are able to do their work? A. We pay from \$2 to \$3 a day.

Q. How long has that rate of wages prevailed? A. That was the rate last summer, but the summer before the wages were a little less.

Q. What prospect is there for the building trade this year? A. There seems to be considerable business to do.

Q. What are the general wages for the masons' assistants? A. We pay from \$1.25 to \$1.75.

Q. To what class of laborers is the \$1.75 paid? A. The hod-men; the mortar-men.

Q. To what class of laborers do you pay \$1.25? A. Just the men knocking around; the general men—the old men.

Q. Have you a good class of bricklayers in this city? A. Very fair.

Q. Have you sufficient for all your requirements? A. Sometimes we have; other times we have to send away to get them.

Q. About what wages do stone-masons get? A. They generally get about the same as the bricklayers, sometimes 25 cents less.

Q. Do you do any plastering? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do you pay to plasterers? A. We pay from \$2 to \$2.50.

Q. Do you do all the finishing throughout the house? A. In some cases.

Q. Have you moulds for casting your own ornaments—cornices. We have, but we very rarely use them, for we can buy them much cheaper.

Q. Is there a store in St. John which furnishes them? A. There is.

Q. What length of time do you consider your trade open here for bricklayers? A. We have work up to December.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. What time of the year do you commence work? A. We have commenced as early as the 17th March.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. What time do you consider it safe for stone-masons to work? A. Well, they generally work as late as bricklayers.

Q. From experience, do you think that stone is as likely to bond as brick-work is in the early or latter part of the season? A. It don't bond in the frost as well as brick does.

Q. Is it safe in that case? A. I don't think it is safe for a heavy building.

Q. Do you put up your buildings very rapidly—almost in a season? A. Some of them are put up in six or eight weeks.

Q. Do you think that is an improvement on the building business? A. No.

Q. What objection have you to it? A. Well, in rushing up of buildings the lumber goes in all green; and another thing is, that in rushing up your brick-work so quick you can hardly keep it straight.

Q. Does not the brick wall settle in that case? A. Yes; and the timber inside settles as much as the brick, and twists.

Q. If you put your studding on the joists or strap-walls, is it likely to take place if these things were green? A. It generally cracks around the angles.

Q. To what are these cracks due? A. There is a great deal of it in the sand and the plaster; sometimes when you daub it with loam the sand runs with your darby-head and generally leaves it.

Q. Has not the shrinkage of the wood something to do with it. A. Yes; a good deal, and the green wood shrinks a good deal.

Q. Has not the shrinkage of the laths something to do with it? A. Yes; considerable.

Q. How many hours a day do your men work? A. Ten hours, but they stop at five on Saturday.

Q. Have you found much variation in the wages in the last three or four years? A. In different localities there are different wages.

Q. Is there much difference in the wages within the radius of this city? A. No; not a great deal.

Q. Have you had any labor difficulties with your men? A. Not within the last two or three years.

Q. Then you have had some? A. We have.

Q. What was the cause of it? A. Well, the organization, I should judge, was the biggest part of it. The men wanted more wages than we were willing to pay.

Q. What was the demand? A. It was one season when we had got considerable work, in the spring of the year, and they struck and raised the wages 50 cents a day. The wages then were \$2. We paid the rise, and shortly after that the men struck again and refused to work if we did not discharge four apprentices we had. They demanded that we should discharge those men and we refused. The principal reason for not discharging one of the men was that he was a married man, who had worked for us all the year before for \$4 a week as a mason's tender, and we would not discharge him.

Q. He came under your instructions? A. No; he was serving his time.

Q. Well, that would be under your instruction? A. Yes. We would not do it and so the men were off for a fortnight or so.

Q. How did it end? A. It ended by our sending two of the apprentices away.

Q. Have you any apprentices now? A. We have one.

Q. Under what conditions do you hold this apprentice? A. He serves four years, and we give him \$3 a week the first year and raise him a \$1 a year.

Q. Is he indentured? A. He is not.

Q. You have no written agreement with him? A. No.

Q. Do you prefer that system of apprenticeship? A. There is no law here to cover it.

Q. Would you prefer to have a written contract between yourself and your apprentices? A. Yes; I think we would.

Q. You could hold them in that way, you think? A. Yes; they seldom now stop over two or three years.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. If you had the apprentices indentured do you think they would stay any longer? A. I think they would.

Q. You have only one apprentice now? A. That is all.

Q. Do you find that the boys that you get hold of are fairly intelligent? A. Yes.

Q. Have they a fair common school education? A. Yes; fair.

Q. Do you know if any of your young men in the city take any advantage of improving their mind at nights, by learning geometry, or something they may not have been able to learn before? A. Some of them do.

Q. Do any of them go into freehand drawing? A. Yes.

Q. What is your opinion of this system of freehand drawing? A. I think it is a very good thing.

Q. Your opinion, then, is that it is a great advantage to a workman? A. It is a great advantage.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Have you ever done any work outside the city of St. John? A. We have.

Q. Where? A. Chatham, Newcastle and Eastport, last year.

Q. What was the extent of your business in Eastport? A. We put up seventeen buildings there.

Q. In one season? A. Yes.

Q. Did you take your own men to do it? A. We did.

Q. From St. John? A. Partly from St. John.

Q. Did you find any scarcity of workmen? A. Yes; we had to advertise for men.

Q. Did you have to import any? A. Not last season. When I speak of advertising, that was for Eastport.

Q. About how many brick do you use in the construction of buildings in the run of a season of your own make? A. This year I guess we used about a million and a half of our own manufacture.

Q. You do not manufacture enough for your own use? A. Our work is in different places, and it don't pay to transfer them.

Q. Do you use all you manufacture? A. Pretty much. We could make a great deal more, for we have the the facility for manufacturing about 50,000 a day.

Q. Are your works in St. John? A. We have two—one in the city of St. John and one in Eastport.

Q. About how many men do you employ in your brick-yard? A. Last season I think we averaged about fifty.

Q. What are their wages? A. From \$1.25 to \$2.50.

Q. Are the men paid by the day or piece-work? A. Paid by the day.

Q. All of them? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you know if the mechanics or laborers engaged in the building trade have any security for their wages in St. John? A. No; none.

Q. There is no lien on the building? A. There is none.

Q. Do you know whether the workmen lose the amount of their earnings for want of such security? A. I cannot say as I do, although sometimes the contractors lose considerable, as they have no lien on the building.

Q. Would that be from a defect in the law, that would protect the contractor for work he has done or for want of proper precaution in building? A. For want of protection. A man can contract here to put up a building and if the man gets into it before the contract is finished the contractor cannot get \$1.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What amount of work was your contract work last year? A. In round numbers, our contract brick work was \$100,000.

Q. Taking your brick-work, what would be the whole amount of transactions for the year? A. I could not exactly say just now.

Q. Is what you have named something near a yearly average of work? A. No; some years would be a great deal less, I think; but that would be a fair average year.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How many builders are there in St. John? A. I could not say.

Q. Have you an association of any kind? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you pay your men weekly? A. Fortnightly; except on some jobs away in the country, when the men would get paid monthly; but they get money whenever they want it. Our clerk goes round to the country workmen once a month and squares them up.

Q. Do not your men in the city ever request to be paid more frequently than once a fortnight? A. Very seldom; now and then a man may want \$1 or \$2 on Saturday night.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are your men, as a general rule, industrious and sober? A. Bricklayers, as a general rule, are not of the most sober class—both bricklayers and stone-masons.

Q. In rounding your corners and mitres do you employ the men, yourself or do you get the work done outside? A. Yes; we do it.

Q. Then they can make their own cornices? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Are these bricklayers, as a rule, sober men? A. They are fairly sober.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Why do you prefer to pay your men fortnightly? A. Because it comes handier to do so.

Q. To yourself? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever study the matter out, and consider that it might be inconvenient to those workingmen to have to wait for their money, instead of having their wages Saturday? A. With us it is pretty hard to get our crew together Monday morning, and so we think it is better to pay them once a fortnight.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is that one of the reasons why you prefer fortnightly payment? A. Yes.

Q. Do you not think that when the men borrow money from you that they are entitled to their wages when they are earned? A. Some of the men I would pay on Saturday night would come and borrow money from me Monday morning.

Q. How much do your wages amount to in a fortnight, on an average? A. In the summer?

Q. Working time of the year? A. Something over \$3,000 some fortnights.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. But you have a week's interest on half of that amount? A. No; we don't get any interest.

Q. How many months do you consider a building season? A. We generally work here from March till December.

Q. Are there many stone-masons and bricklayers leaving here to go to the United States? A. A great number of them do; all the best mechanics go there.

Q. Do you think if they received higher wages in St. John so many of them would go away? A. I don't think they would.

Q. Do any of these men come back and settle down in St. John? A. Some do; others again don't.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. If you paid your men higher wages you would have to charge higher for building? A. Yes.

Q. And the proprietor would have to charge higher rent? A. Yes.

ABRAHAM ISAACS, Cigar Manufacturer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. Are you a cigar manufacturer? A. Yes.
- Q. How many hands do you employ? A. Sixteen.
- Q. Are these all journeymen? A. All but three apprentices and young girls.
- Q. Do you make hand-work or mould-work? A. Hand-work mostly; all but three of these hands work hand-work and the rest work mould-work.
- Q. Do your men work piece-work or by the day? A. They work piece-work.
- Q. How much per hundred do they receive? A. It is according to the class of work they are on; we pay \$8, \$9, \$10 and \$12 for making.
- Q. What are the average earnings of men on hand-work? A. All the men do not earn alike; some get \$8, some \$10 and some get \$12.
- Q. Taking the average—what would that be? A. They would earn, on an average, about \$11 a week.
- Q. Would they have constant employment all the year round at that rate of wages? A. They have that with me.
- Q. Are your young boys that work there apprentices to the trade? A. Three of them are.
- Q. Does that number of hands that you stated include your stemmers? A. No; we have two stemmers and two strippers.
- Q. What wages do the apprentices earn? A. The first six months they get \$1.50, and a rise of 50 cents a week for the three following years.
- Q. Are they paid by the piece while they are serving their time? A. No.
- Q. What wages do the women receive? A. One of them gets \$2.50, one \$3 and one \$3.50.
- Q. Are they working on cigars? A. No.
- Q. What work are they on? A. One stripping and one bunching.
- Q. For the moulders? A. Yes.
- Q. How long has the young woman been in the bunching business? A. She has been in my employment about six or seven years, I think.
- Q. Are wages the same all the year round? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you any young girls working with you? A. No; the buncher is the youngest, I think.
- Q. Do you impose fines in the factory for spoiled work? A. No.
- Q. Do your men have to replace spoiled cigars? A. I do not allow my journeymen to make imperfect cigars.
- Q. Does it not happen that imperfect cigars are in among a lot? A. It cannot happen if the man understands his business.
- Q. What hours do the men work in the factory? A. The journeymen go to work about eight, or half-past, and knock off at five.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q. How many hours a day do they make? A. I have no restrictions over journeymen; they come in and go out when they like.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. What are the wages for packing? A. I could not tell you.
- Q. Do you do your own packing? A. Yes; my brother and I.
- Q. What do you pay packers? A. We have no packers; I know what they get in the States. I do my own packing—my brother and I.

By Mr. WALSH:—

- Q. Did you include among the girls the one that makes the boxes? A. Yes; she is a stripper.
- Q. Is that the young lady that receives \$3.50? A. Yes.

ED. C. MOORE, (E. R. Moore & Sons, Nail Manufacturers), called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a nail manufacturer?

Q. Do you represent the estate of E. R. Moore & Co.? A. Not the firm.

Q. How many hands do you employ in your factory? A. We run two factories. When we run the two we employ seventy-five or eighty hands.

Q. Are both your factories in St. John? A. One is at Coldbrook, three miles out of the city.

Q. How many of your employés are men? A. Roughly speaking, I should say two-thirds of them were men.

Q. Would the rest be boys? A. Yes; the number would be about eighteen.

Q. What are the earnings of machine-men per week? A. Their wages are about \$12 a week.

Q. What do the men who tend the machinery receive? A. They would receive about \$7 or \$7.50 a week.

Q. What would be the wages of the young men in your factory? A. They are the feeders.

Q. They earn \$7 a week? A. Yes; the same as old men.

Q. Do they all work day's work? A. The feeders work all piece-work.

Q. Do they employ any boys to help them? A. No; we employ all the hands ourselves, except in one case. A man running a machine hires his own helpers.

Q. Does he employ men or boys as helpers? A. He employs one man and one boy.

Q. Are the firm responsible for this boy and man? A. No.

Q. What classes of work do you manufacture? A. We manufacture all kinds of cut nails, iron, steel, copper and zinc.

Q. Do you make spikes? A. Yes; spikes and marlin-spikes.

Q. Do you manufacture copper and tin clubs? A. Yes.

Q. Do you ever send any of these copper goods to Toronto or west? A. We have sent goods to Toronto and Montreal.

Q. Do you know whether the demand west for your copper goods is increasing? A. I could not say much about that, as our trade to the west is limited.

Q. Do you employ any women in your factory? A. We employ them in the tack factory, putting the tacks into small papers.

Q. What would be the earnings of women in this factory? A. They work piece-work, and would average \$4 a week.

Q. Are there any that would earn less than \$4 a week? A. No; that would be about the average.

Q. What is the age of the young women you take to work? A. We do not employ many; three is the largest number we ever had, and the youngest would be about twenty years old.

Q. Have you any statement you wish to make in connection with the business? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Where do you find a market for your goods? A. Principally in the Maritime Provinces. We sell some goods to the upper provinces and occasionally to the West Indies.

Q. Where do you buy your fuel? A. Spring Hill mines.

Q. Nova Scotia? A. Yes.

Q.—Where does your iron come from? A. Our iron is made principally at the Coldbrook rolling mills.

Q. What do you pay for your fuel—coal—laid down in St. John? A. We use two kinds, slack coal and the run of the mine; slack is the cheapest.

Q. Give us the price of both? A. The price of slack is about \$2 delivered here.

Q. What is the price of the other coal? A. About \$3.25.

Q. About how much do you consume of this in a year in your factory? A. I can speak for two years, and say we used about 1,390 odd tons; between 1,390 and 1,400 tons.

Q. Do you find that coal the best for use, or equal to all your requirements? A. Yes; Spring Hill coal is the best coal we can get.

DANIEL J. DOHERTY, Book-keeper (J. T. Hurley, Boots and Shoes), called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am book-keeper in James Hurley's boot and shoe factory.

Q. What number of hands do you employ in that factory? A. About eighty.

Q. How long has that factory been in existence? A. We have occupied the premises we are in at present a little over two years, but Mr. Hurley has been engaged in business in St. John about ten years.

Q. Has your business increased during that time? A. Yes; within the last three years we have moved into larger quarters—larger factory—and find it necessary, on account of doing a much larger business than we used to do in the smaller place.

Q. Do you find trade still increasing? A. It has steadily increased for the last three or four years.

Q. What wages do you pay to expert hands in your business? A. Wages vary; some work by the piece and some by the week. The highest would probably be to some piece-hands, who earn \$15 or \$16 a week. Of course, there are piece-hands who do not earn that much.

Q. Can you give an average of what the piece-hands earn? A. I should say the piece-hands among the men would earn, on an average, about \$8 a week; perhaps it would be better, as that would be the lowest average.

Q. Do you employ females in your establishment? A. Yes.

Q. How many females do you employ? A. I think that at present we have about twenty-six.

Q. Are these engaged on piece-work? A. Some of them.

Q. What would the average earnings of these female piece-hands be? A. I think much the same as those working by the week—\$3.50.

Q. Have all these hands constant employment all the year? A. Nearly so; there are certain parts of the year that we close down; we close down a week or two in the month of December or January, and perhaps we may slack off a little in the middle of the summer; but we work steadily about forty-eight weeks in the year.

Q. That would be about four weeks that you would be out of work? A. Yes.

Q. Do you employ any young persons in your establishment—either boys or girls? A. Some of the boys and girls are quite young.

Q. What wages do you give to the boys? A. They begin with the understanding and intention of learning the business.

Q. Are they in your establishment with the understanding that they are apprentices or just casual comers? A. They are there to learn the business, but we have no apprentices.

Q. You mean there is no regular system of indenture in your factory? A. There is no regular system of indenture. We work pretty hard at certain parts of the year, and we pay them when they work, and as soon as they get regular and steady at a job we give them better wages.

Q. Do you find that many of them stay with you after serving out their time? A. Yes; at present there are not many boys in our factory; some of the boys we have had in our place for two or three years. In the other factory we had some boys seven or eight years.

Q. And do they remain with you after they are out of their time? A. They remained with us after they became regular journeymen.

Q. What wages do you give these boys? A. They begin by getting \$1.50 a week, and as they are worked more they are paid more.

Q. You have no regular system of advance? A. Nothing very regular, except that a boy who has been working a year would be sure to get \$2.50 a week for the next year.

Q. Then you pay them according to the progress in their work? A. We do.

Q. What wages do you give to the small girls you employ? A. The girls would be paid the same as the boys—that is to say, they would begin at \$1.50 a week.

Q. What work do these girls do? A. They sew on buttons, paste linings, and do lots around the establishment. They do all the light work.

Q. Is their work all light work? A. Yes; very light. They are never put at running the sewing machines.

Q. Do you allow your ladies to sit down? A. They all sit when working; it is only when they are idle that they stand up.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles with your hands? A. We have not.

Q. Have you ever found any difficulty in getting a sufficient quantity of men to work? A. I cannot say that we ever did.

Q. Where do you purchase your stock of leather? A. We buy some of it in this Province, some in Nova Scotia, some in Quebec and some in Ontario—Toronto in Ontario, and Montreal in Quebec.

Q. Where do you get your sole leather? A. Principally in this Province—from Whittaker and other places in this Province.

Q. Where do your calf-skins come from? A. The calf-skins—what is known as domestic calf—we get in this Province; we get from Montreal a calf-skin which is called “imitation French,” and we also use a French calf, which, of course, comes from France.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. What is the special character of the work you manufacture? A. We make all kinds; but in men's work we make a speciality of men's machine and hand-sewed shoes, and also men's long-legged boots.

Q. Are your cutters working by the piece or by the week? A. They all work by the week.

Q. What are the average wages of a good cutter? A. About \$9 a week.

Q. Is the work in your fitting department done by the week or by the job? A. Partly by the job and partly by the week.

Q. Are your button boot-makers paid by the week? A. Do you refer to the stitching?

Q. Yes? A. They all come under the same head. Girls working in the stitching department, some of them might be paid by the job and some by the week.

Q. Is your lasting done by the job or by the week? A. My own opinion is that it is done by the piece.

Q. What do you give for a case of sixty pairs of men's light buff congress, machine-sewed work? A. We pay 7 cents a pair.

Q. And what do you give for pegged-work? A. It varies; from 4 to 5½ cents a pair for lasting. You refer to buff?

Q. And what do you give for brogans? A. They are 4 cents a pair for lasting, the stuff is all fitted, and the laster has nothing to do in the way of fitting; his stock is supplied to him already fitted.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What can a laster earn in a week? A. On sewed-work the lasters cannot earn so much as those who work on peg-work. A peg-work laster will earn \$18 a week, and the same laster on men's work will earn about \$15.

Q. How much do the girls earn that do the pasting? A. I am not familiar

enough with that part of the business to say, but I think somewhere in the vicinity of \$2 a week.

Q. What do the men engaged in hand-work earn? A. We have three men working steadily on hand-sewed work, and they can earn on an average \$9 a week.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What would a first-class boot and shoe fitter receive by the week? A. I think about \$4.50 to \$5 a week.

Q. Are these hands scarce in St. John now? A. No; although if we were short of hands it might be difficult to find hands to take their place; but so far as I know we have been able, so far, to get all the hands that we require.

Q. How many hours do your hand work? A. Ten hours a day.

Q. Besides the four weeks that you shut down, does your factory ever run on short time? A. No; during the past three years we have been running on full time—that is, when we have been running.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. What do those men work at that get \$15 and \$16 a week? A. We have one laster on men's shoes, sewed-work, who will average that when kept busy, and we have a man working on hand-sewed work that will go more than \$15 a week. He has a helper, but I do not know the arrangements or the way the men work. I do not know whether he pays him half what he earns or not. But at the outside there would not be more than three or four men earning these sums.

Q. What would men earn on the sewing machines? A. I think the man we have earns \$9 or \$10 a week.

Q. Does he run both machines? A. He runs the McKay machine and a Fuller machine, and I think he runs the heeling machine.

Q. Is all your work done on the premises? A. No; we make a considerable quantity of hand made boots, and those are mostly taken outside the shop, to be closed by hand.

Q. What hours per day do you work in your store? A. Ten hours. In winter we do not begin work till 7:30 nor do we stop till 6:30.

Q. Do the men and women work in the same room? A. The women are in separate departments for themselves, with the exception that in one part of the same room the cutters are at work.

Q. Have you several conveniences for both sexes? A. We have.

Q. Are the approaches to them separate? A. There is one closet used exclusively by the girls, and then there are two others that are used by the men.

Q. How many stories high is your factory? A. Three, and a basement.

Q. Have you any fire-escapes? A. No.

Q. Do the doors of your factory open in or out? A. Open inwards.

Q. Are the doors locked at a certain hour in the morning? A. The doors are never locked from the time they are opened in the morning till they are closed again at night.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you any other statements you wish to make? A. I do not know as I have, except that if this Commission is authorized to take such evidence, I would say that we feel we are treated unfairly by the Government in some matters. A greater part of the machinery used in our business is made in the United States and controlled by patents there; they are not made in Canada, and there is very little prospect of their ever being made in this country. We therefore feel that the machinery we require to use in our business we should be allowed to import at a less rate of duty than we do now. At present we have to pay a large amount of duty on goods of that description, and we feel that if the duty were lowered it would encourage us to go on and introduce the latest machines that are used in our business.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Do you feel competition from places outside of Canada in St. John? A. No; not from places outside of Canada, but we feel considerable competition from places in Canada.

Q. Then, very few of your goods are imported from the United States? A. There are some imported from the United States, and these goods compete with ours, to some extent—that is to say, we make a class of work that looks considerably like goods made in the United States, and these goods from there compete, to some extent, with ours, but I do not feel the competition very much.

Q. Did you ever inquire what was the amount of goods imported into St. John? A. I do not think that I ever made any inquiries in that respect, but of leather goods I should not think it would amount to more than \$10,000 or \$15,000 in a year.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. From what Province do you feel too much competition? A. The Province of Quebec.

Q. Do you know any cause for that competition? A. No; I do not. I know that the boots and shoes that are made in Quebec, or in the Province of Quebec, are cheaper than we seem to be able to see our way to make them.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are they equal to the goods you make here? A. We do not think they are.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. You do not admit they are as good as yours? A. No; we do not; therefore, we might be able to claim that our goods are cheaper.

Q. Have you any other reason than the fact of their not being good to which to attribute the competition—is there bad labor used on them or bad material in them? A. There are some houses in the upper Provinces that make very good shoes, but there are other houses that make a cheaper and poorer class of work. They do not into very strong competition with the goods we make, because we make a better out lead class of work than the cheaper goods that come from the upper provinces.

GEO. H. MILES, Agent D. D. Glasier & Son, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What is the name of the firm you represent? A. D. D. Glasier & Son.

Q. What is their business? A. Tug-boat owners and freighters of lumber.

Q. How many men do D. D. Glasier & Son employ? A. During the summer season they employ from 100 to 120 men.

Q. Altogether? A. Yes.

Q. Does your firm survey lumber? A. No.

Q. They merely transport it? A. Yes; we do not survey the lumber.

Q. What is the charge for transportation? A. Forty cents per 1,000 superficial feet from the Fredericton boom to St. John.

Q. Do you deliver below the falls? A. No.

Q. How many steamers have you in your employ? A. Four tugs and four steamers.

Q. What is the average wages you pay to captains and engineers? A. Our highest wages to captain and engineer are \$50 a month; next lowest captain and engineer are \$40; and the lowest \$30 a month.

Q. How many months do they make in a year? A. One captain makes twelve months in the year and the engineer the same—one captain is hired by the year; the others are only hired during the working season on the St. John river.

Q. Do you raft logs at Fredericton? A. We do not raft them; we take them

from the Fredericton Boom Company after they raft them. They raft them in joints, and we raft them and then make them into rafts ready for shipping to St. John.

Q. How many logs would a tug take in tow in a trip? A. One million superficial feet is considered a good tow for a tug.

Q. About how many million do you handle in the run of a season? A. Last season we handled about 75,000,000 superficial feet.

Q. Would that be an average season's work? A. I can give you the number of rafts we handled for the last five years.

Q. Can you give us the amount on each raft? A. I cannot. Last year we handled 75 rafts—that is, rafts to St. John. A certain portion of that went to mills around Fredericton, which would increase our quantity. In all, we moved about 75 rafts last year; in 1883, 104; 1884, 79; 1885, 66; 1886, 85; 1887, 75. That is the number of trips we made from St. John to Fredericton during the season.

Q. Are the engineers who are in charge of your boats certified men, and are they examined for competency? A. Three of them are, but one is not; he has no education, but is a thoroughly practical man. All he knows he has learned by practice; he cannot write or sign his own name.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is he as good and competent a man as the others? A. He is.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is he allowed to work? A. Yes.

Q. How often are the engines examined? A. Once a year.

Q. How often are the boilers examined? A. Once a year.

Q. How often are the hulls examined? A. The hulls are exempted from examination. They are tug-boats, and that exempts them.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do the insurance companies ever have any overhauling of the hulls? A. No; they are always willing and ready to take a rate.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. They insure the hulls without having them examined? A. They never go near them.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What wages do the deck hands in your employ receive? A. We have eleven souls, all told, on our tugs.

Q. What wages do you pay to your deck hands? A. We have five deck hands and they receive from \$15 to \$20 a month. We generally make our first trip from here along about the 15th to the 25th of April. We move as soon as the ice is out of the river, and we run till the lumber is all done.

Q. What do the raftsmen earn? A. \$16 to \$20 a month.

Q. That is just for the summer months? A. Yes.

Q. Do they not leave you and go to the woods in the winter? A. They do.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Are you anxious to keep some of the old sailors? A. We like to keep the old men and prefer them to strangers.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are they anxious to stay with you? A. They appear to be; some of them have been with us twenty years.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You would be sorry to change your sailors every trip? A. We would.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Do you board all these men? A. All of them.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you board the men on the steamers? A. Yes; and the men bracketting—the whole 120 men. There are only a few of them on the steamers, and the rest are on the shore rafting.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. But you board them all? A. Yes; we have boarding houses, and we board and lodge them.

SAMUEL CROTHERS, Carriage-builder, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. How many men have you in your employ? A. Twelve men and two boys.

Q. There are painters, blacksmiths, upholsterers and carpenters? A. Yes; there are four departments.

Q. Give us the wages—the wages the men in the different departments receive, if you can? A. The men get from \$1 to \$2 a day.

Q. Do they work by the day or by the piece? A. By the day.

Q. What does a carriage blacksmith earn? A. We pay our best men \$10 a week.

Q. That is for ten hours a day? A. Yes.

Q. Have you had any labor troubles in your factory? A. None.

Q. Where do you find a market for your carriages? A. Our market is chiefly local; we cater for the city trade chiefly. We used to have an outside market once; that has been monopolized by this cheap factory stuff.

Q. Manufactured in Canada? A. Yes.

Q. Are there many American carriages imported here? A. Very few now in this city; there used to be quite a number imported here a few years ago.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten.

Q. Sixty hours a week? A. Yes.

Q. Do you take any apprentices? A. We usually have about one apprentice in each shop, but at present we have only two.

Q. How many years do the boys serve, as a rule, in learning their trade? A. From three to four years.

Q. When they finish their trade do they generally find employment with you? A. They most generally stay two or three years.

Q. Are you always able to give them employment? A. Most generally.

Q. The competition you meet with, is it in good carriages at low prices, or is it in cheap and imperfect goods? A. We suffer most through the cheap class of carriages.

Q. Where do they come from? A. Some come from Montreal; and we suffer considerably through the carriage part-manufactory.

Q. Where is that? A. There is one in Toronto called the Canadian part-manufactory; they manufacture carriages in part.

Q. They are sent here and finished? A. They are sent through the country and are put up in all the villages.

Q. Do you make your hubs, spokes and other wood-work? A. No.

Q. Where do you get these? A. We import them from the States, chiefly.

Q. Can you get them from the States cheaper than you can buy them from Ontario? A. I do not think so; you can get a better quality of stuff.

Q. Have you come to that conclusion from experience? A. Yes; we have tried them.

Q. You do not sell any carriages outside New Brunswick? A. Some in Nova Scotia. When I speak of the local business it is chiefly local, but we do not have any agencies in any other places.

Q. Living here upon the ground, are you not able to make a carriage suited to the country and to the taste of the people better than those who live in other Provinces? A. Well, I fancy so.

Q. Then you have the advantage of freights? A. Exactly; there is a great deal of difference between what I call custom-made carriages and wholesale carriages. Some people build carriages for wholesale and sell them in large quantities, and these are necessarily built out of the cheapest materials.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Built to be sold? A. Yes; they are built more to sell than they are to wear.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Is your trade increasing or decreasing? A. It has been gradually decreasing for the last fifty years; we had one big boom at the time of the St. John fire, in consequence of the carriages being all burnt up.

Q. Has the decrease been due to the causes you mentioned? A. It has been owing to the sharp competition and the cheaper mode of working, and I suppose all kinds of business is straitened somewhat, and folks cannot afford to buy a good carriage, and so have to get cheap ones.

Q. Do you think there is any foreign market to which Canadian-manufactured carriages could be sent? A. I do not know of any; the difficulty with carriages is that they are very bulky freight; they cost a great deal of money to transport.

Q. Where do you get your leather and your other trimmings? A. Chiefly from the United States. Some are manufactured at Fredericton—that is, our patent leathers.

Q. Do you buy any of your iron work ready made? A. Very little.

Q. Where does that you do buy come from? A. The United States.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Tell us what the wages of carriage-trimmers are? A. All the way from \$1.50 to \$4 a day.

Q. Give us an idea of the average earnings of trimmers? A. A trimmer in this country can earn from \$2 a day—that is, for wages, you know.

Q. I mean what they actually earn? A. A piece-worker might probably do better, you know; sometimes they work by the piece, and then they get more wages; but the wages are not very good on the whole.

JAMES QUIGLEY, Roller, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Have you been long employed in rolling mills? A. All my life.

Q. What are the wages of the employés there? A. Two dollars a day.

Q. Is that a fair average for rollers' wages? A. Some get more than others.

Q. Do you find steady employment all the year round at that? A. We have stops sometimes during the winter, for repairs, of about three weeks.

Q. Is it very hard work rolling? A. It is pretty hard.

Q. Does it tax a man's strength very much? A. great deal depends upon the man, because it is laborious work.

Q. How long does it take you from the time you commence with a piece of iron till it is finished on the rollers? A. It greatly depends upon what you are rolling and the state of the mill.

Q. Do you work constantly all the day at the rollers or do you have spells of rest? A. We have spells or intervals of rest.

Q. Could you tell us the wages of the other men employed in the roller mills? A. Not all of them. Laborers get from \$1.10 up to as high as \$1.40.

Q. And the men that do the heating—the furnace men? A. They average about \$2.50 a day; they work piece work.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. We go to work at seven in the morning and some days we get through at 4:30; other days 5:30—ten hours a day is the system.

Q. Do you have any young boys working about the mill? A. There are a few.

Q. What do those boys do? A. Some of them work on the bar-bank and other light work.

Q. What are the earnings of the boys? A. About 60 cents a day, I think; I am not certain.

Q. Is it a dangerous business, rolling mills? A. No; no more than other work—There is danger attached to all works. We have been very safe from accidents; we have not had any.

Q. Is it a good, healthy business for boys? A. Well, yes; some think it is.

Q. How is the shop—is it pretty well secured from drafts in cold weather? A. Yes; they close it in winter as well as they can; they have to have some openings.

Q. Is it comfortable to work in? A. Yes; it is always comfortable in the rolling mill in winter time.

GEORGE QUIGLEY, Rolling Mill Superintendent, called and sworn.

By Mr ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Have you anything to add to the testimony of the previous witness in connection with the rolling mill? A. I can answer any questions you ask me.

Q. Do you agree with the statement he has given us? A. Yes.

Q. Are the wages he stated fair? A. Yes; but we have only one boy at 60 cents; the others get 80 cents.

Q. Do they commence at 60 cents a day? A. Yes.

Q. Are these boys learning the business of furnace-men or rolling? A. They work on the rod-banks now.

Q. Do they go with the object of learning the business? A. That is more than I can tell; if they stay long enough they will learn it.

Q. But do you take boys to teach them their trade? A. No.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in getting men sufficiently skilled for your business? A. No; not any; we can always get them.

Q. Have you much competition for your class of goods in this Province? A. Yes; we have competition, but still we get all we can do.

Q. Is that competition from rolling mills in the Province or outside? A. From rolling mills in the Province, principally.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. How are the men paid? A. Every fortnight.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. The previous witness stated that the mill was comfortable in winter. How is it in summer? A. It is warm.

Q. Is it sufficiently ventilated? A. Yes; we open the ventilators up in summer and keep them closed in winter.

Q. How many heats a day do the men turn out? A. About seven.

Q. During the time the men have between the heats, have they any place where they can go to, or do they have to remain by their fires? A. They remain by the fires; they cannot go away.

Q. They are not constantly engaged in heating? A. No; each heater has a laborer; he heats a certain part and they watch it.

Q. Would these men be the laborers classed at \$1.40 a day? A. Yes.

Q. Do the heaters hire their own laborers or do the rolling mill company furnish them? A. We furnish them with help.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are you able to pursue your labors during the summer heat? A. Yes.

Q. You never had to quit on account of the hot weather? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do many men in the mill own the houses in which they live? A. Not any.

Q. Do you think any of them save money? A. I think some do.

Q. They prefer to invest it in other ways, rather than in buying houses for themselves? A. Yes; most of them do; men do not like to build houses and have nothing else to depend on.

JOHN McCANN, Engineer, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. I run an engine and steam-hammer for Mr. Chesley.

Q. What kind of work do they turn out? A. Ships' knees; but they do all kinds of heavy work—heavy forge work, locomotive frames, and the like of that.

Q. What would be a fair wage for a man occupying your position? A. I get \$11 a week.

Q. Are there many machinists working in that establishment? A. None.

Q. The other men working on these forgings, about what wages would they earn—skilled men? A. I could hardly say; I have heard them talking of it. One man who works with me, John McGrath, gets \$2.50 a day; he is our hammer-man.

Q. Are there many unskilled hands? A. They are all unskilled hands. There are six men working there, and their wages are \$1.20 now, and they get as high as \$1.30 in summer.

Q. What hours do they work now? A. The hands work about eleven hours.

Q. Are they kept constantly employed for these eleven hours? A. No; they work in heats.

Q. Do they have any chance to get their meals in that time? A. What chance there is is between heats; sometimes there is half an hour.

Q. At what hour do you commence in the morning? A. I commence at five myself, and then the helpers come about seven.

Q. What time do they get through in the afternoon? A. They work clean up to six—no dinner hour; that makes my count of eleven hours.

Q. Out of these eleven hours, can you give any idea of how many they are actively at work? A. I can hardly say; sometimes we run heavy heats; then we have a good spell in between heats, and at other times, when on ships knees' we work sometimes straight along—ten or fifteen minutes between heats, and at other times there is about an hour between the heats.

Q. However, you are not able, during these eleven hours, to leave the works at all? A. No.

Q. You have either to be actually at work or watching the iron? A. Yes; three have to be standing there all the time; they cannot leave.

Q. Are any boys taken to learn this business? A. No.

Q. Is the work too heavy for boys? A. Yes; there is certain work they can do in the other shops outside. We call the outside shops a different branch from us.

Q. Is the place reasonably comfortable in winter? A. It is like all other blacksmith shops; it is a frame building, just boarded in.

Q. Is it very hot in summer? A. No; there are plenty of drafts in summer.

Q. Do you work all the summer? A. Yes; pretty steady.

Q. How often do you get paid? A. Once a week.

Q. Every Saturday? A. Yes.

Q. Do you get paid in full? A. Yes.

Q. And in cash? A. In cash.

Q. Do you think Saturday is a good day to pay? A. I think it is for the general class of people; I am satisfied.

Q. If you were paid on Friday would you not have advantages in buying in the Saturday market? A. There might be; we get paid generally at four on Saturday, and then we have the evening for marketing; I would not think there would be much advantage in it.

Q. About how much would the best class of hands in your work calculate to pay for rent in St. John? A. The best paid man in our shop is this John McGrath, and he owns a flat of his own; if not he would have to pay \$100 a year for one like it.

Q. Take the unskilled laborers whom you said get \$1.20; how much would they expect to pay for rent—that is, those who are married? A. It is a hard thing to say; one looks for as cheap as he can get; I would not like to say—rents are very uncertain in this town, any way, some high and some cheap.

WHITNEY DUNHAM, Upholsterer, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you find constant employment in St. John at your business? A. Yes.

Q. Your business is furniture upholstering? A. Yes.

Q. What are the wages of upholsterers in cabinet-shops here? A. About \$10 or \$11 a week.

Q. Would that be a fair average rate for the whole of the men in the city? A. I presume it would.

Q. Are there many upholsterers in St. John? A. I could not state the number.

Q. Do you know if there is any scarcity in the trade? A. No.

Q. Do you know if there are many men here who cannot get employment at the business? A. None that I am aware of.

Q. Do you take apprentices at your business here? A. Yes.

Q. How long do those boys serve? A. They are supposed to serve five years.

Q. Do you have any difficulty in getting the boys to remain? A. So far as I have seen there is no trouble—no difficulty.

Q. They do not seem disposed to run away before they are finished? A. No.

Q. As a rule, when those boys finish their time can they obtain employment here? A. Not as a rule; most of them go to the States to seek employment.

Q. Do you know if any of those who go away to the States come back and settle here? A. No; I do not know of any; I myself was away for a number of years, but I learned my business there, but this being my home I came back and settled here.

Q. Could you tell us the difference, if there is a difference, in the rates of wages in the towns of the United States, near here and in St. John? A. I am not posted enough to give you the rates in Boston.

Q. But do you know if they are higher in Boston than here? A. They would be higher.

Q. Would the cost of living be higher in Boston than in St. John? A. I should judge so.

Q. Taking into consideration the difference in wages and the difference in the cost of living, do you think that a man earning \$11 a week here would do as well as in Boston? A. Well, that would depend on the way the man lived in Boston and here.

Q. Taking the average way of living of a working man? A. Fully as well—yes.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q. Are you aware of any upholsterers in this city getting \$2 and \$2.25 a day?

Q. I am.

Q. Are these foremen, or are they merely workmen? A. Well, you might say foremen, probably.

Q. About how many of these men earn \$2.25 a day? A. I could not answer that question.

Q. Would \$11 a week be the average wages of a journeyman upholsterer? A. Yes; \$10 or \$11.

JOSEPH WINSLOW, Currier, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are there many carriers employed in St. John? A. I could not say.

Q. Well, in the immediate neighborhood? A. There are about six in the work I am in.

Q. What would be the average earnings of a fairly skilled man? A. About \$9 a week.

Q. How many hours a day would he work? A. Ten hours.

Q. How frequently are carriers, as a rule, paid here? A. Once a week—on Saturdays.

Q. In cash and in full? A. In cash and in full.

Q. Have you worked in other places? A. Yes.

Q. Where? A. At Fredericton.

Q. How do wages in St. John compare with wages in Fredericton? A. About the same.

Q. Do you know how wages here compare with wages in the States? A. I cannot tell you.

Q. Is the work increasing or decreasing in this neighborhood? A. I have not been here a great while; since I have been here it seems about the same.

Q. Do you get constant employment all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. Are the shops comfortable? A. Yes.

Q. Do any apprentices go to work at the trade here? A. There is one there.

Q. You work altogether by the week? A. Yes.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. What kind of leather are you finishing—grain or bluff? A. Generally grain.

Q. Have you ever worked in the United States at the same trade? A. Yes.

Q. Did you find this business rather better there than here? A. I did not see a great deal of difference.

Q. Do you know where your leather is sold, generally? A. Yes; in the Province here.

Q. Is any shipped to Montreal? A. No; not lately.

Q. Where do you get your hides from? A. From the Provinces.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What are the highest wages received? A. Twelve dollars; they run from \$9 to \$12 a week.

Q. What would be the lowest? A. Eight dollars for a skilled carrier is about the lowest.

DAVID CURREY, Currier, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Did you hear the testimony of the last witness? A. Yes.

Q. Do you corroborate, substantially, what he said? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything to add to it? A. Nothing.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you know of any carriers earning less than \$7 a week? A. Not carriers. A person who works in a shop helping gets less, but no experienced man, called a carrier.

Q. These would be laboring men, only? A. Just helps, only.

By Mr. BORVIN :—

Q. The kind of grain you finish—do you split it or finish it round? A. It is generally split; some of it is heavy, some light; heavy grains are not split very much—just shaved off.

Q. You use the heavy grain for fishing boots? A. Yes; we use the lighter grain for women's boots.

FREDERICK THOMPSON, Furniture Finisher, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q. How many furniture finishers are there in St. John, to your knowledge? A. I think there are three first-class hands at our business and may be two or three apprentices in each shop.

Q. What class of furniture do you finish here? A. Chairs, parlor suites, tables, and a great deal of all kinds.

Q. What do your first-class hands receive or average per week? A. A first-class finisher should receive from \$8 to \$10.

Q. Would that be the average? A. That would be the average.

Q. Are boys taken as apprentices? A. Yes.

Q. Are those boys, when taken, put at once to finishing? A. They are put to the simplest branches first, and as they advance they are given a higher class of work to do. They are given every opportunity to learn.

Q. What do they receive? A. One dollar and fifty cents a week for the first year, and after that it depends upon the boy himself.

Q. Do those boys remain the length of time for which they are engaged? A. As a general rule they do.

Q. What is the usual time? A. Five years.

Q. Are you aware of the number of cabinet-makers, upholsterers, furniture finishers, or men employed in the furnishing trade, who own the houses they live in in St. John? A. I am not.

Q. Are there any? A. I do not know; I cannot say.

Q. What hours do finishers work? A. Ten hours a day; nine on Saturday, when we get ten hours' pay.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q. You say a boy gets \$1.50 the first year: is the rate not fixed for the whole service? A. No; some boys may be smarter than others, and so the rate is only for one year.

HUGH FINLAY, Foreman of *Daily Telegraph*, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What business do you follow? A. I am a printer.

Q. Where are you employed? A. *Daily Telegraph* office.

Q. Are you foreman of the office? A. I am foreman of the mechanical department.

Q. How many men have you engaged in the office? A. In my department, the newspaper department, there are about twenty hands.

Q. Are they all journeymen? A. No; there are four apprentices—two in the composing room and two in the press room.

Q. What are the wages of your journeymen? A. Some are paid by the week and some by the piece.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. How much per thousand do the compositors get? A. Thirty cents per thousand.

Q. What position do the men hold who are paid by the week? A. Foreman, assistant foreman, and the man who sets the advertisements.

Q. Who sets up the commercial and shipping news? A. The shipping news is done by the piece frame and the commercial is done by the office advertising hand.

Q. Is that a department by-itself in your office? A. No; it is not a department; it goes on the hook the same as the rest, with the exception of the tabular part, which is corrected by the advertiser.

Q. Then the men don't get any of what we call fat matter? A. They do not.

Q. Has that always been the custom in St. John? A. It has not until quite recently; it used to pass around the office in turns—that is, the commercial and shipping news.

Q. Was it done satisfactorily in that way? A. I never heard of any complaint.

Q. Do you not think that it is the universal custom of the craft, when work is done by the piece, that everything goes round the men? A. I think it is.

Q. Is the system that is prevailing in the *Telegraph* the one mostly in use throughout the city? A. I think so.

Q. How many men have you got on the advertisements? A. Only one.

Q. Is he capable of setting up all the advertisements? A. Sometimes he is not, but mostly always he can get them all set up.

Q. When he is not capable of setting up all the advertisements who sets them? A. They are generally held over till the next day.

Q. Do the persons advertising put their "ads." in the office the day before? A. I am speaking of the mere changes of a yearly advertiser; if they bring them in after a certain hour we take them in turn and finish them off; those that come in latest stand over.

Q. Has it not been the custom in the *Telegraph* office that when a quantity of advertisements came in to the paper and this one man was not capable of setting it up for the next issue of the paper, they are held over, and the advertisers are given to understand that there is not time or space, that the advertisement came in too late, when in reality they are kept over for a day, to set up the coming day? A. I think that is correct; I do not know the idea for it, but it is done.

Q. Don't you think it is done for the purpose of saving composition? A. I think it is done for the purpose of economizing.

Q. How many hours do the men work? A. Piece-hands work on an average thirteen to fourteen hours.

Q. How many thousand is a respectable night's work for a compositor? A. Well, the way our forms are made up I don't think he could set up much more than 8,000.

Q. That would be between \$12 and \$13 a week? A. Yes; about that.

Q. And he would have to work six nights for that? A. Yes; work six nights a week.

Q. Thirteen dollars a week, then, is the outside figure for six nights of thirteen hours each? A. Yes.

Q. Did the men make more on the paper about a year ago? A. Yes; I think the average wages were higher a year ago.

Q. What has caused the decrease in the wages of the men? A. Using larger type than we used to use, less fat matter and less pick-ups.

Q. Are the men kept idle at night much, waiting for copy? A. They are not supposed to be idle; 'tis supposed that there is always "bogus" on the hook, and if they are idle they charge time.

Q. Is there a job office connected with the *Telegraph*? A. There is.

Q. What is the standard rate of wages given to job hands in your office? A. I have nothing to do with the job office; I only work on the newspaper.

Q. How long do the men work to in the morning? A. About four, or half-past four.

Q. Do you know of many printers in St. John owning their own houses? A. There are very few; in fact, I cannot call to mind more than one or two.

Q. Are your apprentices indentured? A. No.

Q. Do they serve their time on the paper? A. They have always, as long as I have been there.

Q. How long do they serve? A. They serve five years on a newspaper, and then they are entitled to a stand.

Q. Are they taken on as journeymen after they serve their time? A. Always.

Q. Do many printers leave St. John for the States? A. I think there are a great number leave here for the United States.

Q. What part of the United States do they go to? A. I think Boston is the principal or first point they bring up at—that is the chief distributing centre.

Q. Did you ever work in Boston? A. Yes.

Q. How much do printers earn per thousand on papers in that city? A. It is a good many years since I worked there, and then they received 35 cents per thousand. It is over twenty years ago since I worked there.

Q. Can you tell us what is the difference in the wages of compositors in St. John, and a city of the United States of about the same proportions? A. No; I could not. I know that a man who receives \$10 here will receive \$18 in the States. That is about the difference.

Q. Do you think that a composing room is the best for an apprentice to serve his time in, so as to become a good printer? A. You could not make a thorough printer of an apprentice in a paper office news-room.

Q. Then you think that the book and job room is the best place? A. Yes; I do.

Q. How old are the apprentices when you take them on? A. About sixteen years; we would not take them till they are sixteen.

Q. When taken on, are they asked questions as to their education or examined as to whether they can read and write? A. Yes; they are.

Q. How long would it take a smart lad, after he has been taken on, before he would go on the case? A. Do you mean entirely on the case?

Q. Yes. A. He might be fitted to go on the case, but not be competent to do the work of a journeyman—in order to do that he would have to serve for two and a half or three years.

Q. How long are apprentices in the business before they are asked to go back and work at night? A. In my office they are not required to do that till they are out of their time, excepting in very rare cases, perhaps not more than once or twice during their whole apprenticeship.

Q. Is it the duty of the journeymen you employ to do the proving of the galleys? A. The night foreman does that work.

Mr. CLARKE.—Mr. Finlay, you have looked into the matter of the printing of school books in New Brunswick, and so I ask is it a grievance to the printers of St. John and people at large to have those books printed in Scotland? A. I think myself that a larger number of men would be given employment in St. John if all the school books were printed for New Brunswick here. I think it would give employment to at least 250 printers, book-makers, stitchers, &c.

Q. How much cheaper would those books be to heads of families if they were printed in St. John? A. I was assured by a prominent publisher that those books could be made from 25 to 40 per cent. cheaper than they are now bought.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Where are they published at present? A. In Scotland.

Q. The whole of them? A. Most of them.

Q. How many of them are printed in New Brunswick to what were before the

common schools law Act came into force? A. I think, with the exception of a few classes, they were all done here.

Q. Does the Government or the municipality give out the contract? A. It is the Provincial Government and the Board of Education, which is composed of the Executive of New Brunswick and the Superintendent of Education.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. How many kinds of these school books are printed abroad—all the readers and primers? A. I think the readers that are used in the primary department are printed abroad.

Q. Were they printed in Scotland formerly? A. I understand that there were three or four got up here, since, for the purpose of running them out. They were gotten up since the agitation was brought about, in this manner: one of the books, Archer's History, was given to a firm here, and instead of doing the work themselves they had it done outside. I think they sent to the United States and had it printed there.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is there any reason why that book should not have been printed here? A. None, so far as I know.

Q. Are you familiar enough to know what the quality of work is that is done on them? A. I think I am.

Q. Do you think such a work could have been printed in St. John? A. I have not the slightest doubt of it.

Q. That is your opinion, as a printer? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you know whether it is true that one firm has a monopoly to sell these books? A. I do not know that positively, but I have been given to understand it is a fact.

Q. Do you know what discount this firm allows to the retail dealers? A. I could not mention it from memory. I had a statement giving the discounts, but it was got in an indirect manner. So far as I can recollect, it was 20, or 40 per cent.

Q. Have you ever heard, or do you know, that this firm that imports these books give to these people a preferential rate over that of retail dealers? A. I think they do.

Q. Do you know whether the teachers that purchase these books buy them with the object of selling them again to the scholars? A. I do not know.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Speaking from your practical knowledge as a printer, do you know whether these school books are got up so as to last and stand the wear and tear? A. I understand so; I am interested in this matter, for I have to buy several myself, but I have never generally gone into the price nor looked into the matter if the binding was properly got up or not.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Were tenders originally offered for the printing of these books? A. I think not—not to my knowledge.

Q. No offer of any kind was made to any St. John printer? A. None that I know of.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You have said that the commercial matter of the *Telegraph* was formerly put on the hook and now it is not so. I ask why did the office make that change? A. They did so to economize, I think.

Q. Was there any difficulty with the men, that the office chose to economize in that way? A. It was merely the feeling that business had fallen off—the failing of business—that caused them to do so; business fell off and times got pretty dull.

Q. And so your office felt the need of economizing? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles in the *Telegraph* office or in the trade in St. John? A. None at all; in the *Telegraph* office, if any little difficulty comes up the men have an interview with the employers and the matter is settled.

Q. Do you have no strikes? A. We have had none.

Q. Did the men acquiesce in this change? A. No; the matter is still under a conference, who are considering the matter. The conference is going on between the employers and the men.

Q. Is it a friendly conference? A. Yes.

Q. Each side meets the other with the desire to conciliate? A. That seems to be the idea.

Q. And the prospect is that an amicable solution will be found? A. Yes.

Q. You said that you thought a job office was the place proper for a boy to learn his trade—do you think a job office is the proper place for an apprentice to enter who expects to become a newspaper printer? A. He wants a very little time, after leaving the job office, to become a newspaper printer.

Q. Can the experience of the man's work who starts in a job office prove that he is as fast as the one who serves his time on a newspaper? A. I am speaking for myself; I served my time in a book and job office, and when I went to a newspaper I found I could keep up my end very fairly.

Q. About how many hours of straight composition do the compositors on the *Telegraph* have of a night? A. They have about nine hours.

Q. Do they have to distribute their own type? A. To a certain extent they do.

Q. How many hours do they need to distribute their type? A. To clear up everything objectionable they would require from four to five hours.

Q. How many thousand can a man distribute in an hour? A. Some of them could distribute 4,000 in an hour.

Q. If a man sets 8,000 in a night and distributes 4,000 in an hour would it be absolutely necessary for him to work fourteen hours? A. He does not distribute 4,000; that is what a good man will do; some of them will not average more than 2,500 in an hour.

Q. Have you many men who cannot distribute more than 2,500 in an hour? A. I don't think I have many of them but could do more.

Q. Don't you think a fair, average compositor can distribute 4,000 in an hour? A. I do not think they all do it.

Q. Then, if the man sets only 8,000 a night do you think it is necessary for him to be fourteen hours in the office? A. I do not think it.

Q. Well, if they are there that time it is because they are kept waiting there? A. It would be their own fault if they are waiting; they meet and talk over the news in the afternoon. Perhaps a man will come in at two or three o'clock; even then nothing is said to him, but he has to work a little harder to get his case filled up in time.

Q. Do you think that the average of your men could not set up more than 8,000 in nine hours of straight composition? A. I think that would be about the average of the men, but then some time is taken up in correcting proofs.

Q. Then, if you allow three hours for distributing, that would make twelve hours of actual work for the compositor who sets 8,000? A. Yes.

Q. Couldn't a man distribute 8,000 in three hours? A. Certainly.

By Mr ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do your men cut up and separate their own "dupes"? A. Yes.

Q. And distribute their "pi"? A. Yes.

Q. And distribute their own objectionable matter? A. Yes.

Q. Is the objectionable matter divided up? A. Each man distributes his own.

Q. Do they cut up their own "dupes" and paste them? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Were the school atlases and geographies printed? A. I think that they, with the primers, are done in Scotland. I am not positive about their being printed in Scotland, but I think they are.

Q. Has any representation been made to the Local Government in reference to the printing of the school books? A. Yes; the printers have laid quite a lot of information before them. I have a memorial with me that was presented to the Local Government by the Typographical Union (producing memorial, which was handed by the Chairman to the Secretary.)

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you ever looked over any of the geographies that are used in the public schools? A. I have not.

Q. Did you ever hear the complaint made that they tell a great deal more about the United States than they do about Canada? A. Yes.

Q. But you cannot, from your own knowledge, say that that is the case? A. I have heard the complaint made. I know it is not the case with the geography, but I know it is with the primers and readers.

Q. And from your point of view, as a Canadian, do you think that it is advisable for the youth to learn more about any other countries than our own? A. No; I think it is not.

Q. With regard to the printing of these books, do you think that it is of such a mechanical order as to be a credit to those who print them—is it very well done? A. I think it is very fairly done.

Q. Do you know anything about how the English grammars are got for the public schools? A. No.

Q. Do you know what grammar they use in the New Brunswick schools now? A. No; I do not.

Q. Did you ever know that as soon as a new superintendent was appointed that whatever grammars happened to prevail before seemed to get out of use at once, so far as he was concerned, and that he undertakes to get grammars of his own and have them printed for use in the schools? A. I do not know that, of my own knowledge.

Q. Did you ever hear that such was the case? A. I have heard it stated to be the case.

Q. And did you ever hear that these grammars which are used in the schools were more complicated than the capacities of the children would require? A. I have heard it so stated.

Q. And have you heard it stated that the children were more likely to make progress under the old grammars than under the new? A. Yes.

W. ROBERT MAY (James S. May & Son, Merchant Tailors), called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you a tailor? A. I am doing business as a tailor in connection with my father.

Q. Do you make any ready-made clothes? A. No; all custom.

Q. What classes of hands are employed in your custom work? A. They are divided into what might be called skilled journeymen tailors and skilled women workers.

Q. About how many hours a day do they work? A. They work from eight to twelve in the morning and from one to six in the afternoon.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. That would be nine hours? A. Yes.

Q. With the exception of busy seasons, there is no over-time made? A. No; no over-time.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. Do the women work the same hours as the men? A. As a general thing they do.

Q. About what can skilled journeymen make, working nine hours a day? A. A skilled journeyman tailor can average the year round, on piece-work, I should judge about \$13 a week.

Q. But the average would be below that? A. Yes.

Q. How much below, do you think? A. Not any lower than \$8.

Q. Would \$8 a week be the average of the journeymen tailors? A. It depends a great deal upon the man himself; it is all owing to his ability and the rapidity of his work. I should judge that \$13 would be the average earnings of a good journeyman tailor during the year.

Q. Do they get pretty constant employment, or are there times when they are only partially employed? A. There are times when they are only partially employed, but they get fairly constant employment.

Q. Have you any difficulty in getting any of your hands to work on Monday? A. Very little—in fact, I might say none at all.

Q. Are they steady, industrious men? A. They are.

Q. About how much can skilled women-tailors make? A. They can average the year round, according to my pay-roll, I should judge about \$4.50 to \$5 a week.

Q. Do they work on the same classes of work that the men are employed on? A. Not quite the same—fine work.

Q. If they do the same classes of work that men do are they paid at the same rate per garment? A. They are not paid the same rate.

Q. Why do you not give a woman the same for making a garment that you would give a man? A. So far as my knowledge is concerned, the reason is that men are presumed to be more skilled than women.

Q. Is it your opinion, as a practical man, that they are more skilful? A. From my own knowledge, I believe so.

Q. The best classes of your work you give to men, and not to women? A. We do.

Q. Do the men turn out more work of a good class in an equal time than the women do? A. They do.

Q. They do, as a general rule? A. As a rule, they do.

Q. Is most of your work done on your own premises or do the hands take some of it home? A. It is all done on our premises, except in busy seasons, when we give out some.

Q. That would be extra work? A. Yes.

Q. Is the work almost all done by the week or by the piece? A. Almost all paid by the piece.

Q. Which make the best wages, those who work by the piece or those who work by the week? A. I think those that work by the week; the hands like that way best.

Q. Do they get somewhat more than those who work by the piece? A. Yes.

Q. Do they prefer to work by the week? A. As a rule, they do.

Q. Those who work by the week would be your best hands, I suppose? A. They would be our best hands.

Q. Consequently, if they were working by the piece they would make more on an average? A. Yes.

Q. Do you take any apprentices to learn the business? A. A few; there are generally one or two apprentices working in our store.

Q. Do you have them indentured? A. We do not.

Q. Would you prefer to have them indentured? A. I do not think it would make any material difference.

Q. What does an apprentice earn? A. The first year he gets nothing; the second year \$1, and so on up to the fifth year.

Q. Increasing \$1 each year? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is an apprentice not worth any thing the first year? A. He is not supposed to be in the trade.

Q. Does he board himself? A. He boards himself.

Q. Is your shop constructed to give ample room to all the hands working in it? A. We have two work-rooms, one for the men and one for the women.

Q. Have you separate water-closets? A. We have one water-closet, so situated that there is no inconvenience to either sex.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Are there separate entrances to the water-closets? A. There are two.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do your hands stay with you a considerable length of time, or do they frequently change? A. They stay with us a considerable length of time.

Q. Have you any difficulty in getting hands when you need them? A. As a rule, we have difficulty in getting skilled labor at the busy season.

Q. Then there is not a large number of tailors unemployed in St. John—how many hands do you employ? A. We employ thirty hands, all told.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. How many out of these thirty hands earn \$13 a week all the year round? A. There would be five of them.

Q. How much do you pay women for making tweed vests? A. We give them 50 cents apiece—that is, a vest with three pockets; extra pockets, 75 cents each. Sometimes there are five pockets in a vest, four outside and one inside. In connection with the shop we keep a foreman, who does the pressing of the garments—that is, the heavy pressing or finishing; also a machinist to do the stitching. That, of course, goes in with the other expenses of the shop.

Q. How much do you give for making pants? A. For tweed pants we give 75 cents; black cloth extra—we have a regular scale of prices to go by.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Is the workshop comfortable in winter? A. It is quite comfortable in winter time.

Q. Are the furnaces for heating the irons in the workshop where the women work? A. It is a stove inside of a furnace; it is an ordinary tailors' stove for heating irons.

Q. Is that stove in the workshop during the summer time? A. It is there in the summer time, with the exception that it is moved from the centre of the workshop down to the end of the room that is farther away from the work and nearer in the winter.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. In order to throw the heat around the room? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Is not the work-room excessively hot in summer? A. I never hear any complaints in that respect.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. You do not suffer from excessive heat in St. John? A. We do not.

Q. Are your rooms well ventilated in summer? A. They are well ventilated, and the windows are often kept open.

Q. When the hands are at work at night are they paid an extra rate from what they receive for day's work? A. As a general thing, those that work at night are on piece-work, and of course they earn the same rate as in the day time.

Q. Do you know anything about the ready-made clothing trade? A. I know nothing to speak of.

Q. Are there many tailors in this city who own property? A. There are a few; I could not say how many.

Q. Did they make the money out of their own earnings? A. Out of their own earnings.

Q. Do you pay your hands weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A. We pay them weekly, on Saturdays.

Q. In cash? A. In cash.

Q. Do they prefer to be paid on Saturday to any other day in the week? A. It has always been the rule for us to pay on Saturday, and the hands have never asked for any change.

ST. JOHN, N.B., 23rd March, 1888.

RICHARD O'BRIEN (Ellis, Robertson & Co., St. John, N.B., *Evening Globe*), called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How many hands do you employ at the printing business? A. Do you include reporters and every body around the office?

Q. Compositors on the paper? A. Eighteen on the paper, including pressmen and boys.

Q. What wages do you pay the pressman? A. He gets \$13 a week.

Q. Is that the pressman's wages in the job office or on the newspaper? A. Newspaper; the boys in the job office get \$1.30 a week, and it is advanced 50 cents or \$1 a week each year.

Q. Do the boys run the presses in the job room? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay your compositors? A. Ten dollars a week,

Q. Are they all paid by the week or are any on piece-work? A. All paid by the week.

Q. All the hands on the paper? A. Yes.

Q. What are the wages of a job hand? A. They have about the same as on the paper.

Q. Ten dollars a week? A. Ten dollars a week.

Q. Do they work sixty hours in a week? A. The men in the newspaper office do not work sixty hours; they are allowed an hour Saturday night and a half an hour Wednesday night. In the summer time every man or boy that has been in our employ two years is given a week's holidays, and gets his pay for them.

Q. Do the compositors ever work at night? A. Sometimes; not very often, for we are an afternoon paper.

Q. Are they paid extra for night work? A. Twenty-five cents an hour.

Q. Is that the standard rate of wages in St. John for printers? A. I do not know.

Q. Have you many apprentices in your office? A. We have a few; in the newspaper office there are three.

Q. How long do they serve? A. Five years.

Q. Do you generally retain them as journeymen after they are out of their apprenticeship? A. Yes; if they wish to stay; the matter of staying is all in their own hands.

Q. Do many stay? A. A good many stay.

Q. Do you pay the job hands, when they go back at night, the same as you pay the compositors—25 cents an hour? A. I do not know what they get. The job foreman has all to do with that; it is very likely that he does give them the same.

Q. Have you got any journeymen pressmen working on the job presses? A. We have boys on the presses there.

Q. Do these boys serve all the time at the presses, or do they go to the case to learn the entire business of the job department? A. They do both; they learn the whole business.

Q. Do you believe it would be any better for the business if there was an indenture system of apprenticeship? A. I do not.

Q. What are your reasons for thinking so? A. I believe that both the boys and the employers have a right to do as they like; if a boy wants to go he should be allowed to go, and if the employer wants to discharge him he should have a right to.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. You would place both on the same footing? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you not think that if the boys were indentured a class of printers would be turned out better than they are to-day? A. I do not know as that would follow.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. You have found out that the printers in St. John are as good as any where else? A. Yes.

Q. Without the indenture system? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you not think that the present system tends to make the boys run from one office to another during their minority? A. I question if it does.

Q. Have you ever heard proprietors complain that the boys leave them and go to another office as soon as they get proficient? A. That may be so, without my knowing of it.

Q. When an apprentice is taken on in your office, is he questioned regarding his education, such as his ability to read writing—manuscript, and so forth? A. Certainly.

Q. Do you do that with your apprentices? A. The foreman very likely does that; he hires the boys.

Q. Has the foreman power to hire or discharge the men? A. Yes; subject, of course, to the proprietor's approval.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. If the apprentices go from one office to another do they not get a wider experience than if they should remain five years in one office? A. I do not know about that; I should say so.

Q. I understood you to say that your men are employed by the week? A. Entirely so.

Q. Is the rate of wages fixed by the employers, by the men, or by the employers and men in conference? A. About October, 1886, the men asked for an increase and they were given it; that is how the present rate was settled on.

Q. Was this scale fixed by them? A. Some of them asked to be paid that sum, and they were given it.

Q. And it was satisfactory to the employers? A. Yes.

Q. Did you have any trouble, strike or difficulty with the men at the time? A. There was no strike, but there was a little difficulty; we talked the matter over with the printers' union and everything was settled satisfactory.

Q. Has everything been amicable since? A. We had a little trouble since.

Q. When did that take place? A. Last September.

Q. What did that grow out of? A. Well, it happened outside of our office. There was some trouble in one of the other offices where the men went out on strike; the pressman in our office was supposed, whether he did or not I do not know, to have gone and done the work in this other office, and our printers, who were members of the union, went on strike because he did so.

Q. Did the men, before striking, ask you to dismiss the pressman? A. They did not ask the proprietors.

Q. Did they not give you notice of their intention of going on strike? A. No; I think they talked to the foreman about the difficulty, but they did not notify us.

Q. How did the strike terminate? A. The men came back to work the next day.

Q. Did you accede to their demands? A. No.

Q. And was that all the trouble there was? A. Yes.

Q. Was there any change in the prices of labor made at that time? A. None whatever; they went out one day and came back the next, and we have had no trouble since.

Q. Has everything gone on satisfactory since? A. Yes.

Q. As far as you are concerned, that is all the trouble you have had with them?
A. We were on the best of terms with them before and have been ever since.

Q. You met them amicably, and if any questions arose you would be willing to settle them with them? A. We were willing to settle any trouble with them, and are always willing to do so when questions arise.

JAS. C. ROBERTSON (Jas. Harris & Co.,) Car-builders and Machinists, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are you a member of Jas. Harris & Co.? A. Yes.

Q. What is the business of Jas. Harris & Co.? A. Car-building, general foundry, machine work, and also rolling mill business.

Q. How many hands do you employ in your two factories? A. On our last pay-sheet at the car-works we had 282 men; 152 of them were married and the rest—130—were single, and that includes twenty boys.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. When you speak of car-men, do you include all the men in your employ? A. No; the men in the car-works and foundry.

By Mr. CARKE:—

Q. Does that include the men in the rolling mills? A. It does not.

Q. And twenty of this number were boys? A. Yes.

Q. Do you employ boys in the rolling mills? A. No.

Q. About what are the ages of these boys? A. They range from fifteen to eighteen years of age.

Q. Can you give us any idea of the average rate of wages paid to the different classes of your hands? A. In the foundry and car-works the foreman and superintendent's wages run all the way from \$13 and \$15 to \$24 a week. Carpenters and car-builders get from \$7 to \$10; boys, from \$2 to \$4 a week; moulders on piece-work make from \$10 to \$18; and \$7 to \$12 by the week; boys, \$2 to \$4.50.

Q. Does that cover the entire car works? A. There are also machinists who get from \$7 to \$12 a week; boys, \$2 to \$4. Blacksmiths and men, who get from \$7 to \$10, and helpers \$6. Painters get from \$7.50 to \$9 a week and boys \$2 to \$4; that is in the foundry and car-works. In the rolling mills we have two foremen who get from \$4 to \$5 a day, and to the other men—heaters—we pay \$2.50; rollers, \$2; helpers, \$1.50; to laborers we give \$1.10 to \$1.20 a day, according to the nature of their work.

Q. Do these men all work the same number of hours a day each day? A. As a rule, in the rolling mill the day's work is regulated by heats; eight heats of the generally constitute a day's work.

Q. What time does that consume? A. Sometimes eight and sometimes ten hours.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. The work there is altogether governed by heats, and not by time? A. Yes; in some cases where we cannot get eight heats out of the furnace, and can only get six or seven, and we find we cannot get any more, the men get their day's wages; that would happen through some fault of the furnaces.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. They seldom work after six o'clock? A. I have seen them out at four, with their day's work done.

Q. Is that sort of work very laborious? A. It is pretty hard work.

Q. Do you find it difficult to get hands for that branch of labor? A. Some of our superior men we get from England, but the principal part of our men were those who were brought up with us, and nearly all belong around here.

Q. Are you able to hold the men or do they leave you and go away? A. As a rule, they stick to the place. I put down a memorandum of some of the men working in the rolling mill, some of whom have been there thirty years, some twenty-five, twenty, eighteen, twenty-two, twenty-six and fifteen years.

Q. That is in the rolling mill? A. Yes; in our car-works and foundry there is one man who has been there with us since 1853; that is before my time. There is also one man that has been there fifty-two years, and some others have been there thirty-seven, eighteen, forty-nine, twenty-one, sixteen and twenty-nine years. One of the men's father was there some sixty years ago when the work was started; some others of the men have been there twenty-nine, thirty-five, sixteen, twelve, twenty-one and eighteen years. Those are just some of the men.

Q. How long is it since the work first started? A. Sixty years.

Q. Is the business increasing? A. It has increased within the last few years and is steadily increasing.

Q. Where do you find a market for your manufactures? A. Mostly in the lower Provinces and railways here. Some time ago we sent goods to the upper Provinces, but we could not compete with the car-builders there, on account of the freight.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you supply the Intercolonial Railway? A. Yes; partly, and the New Brunswick, and railways in Nova Scotia.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Where do you get the woods used in the car-works? A. We get them largely here. Our pitch-pine and oak we get from the States—pitch-pine from the South and the oak from New Hampshire and Pennsylvania principally; some of it we get from Virginia. We use large quantities of our native wood, such as white pine, haematac and some birch.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles with your men? A. We have never had any difficulty.

Q. Never had any strikes? A. No.

Q. Do you take on these boys as apprentices? A. Not at present. We used to take them on as apprentices for six years, but for the last few years we have not taken any indentured apprentices. I think there is only one, who has a year to run, in our employ. The wages paid to the boys the first year are something like what we would pay apprentices, but we do not bind them.

Q. Do you think it is better to let them remain free? A. I think it is better to let both remain free. Some of them stay with us three or four years; some of the apprentices stick to us and some of them go to other places.

Q. Where do you get your fuel? A. Our hard coal is, of course, all brought from the States; soft coal, for the rolling mills and furnaces, is drawn from Spring Hill and Cape Breton mines.

Q. What can you put down Spring Hill coal for? A. The quality we use costs us about \$3.18 to \$3.20

Q. Is it a good grade of coal? A. Yes; we use it for our furnaces.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Is that the run of the mine? A. That is round coal.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Do you use any cheaper coal? A. In the boiler we use slack coal, which costs us about \$2, or a few cents more. The round coal we get by water from

Parrsboro'. We find it more convenient, as our rolling mill is on the water side, which makes it handier for discharging.

Q. What iron do you use in the car-works? A. We use pig iron and scrap. The pig iron we get largely from Londonderry. Car wheel iron comes from the States, from the Salisbury region.

Q. Is there no iron in Canada fit for that work? A. There is an iron made near Montreal, but it does not find its way to this market, for it is largely used by the producers, who are leading manufacturers themselves.

Q. Where do you get the iron for rolling? A. That we get largely from abroad, for the local supply is beginning to get used up.

Q. Do you use scrap altogether? A. Yes.

Q. Do you puddle any iron? A. No; we get the scrap from Germany and England.

Q. Are the wages of the men fixed by yourselves, or by the men and you in conference? A. We generally fix the rate we can pay and the men agree; there seems to be no trouble, and if there is any complaint we look to the foreman, or he comes to the office with it; but he very rarely does so.

Q. Have you a fixed rate for each class of men, or do you pay a man according to his individual ability? A. We pay him according to his ability, within a certain range.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. I suppose you know every man in your employ, more or less? A. If we do not know a man we find him out.

Q. But you know them individually? A. Pretty nearly all.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are many of your men owners of the houses in which they live? A. Yes; I think there are several who are householders.

Q. Have they paid for these houses or have they had other means to earn the money? A. I presume they paid for them out of their wages.

Q. Do you know if any of your men put money in the savings bank? A. I could not say; I know cases where some of the men are very well off.

Q. Could you say you have had laborers who have accumulated property or money? A. I know one day laborer who has accumulated a large amount of property.

Q. Is he a married man? A. No; he is an old bachelor.

Q. Does your company own houses for the use of the men? A. They do not.

Q. You do nothing for the men but pay them their wages? A. No; we used to have houses for the men a good many years ago.

Q. Do you supply your men with goods from a store, or in any other way? A. We do not.

Q. Do you pay all cash? A. Yes.

Q. How often do you pay your hands? A. Once a fortnight. We used to pay once a week, but we changed to a fortnight, because it makes less trouble in the office.

Q. Would it be any more trouble to pay the hands weekly? A. It would make more clerical work.

Q. Would it not be a great advantage to the men? A. I do now know about that.

Q. Have the hands ever asked for weekly payment? A. They have not.

Q. You have had no complaint about the fortnightly payment? A. No complaints.

Q. On pay-day do you pay the hands up to that day? A. No; we pay on Wednesday; we pay up to the Saturday before.

Q. Do you retain any portion of the men's wages, or do you pay them in full up to the previous Saturday? A. We pay them in full.

Q. Do you require notice from the men before leaving? A. No; the men may leave without giving notice.

Q. Do you pay a man up to the time of his leaving? A. Yes; but he does not get his pay till the next pay-day.

Q. Have you any system of fines? A. No.

Q. If a man comes late in the morning, how do you deal with him? A. Dock him.

Q. For the exact time he loses, or any thing more? A. We generally take off a quarter of a day—that is, if he is an hour late we take a quarter off him.

Q. If he were five or ten minutes late what would you do? A. There is not much said about that; we generally reprimand him. Each man takes a check as he goes in to work, and he deposits the same check as he goes out, and in this way we keep the run of the men and their work.

Q. Are they pretty regular? A. They are.

Q. Have you any difficulty in getting men to work the day following pay-day? A. We do, sometimes.

Q. Is it serious? A. It puts one back, sometimes.

Q. Does that irregularity extend to many of the hands? A. Not many hands; one or two in a gang. Take the car-shops, where there is a certain gang or crew made up to do a certain work, and if two or three of them behave badly, it breaks up the work.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Generally speaking the men in your employ are sober and industrious? A. As a rule, they are.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you know whether the laborer who owns his own house or property receives any other income besides what he gets from you? A. I do not know.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you take 25 cents per hour off all classes of work when you are docking a man? A. No; a quarter of a day.

Q. If he were only one hour late? A. Yes.

Q. You would take a quarter of a day off that man? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. But you only do that in exceptional cases? A. I don't think we have done it a dozen times in the last two or three years. A man who gets that dock is not likely to be caught again.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. You say machinists earn from \$7 to \$12 a week? A. They do.

Q. What would be the average? A. The average would be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$9 to \$9.50.

Q. What men in the rolling mill earn from \$4 to \$5 a day? A. The foreman and superintendents.

Q. How many run to \$2.50? A. The heaters earn \$2.50; there are seventy-three men in the rolling mill.

Q. What kind of work do the rollers do? A. Machinery-moulding and all sorts of car-work.

Q. Where do you get your patterns from? A. Make them ourselves.

Q. Do the men on machinery work generally on piece-work? A. Machine-work is generally paid by the day, but car-work is all piece-work.

Q. When you give your men piece-work do they have any thing to say about the price? A. If they get piece-work it is a matter of bargain between them and the foreman.

Q. Are the men always consulted on the scale of prices? A. They agree to it, and the foreman judges what they ought to be worth.

Q. Have you a milling-room in connection with your foundry? A. We have two or three mills for milling and casting.

Q. Is it well ventilated? A. It is out-doors, under the lee side of the foundry itself. It is entirely in the open air; there is a shed over it to keep the rain off the men.

Q. This time that you were paying the men once a week—was it with their consent that you went to the fortnightly payments? A. Yes; we consulted the men. We did not ask every man; we asked the foreman and he consulted the men.

Q. Have any of the men in your place ever had their wages garnisheed? A. No; we have never had a case of that kind. We have had orders presented to us to take a certain amount out of the men's wages, but we have always refused to accept them.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Would that be orders given by the men themselves? A. Yes; but we did not undertake to pay them at all.

Q. When a man is discharged for some act committed on his part do you pay him when you discharge him? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is your moulding shop fairly well ventilated or is it made uncomfortable with steam? A. No; we have three moulding shops. One is specially for car-wheels, and it is well ventilated, and the other one is very comfortable. The one where the car-casting are moulded is not so high, but it is a fairly good shop to work in. I dare say it could be improved upon, but I have heard no complaint about it.

Q. Are all the shops fairly comfortable, particularly in the winter time? A. Yes.

Q. Are they warm? A. Yes.

Q. How long is it since you commenced the manufacture of car-wheels? A. It is about twenty-five years.

Q. Is it people belonging to St. John that you employ in casting car-wheels? A. They are all men belonging here.

Q. Do these men earn pretty good wages? A. Moulders earn very good wages.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is this man who has been in your employ for sixty years there yet? A. Yes.

Q. What might his trade be? A. He is a machinist.

Q. Is he still working at his trade? A. He is.

Q. Have you got any fans in your moulding shops to carry off the smoke and dust? A. No.

Q. What is the sanitary condition of the shops, so far as water-closets are concerned? A. There are two on the premises, where the men can resort to them.

Q. Are they inside the moulding shop? A. No; outside; they are isolated.

JAMES BERRY, Printer and Reporter, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you given any attention to the printing of school books in this Province? A. Yes; I have. About the year 1883 I was appointed one of a committee to investigate the subject of the publishing of school books. Up to the time that the free-school law was passed or came into effect in this Province all the school books were published here, but at that time their publication was transferred to Nelson's, of Edinburgh, and the printers and book-binders, as well as the publishers, made a move, in 1883, to see if something could not be done towards getting the books printed in this Province, and I was appointed one of the committee to draw up a memorial. We drew up a memorial and sent it to the Local Government and they promised to give the matter consideration. We ascertained at that time from inquiry and investigation that there was about \$247,000 spent yearly by the Province for school books. The memorial that we presented to the Government was signed by 250 printers, book binders and publishers.

Q. From your investigations, did you come to the conclusion that, so far as the book-binding was concerned, that these books could be printed and got up as well in New Brunswick as those that are imported? A. We did; we had the authority of the publishers to say that the work could be done in New Brunswick 25 per cent. cheaper than at its present cost, and equally as good.

Q. Did you come to the conclusion that, so far as the reading matter and contents of the book were concerned, you could produce as good books as the imported books? A. So far as the Readers were concerned, we came to the conclusion that we could produce better books.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. You would have more Canadian matter in them? A. Yes; we thought the Readers were objectionable to the Canadians, and New Brunswickers particularly, because they contained too much foreign and not enough Canadian information.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. You thought these changes would be beneficial to the people? A. We did.

Q. Did you make any calculation as to the number of persons who would receive employment if the books were printed here? A. We did not calculate that closely, but we came to the conclusion that large numbers of young men would receive employment.

Q. Did you make a calculation as to the number of women who would be employed in binderies in producing these books? A. We thought that, in a general way, it would give increased employment, not only to printers, but to book-binders, engravers and lithographers.

Q. Did you make a calculation as to the percentage of the total outlay that would be retained and paid out in wages to engravers, &c.? A. I do not think that we did.

Q. Would it be a very large percentage? A. We were sure of that. We went into the cost of printing of some books; I had the figures, but I have lost them since, and I know we showed that the books could be produced very much cheaper in New Brunswick, and that there was a large amount of money in it.

Q. Did you inquire whether the proper paper for these books could be made in New Brunswick? A. If my memory serves me right, we found out that the paper for all these books could be got in Canada; I am not sure about New Brunswick.

Q. Then, you concluded that a large outlay would be made in Canada, if not in New Brunswick, for almost everything that enters into the composition of these books? A. Yes; in the matter of stereotyping we came to the conclusion that it would pay somebody to get the stereotype apparatus and go into the business in this Province. We also investigated and ascertained the exact nature of the books imported in the Province, and we found that all the books are imported through one house in St. John entirely, and that all other dealers have to buy from this house. No book-seller in this Province can purchase them in New Brunswick, except from this house, and he allows 25 per cent. on one book and 20 on the other to school-teachers who purchase one or half a dozen of them.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. It is a book combination? A. It seemed to be so, and that was one of the reasons we tried to get these books published here, and backed up our request.

Q. What was said on the part of the Government? A. The Government recognized the grievance and promised to remedy it, and since that time they have had an arithmetic printed here. The objection that the government raised at that time was that Nelson had all these books copyrighted, and that they could not do anything with them, as to buy the plates would be more than the books were worth, so that in order to get the books printed in New Brunswick a complete new set would have to be made up.

Q. And did you think that could be done? A. We suggested ways and means of getting up new books.

Q. Has Nelson & Son's contract been cancelled? A. We do not know as there is any contract, but they have a copyright of these books. We concluded we could not buy them out, because there was too much money in it to do so. The school-teachers come to this one house, who has this monopoly, or go to another book-seller, and this book-seller has to give the teachers, in order to make a sale, 20 per cent discount on some of the books that they handle. That is the information I received from the books-sellers.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Do you think that the additional work that would be given to New Brunswick people would justify the Government in getting plate for the books and having the printing done in New Brunswick? A. I think so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. When the printing of these books was given out were tenders asked for? A. As far as I know, they were not; I am quite safe in saying so.

Q. Were they given out for a certain time, or only at the option of the Government? A. Option of the Government. The arithmetic I spoke of was given to a gentleman to publish and he handed it over to a Fredericton printer to print.

Q. Is the Superintendent of Education dependent upon the Local Government? A. He is.

Q. Have you examined these books of Nelson & Co. from a practical point of view? A. I have examined the arithmetic.

Q. Is there good paper in these books, considering the price charged? A. I say no, considering the prices charged. There is fairly good paper in them, but when you consider the price charged it is not up to the mark.

Q. Did you consider whether, if these books were got out in this Province, they could be sold cheaper or not? A. We had certificates from leading manufacturers in St. John that the books could be placed on the market 25 per cent. less than they are now sold for.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. So that there is a tax of 25 per cent. on every school book sold in the Province? A. Yes; taking it as a whole.

TIMOTHY MCCARTHY, Stone-cutter, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. What is your business? A. Stone-cutter.

Q. How long have you worked at stone-cutting in St. John? A. Twenty-five years.

Q. Are there many men engaged in the business? A. There are a good many.

Q. How many months in the year do they receive employment? A. They work eight months when they work. After that we cannot work on monument work and grave-yard stone, for we cannot get in the cemetery, so we have to stop till spring.

Q. What are the weekly wages of a stone-cutter. A. I got \$12 a week for seven months, and \$8 a week for the other months, if I worked.

Q. What is the cause of this reduction being made? A. Dullness of the time and shorter day; we go to work at 7:30 and stop at 4:30

Q. Is that the principal reason? A. It is.

Q. Is not the reason that people are not employed, and the employer takes advantage of the labor? A. It is the shortness of the day; we knock off work at 4:30, and some days 4 o'clock.

Q. What are the wages paid marble-cutters? A. I have got \$2 a day.

Q. What are the wages received by the polishers? A. Polishers get \$1 a day the year round.

Q. Are any women employed at this work? A. There are.

Q. What is the principal stone used in stone-cutting? A. A. At my business it is all marble—American and Italian marble. We get no marble in our Province; we get it in the States.

Q. Is there much Ohio stone used in stone-cutting? A. None at all in St. John.

Q. Is it all Canadian stone? A. All our own Province stone and Nova Scotia.

Q. Are the men paid weekly? A. No; I was paid fortnightly when I worked.

Q. Do stone-cutters prefer to be paid fortnightly? A. When we get our fortnight pay we do not grumble about it. It comes hard on the boss when he is putting up a building, for he cannot draw the money till some part of it is up.

Q. Do you know about the wages paid to stone-masons? A. No.

Q. Is there much water on the floor of the shops where polishing is done? A. No; they generally make holes in the floor for the water to go down. In some places they have a sink—a large, square sink.

Q. Have the wages of marble-cutters increased within the last five years? A. Not in this Province; they have in the States, but not here.

Q. Have they decreased here? A. They have not decreased here; I have been getting the same wages for the last twenty years.

Q. Do many apprentices go into the business? A. There are three where I work; they do not work at the marble, but at the stone-cutting work.

Q. What would be the wages which would be given to them when they first go to work? A. They would receive \$1.50 the first week; that is the pay a week.

Q. What would the yearly increase be after that? A. Fifty cents a week, and the last year \$1.

Q. What would their ages be when they first go to work? A. Fifteen or sixteen.

Q. How long do they serve? A. Four years.

Q. After they are out of their apprenticeship do they generally stay in the Province? A. Some do and some do not.

Q. Do they go to the United States? A. Yes; they get more pay there.

Q. Do many of them ever come back here to work? A. A good many come back, but some never come back.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. Did you ever use any marble from St. John's, near Montreal? A. No.

Q. Did you ever hear of its being used here? A. No.

ANDREW GILMOUR, Merchant Tailor, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are you a tailor? A. Yes.

Q. Do you do custom or ready made work? A. Custom work.

Q. Custom work altogether? A. Custom work altogether.

Q. Did you hear the testimony given by Mr. May a little while ago? A. I did.

Q. Do you corroborate his statement in general? A. Yes; I do.

Q. Do you pay the same rate of wages that he does? A. Yes; about the same, only I am a little older in the business than he is.

Q. Have you anything to add to the statement that Mr. May has made? A. You asked whether the workpeople in our business owned their houses. For myself I can say that I have had workpeople who have lived and died in their own houses, and their widows occupy them now, and one of them owns several houses.

Q. Did they accumulate this property out of their wages? A. They had no other way of doing so.

Q. Had they all families to support? A. Yes; and their families are receiving the benefits now.

Q. Do many working people outside of your own employés in St. John own property? A. Yes; a good many do. I do not know as I can give you a better idea of our trade and its prospects than relating a circumstance that occurred here five

years ago. In 1883 we celebrated the centennial of the city, and the different trades were called on to take part in a trades' procession, and the tailors responded very handsomely, subscribing liberally and willingly towards the expenses. Before the day of the procession the trade held a mass meeting in Mr. May's store, at which the men were well represented. At that meeting they subscribed cheerfully and willingly, and turned out splendidly in the procession. After the procession we had another meeting to adjust the finances, when we found that we had \$30 of a surplus. The question then arose as to what we should do with the money, and several of them recommended different modes of disposing of it; and finally I said, "Does not some one present know of a tailor's widow or orphan to whom this money might be a great help," and to my utter astonishment and to the astonishment of all, no one present knew of a single destitute widow or orphan.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. What became of the \$30? A. We disposed of it afterwards; I held it till the others brought in their report. There was a committee appointed, and finally we hunted up cases and disposed of the money.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. You hunted up cases? A. Yes; they were not cases of poverty, but of those who had been made poor by intemperance.

Q. Then the tailors of St. John, as a rule, are temperate and provident men? A. I have had a great many hands in my employ during my experience of forty-six years, during which time I have had very little trouble with a drunken man. The hands are steady and always ready to work. When I was an apprentice it was always said that the tailors would not work on Monday, and I well remember that my employer, who was a very prudent and thoughtful man, was never able to get his hands to work on Monday, on account of not having work ready for the hands on Monday. I commenced with this rule, and have steadily followed it for the forty-six years I have been in business, and have found great benefit to arise from it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. What would be the weekly wages of these men who have saved money to buy property? A. \$8 to \$12 a week. They work by the piece, and in this way some men earn very fine wages. One man will make 50 per cent. more than another, on account of his adaptability to his business. I have two men with me who have been in my employ for thirty-five years.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q. Do I understand you to say that if a workingman is temperate and industrious he can save sufficient on his wages of \$12 a week to keep his family till they get able to keep him? A. My experience is that that is the fact. When a man gets old, as a rule his family are able to do something for him.

Jos. W. HAZELHURST (Hazelhurst & Son, Founders and Excelsior Manufacturers), called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What is your business? A. Founder, and excelsior manufacturer.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. About fifty.

Q. How many of these would be boys? A. We have not any boys, except one, and he is in the foundry business, but what has served three years. We take on apprentices for a year in one branch of the trade and at the end of that time he is advanced to another shop.

Q. Do you indenture these boys? A. We do not indenture them at all.

Q. How many hours a day do the men work? A. Our business is principally moulding, and the hands are generally off before five every afternoon.

Q. Is your work piece-work? A. Some of it is piece and some day-work—principally day-work.

Q. Are these men employed by you summer and winter? A. The year round, in good, comfortable shops, both in the Coldbrook and the St. John stores; both shops are heated by steam, and the men work in their shirts in winter.

Q. Is it the same with the excelsior work? A. Yes.

Q. Are the men employed all through the winter? A. Yes; steady work.

Q. What kind of manufactures do you make? A. Generally heavy castings, rolling-mill work and machinists' work. Besides this we do a great deal of railway work for the different branches of the Cumberland and other railways.

Q. Do you make any mill castings for work? A. Yes; and we confine ourselves entirely to castings.

Q. Do you make them for building purposes as well? A. We do a great deal of building work.

Q. Where does the bulk of your manufactures go? A. We sell entirely in the Maritime Provinces.

Q. Do you not ship some goods to the upper Provinces? A. None, except some excelsior, of which we have sent five or six car-loads to Montreal.

Q. Is that trade increasing? A. 'Tis about stopped, on account of the freight we have to pay to Montreal. It costs us \$8 a ton freight to that city, and that is a pretty tough rate.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. What does the Intercolonial Railway charge a ton for coal from Spring Hill to Montreal? A. I do not know.

Q. Is it not a great deal less than the sum you name? A. I do not know.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. How many tons can you get in a car? A. A little less than seven.

Q. What is this excelsior made from? A. We make it entirely from poplar wood. The American excelsior is made from all kinds of wood, but is not as good as ours.

Q. Is it not all used for bedding? A. The coarse is, but the fine is used for making furniture. That is where ours comes in best, it being made entirely of poplar wood.

Q. What wages do you pay moulders? A. \$8 to \$10.

Q. What do you pay machinists? A. We have no machinists. We have what we call fitters, and they make some of the stoves. Some three of our fitters who do the putting up of rod stoves will get from \$8 to \$9 a week.

Q. Have you ever had any trouble with the men, as far as wages are concerned? A. None.

Q. Are the wages of your hands fixed by yourselves or the men? A. By ourselves, my father being a practical man and knowing his business thoroughly, so that when a man comes to work he will tell him, before he hires him, to go into the shop and go to work, and when he sees him work he will say, "I will give you \$8 or \$10 a week," and if they agree that sum will be paid him.

Q. Is there a combination or organization of manufacturers on castings? A. There is none that I ever heard of.

Q. Has there ever been? A. There was an organization formed once, principally for the making of stoves. Fawcett, Robb, and some other parties, chiefly in Nova Scotia, belonged to it, but it did not stand.

Q. Were you in it? A. We did not go into it, because we were not into the manufacture of stoves at the time.

Q. What kind of coal do you use? A. For furnace smelting we use anthracite.

Q. And for other purposes? A. For the boiler we use culm coal.

Q. Is that Spring Hill coal? A. Yes; we have to pay a little more for it than some other people. Mr. Harris and the Coldbrook rolling mills get it carried over

the Intercolonial Railway for 80 cents a ton, while we have to pay \$1.45 freight for the same.

Q. Why is that? A. Because they consume more.

Q. Do you mean they are bigger customers? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think that fair? A. I do not think it is fair that because one man employs 300 or 400 men, and another man employs but fifty, that he should get his freight so much less.

Q. Have you ever made application for a lower rate to the Intercolonial Railway? A. I have, many a time.

Q. To whom? A. George Taylor, General Freight Agent, and when doing so the question would always come up as to how much coal we consumed per year, and when he found out the amount he would say. "This is your rate," naming \$1.45.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. They have a rate according to the quantity that a party takes over the rails? A. Yes; and if we use 300 tons our rate would be 80 cents.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. Have you made any application to Mr. Taylor since the Railway Commission reported? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do the stove-plate moulders work by the piece? A. We used to do so; all was piece-work at one time, and \$12 was the lowest we paid. We do not make stove-plate, as a line, at all now.

Q. What do these stove moulders receive by the week? A. Eight dollars. They are kind of rough hands.

Q. Are your men paid by the week? A. Yes; every Saturday night.

Q. Have you got a milling room in connection with your foundry? A. We have two; one at each foundry.

Q. Is that room well ventilated? A. It is shut up entirely, but the ventilation is good.

Q. Is there much dust and smoke in the shop? A. There is no smoke or dust in the foundry at all, except after casting. There is no stove to create a dust and no fire in the foundry, except in the boiler.

Q. What is the difference between men's wages of to-day and five years ago in St. John? A. In our shop the rate would be advanced; we are paying more now than then. We were paying only \$1.25 and \$1.33 formerly, while now we are paying for the same labor \$1.50 a day.

Q. Are the moulders in St. John organized? A. No.

Q. Were they ever organized? A. A little before my time I think they were. They started at one time to form themselves into a body and thought they were going to run the employers out of business, but the association did not last long. That is probably as much as thirty years ago.

Q. Has there ever been any labor trouble in connection with the moulders of St. John? A. None at all.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you know anything of the work-shops in your business in St. John outside of your own? A. I know all the moulding shops in the city. Ours is the only one that is heated by steam; I do not think the other shops are as comfortable as ours.

Q. But generally speaking they are kept warm for the workers? A. They are.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. Do these men all work ten hours a day? A. We have no foreman, no regular foreman; father does that work. He has never been out of the business, and if a man gets through his day's work at 3:30 he would be let go, and sometimes it would be 4:30 or 5 at night, but seldom later when the men finish their work. That would be when there is a large job on hand.

Q. Are your moulders all paid by the week? A. All paid every Saturday night

WILLIAM PETERS, Tanner, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are you a tanner? A. I am not in the tanning business at present; I am selling leather and carrying on a currying shop.

Q. What wages do tanners earn in St. John? A. Tanners would earn from \$6 to \$10, I should judge. I am not perhaps able to speak positively, because I am not carrying on a tanning business; but judging from my former experience, when I had men working in the shop, I would say they could earn as high as \$12—that is, a man who is a good flesher.

Q. Is the work of tanning very disagreeable in winter? A. No; mine was not, when I carried it on. I have only been out of the business a few years.

Q. Is it very cold work in winter? A. Our shop was always warm.

Q. Do not the men get wet? A. If the men are careless handling their packs they may get wet, but they generally wear over-alls to protect them.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. The work of tanning is not necessarily wet or cold? A. There is nothing of that kind in the system of tanning used at present.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What are carriers able to earn? A. My workmen—I can scarcely call them all carriers, for I have men working on tanning, rough hands—I pay from \$6 to \$12.

Q. Those are the rough, new hands? A. They are not exactly new hands, for they have been with me a good while; some of them, in fact all of my men, have been with me for a number of years. All of my hands except one have been with me for a number of years, and he has been with me off and on ever since that time. He is working with me now.

Q. How many hours a day do your hands work? A. Ten hours.

Q. Do you give them constant employment? A. A man never loses a day unless it is his own fault.

Q. Do many of the men working for you own the houses in which they live? A. I do not know about that.

Q. Do you know whether they save any money? A. One of them has. Some of them own their own houses, one of the men that is with me now has saved money, and might own his own house, but he does not.

Q. Has he a family to maintain? A. He has a wife and I think one son now, and he maintains his wife.

Q. Do you take any apprentices to learn the currying trade? A. I have; but I have none now.

Q. Do you have them indentured? A. No.

Q. How many years do they serve their time at the trade? A. The last few I had served three years.

Q. When they have finished their time do they get employment with you, or do they have to go away? A. I have one man that has been with me twenty years; he served his time with me; he is foreman of the shop.

Q. What age do boys begin to work at your business? A. I do not like to take them under eighteen years of age, for under that they are not worth much to me. We want a boy that has got some strength in him.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Is \$6 a week considered good wages for a man in your business? A. It is considered good wages for those that are getting it; I am paying it, and I know I took one man from another shop where he was getting \$4 and I raised him to \$6. I took two of them at the same time, and one of them is now able to earn \$7, and the one that was earning \$6 took umbrage at it and thought he should be paid \$7, but he is there yet.

Q. Can a man support himself comfortably on \$6 or \$7 a week? A. I do not know how comfortably, but I know a great many do so on that amount, and less.

JOHN H. PARKS, re-called and sworn.

When I was giving my testimony day before yesterday I was asked some questions in regard to the fines in our cotton mills and I was not able to answer the questions at that time, but since then I have received some information on the matter and would like to add to my testimony in that respect. It is a matter that has never attracted my attention before, although I knew that some slight fines had been imposed on the hands, so that with your permission I would beg leave to submit the following testimony. This is a report of the secretary of the company, and I know it is correct:—

I beg to make the following report in connection with the matter of fines and uncalled-for and forfeited wages in both mills owned by this company, employing on an average about 500 hands—for six months ending 1st March, 1888. In the St. John Mill I find that the fines amounted to, for the six months, for bad work, \$13.83. This is no compensation to the company, as ten times that amount would not cover the loss.

This small amount stands against these fines. They are entirely of interest to the employés, as if there were no fines for careless work the weavers would not improve in their work, and would not be in a position to earn better wages than they get at starting.

In the New Brunswick mill I find that the fines for the six months ending 1st March, 1888, amount to \$9.75. These are nearly altogether for being late. On the part of the hands paid for piece-work this is a restriction absolutely necessary.

The amount of uncalled-for and forfeited wages for the six months ending 1st March, was :—

Uncalled for.....	\$40 68
Forfeited.....	13 57
	\$54 25

The uncalled for wages remain subject to the call of the hands to whom it belongs and the forfeited wages go into the funds of the company.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What were these wages forfeited for? A. Leaving without giving the required notice.

Q. Have you a copy of the rules of the mill with you? A. I have not but, I told my manager to bring a copy with him when he comes to give his testimony. They are framed and hung up in the mill.

Q. Have you any idea what the fines amounted to for the six months previous to those that you have given us? A. I have not the slightest idea; I presume they would be small.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. I suppose your foreman could speak of that better than you? A. He could.

Q. He imposes the fines? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. When persons are discharged from the factory do they get a week's salary in advance or are they given a fortnight's notice before they are required to leave? A. Sometimes they would get a fortnight's notice and at other times they would be dismissed very promptly. If there was no particular reason for discharging them they would get a fortnight's notice, but where they were insubordinate or spoiling work they would be discharged at once.

Q. Would they receive their wages up to the time they were discharged? A. Yes.

Q. What time do you begin work in your factory? A. Half-past six in the morning.

Q. If an employé is not there at that hour what time can he get in the mill? A. He can get in any time.

Q. Would he be docked for the time he was late? A. He would.

Q. Have any of your employés ever gone to work at 5 o'clock in the morning?

Q. Sometimes, in cases of emergency, they would have to work all night, and when the shafting is being put up and some special order wanted the hands would not be able to work before the engine started, and then they would have to make up the time.

Q. Have any of the girls in your factory ever gone to work at 5 o'clock in the morning? A. I think not.

GEORGE F. THOMPSON, Paint Manufacturer, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. How many hands do you employ when in full operation? A. That depends upon the demand—sometimes five or six and sometimes ten, twelve and fifteen.

Q. About what wages do these hands receive? A. From \$1 to \$1.75 a-day.

Q. Is there any skill necessary for the work? A. No; not outside of ourselves, except, of course, we must have good mechanics to put the tins in shape; we make all our own packages—tin and iron—on the premises.

Q. What hours do they work? A. From about half-past seven to five and half-past five—it depends upon the work; if we have an order to go out we will work to six or a little after, except on Saturday, when we generally pay the hands off at half-past four.

Q. You pay once a week? A. Yes.

Q. Do you use steam-power? A. Yes.

Q. Where do you find your market—locally? A. All over these Provinces, and sometimes down in lower Quebec.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do your hands get pretty steady employment all the year round? A. Generally. About Christmas we knock off for a couple of weeks; we always have then some repairing to do and fixing up generally, but generally we keep them on all the time.

Q. Those hands receiving, say \$1.25 a day, are they able to maintain themselves comfortably, or do they come to you between pay-days and ask for an advance of pay? A. Very seldom; generally they are young men from eighteen to twenty-two, living with their own families.

Q. Have you any married men earning as little as \$1.25 a-day? A. No; they are all young men.

Q. Is there much skill required in this work? A. No; all we want is men to roll casks and fix them up; we do all the skilled work ourselves.

Q. How many hours a-day do they work? A. We are not particular; they are generally supposed to be there at seven or half-past and knock off about five; we do not dock them for a few hours, except they remain away for half a day or the like of that.

Q. What is the age of the youngest lad you have there? A. I do not think there is one under eighteen.

Q. The work is too heavy for young children? A. Yes; we never employ young children—male or female.

Q. Do you know if any of your hands own the houses in which they live? A. I do not think it; they all live with their fathers or mothers, so far as I know.

Q. Have you no married men working for you? A. No; none that I know of.

Q. Do your hands remain with you any length of time, or are they frequently changed? A. They generally hang on; we have had men for years with us; we can always pick up what hands we want; any laboring man will do us.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Where did you say you generally find your market? A. In the Maritime Provinces and lower Quebec.

Q. Is there much competition in your business in this Province? A. Yes.

Q. Is the trade increasing? A. No; we do not do anything like the trade we did before the fire; then we were working up a very large trade and we employed, between coopers—then we used wooden casks, made about ten miles from the city—I think then we had about eighteen or twenty men.

Q. What is the longest period a man has been with you in mixing paint? A. I think we have had some five, six and seven years.

Q. Do they count it a healthy business? A. Well, I do not know; some say it is not healthy; it is not, unless you are particular in washing and keeping yourself clean; I am very particular to tell the men to keep their nails and hands clean; there is plenty of hot water and soap and towels there, and I often send men away to wash themselves.

Q. What are the wages you give a good mixer of paint? A. We do not call them mixers. As I said before, we give from \$1 to \$1.75 a-day; any man can mix paints. As regards the healthiness of the business, I have been at it for about half a century myself, and it does not seem to have affected me any.

JOHN J. MUNRO, Trunk Manufacturer, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What class of trunks do you manufacture? A. All classes that are made of wood—that is, wooden boxes are used entirely by us.

Q. No leather at all? A. None whatever; we cover them with leather, and crystal and zinc, and all that kind of stuff.

Q. How many hands do you now employ? A. Six.

Q. Are those all skilled men? A. No; some are boys, some men; we bring our own men right along from the start.

Q. At what ages do you take boys? A. I suppose fifteen, or about that.

Q. How much are they able to earn when they begin work? A. We pay them \$1.50 when they start and advance them right up till they go away, when we replace them with other boys.

Q. How many years do you consider they have to work before they become skilled? A. I cannot say; some serve one year and others three and six, and again others will learn quicker.

Q. How much would skilled hands receive? A. Nine dollars is what we pay.

Q. How many hours do you work? A. Ten—from seven to six, and to five on Saturday.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. Every Saturday.

Q. In cash? A. In cash.

Q. And in full? A. And in full. They never go home without their money.

Q. Do you know any of your hands who have purchased homes for themselves? A. None while they have been with me.

Q. Is it your opinion that a married man with a family to maintain can save money on \$9 a week? A. I do not think he can; I think he can live comfortably if he attends to his business. We work all the year round, except about Christmas, when we take stock, and perhaps through the winter we make three-quarter time, but a man never loses an hour except that, on our account; they may lose time themselves, but there is the work for them.

Q. Do you pay extra for night-work? A. Some little; sometimes we pay double at times, but always something for night-work.

Q. Where do you sell your trunks mostly? A. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; we shipped some to Newfoundland this year.

Q. Do you send any further west than New Brunswick? A. No.

Q. Has the trade increased? A. We find it increasing—never had so many orders as this year. We travel for our business; we are on the road.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you import any of your materials? A. Yes.

Q. Such as zinc or crystal? A. We do our own crystalizing.

Q. What portion do you import? A. We import our hardware from the States. The Government charges us 5 per cent. more on our raw materials than they do on the manufactured trunks coming in the market; we pay nearly 5 per cent. more on all our hardware.

Q. Do you think that is handicapping the trunk industry? A. I think it is taxing it unnecessarily—certainly I do.

Q. Are none of these goods manufactured in Canada that you import? A. There are some of the goods made in Canada.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What is the duty on hardware? A. It is 35 per cent.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Are there many American trunks coming in? A. None at all.

Q. Do you think the Canadian-made article as good as the American? A. I hardly think it is, generally speaking, but the difference is very slight. I think the Americans have a better show than we have.

Q. Can you not get your hardware for the manufacture of trunks made in Canada? A. Very little, we can some things; our locks come from the United States.

Q. What do you import? A. Locks, clamps, rolls and all that sort of thing—There are some rolls made in Montreal; we will probably get some from there; some we got were not so good as the American; most of our lining papers come from the States; some we got from Montreal but they do not make the stamped paper there, and they told me there last January that they got theirs from the States.

Q. Have you any girls employed? A. We employ no female labor whatever.

Q. Have you got any competition in this Province? A. Yes; tolerably so, but not to any great extent; the competition is with Montreal and Toronto—Clarks' people there have a large factory; there are two other factories in Montreal as well.

Q. Have the wages of journeymen increased of late? A. No; the boys as they grow up are increased, in their wages. When we began full time three weeks ago we advanced the boys' wages.

Q. How long would a boy have to serve before you considered him a competent journeyman? A. A boy in three months will make some classes of trunks and again it will take him three years; there is a great deal in the boy himself.

Q. You do not manufacture valises? A. No; we used to, but the satchels are what we make now; the valises, in the style we used to make them, have all gone out now. Our boxes are made at Hampton as we make none of our own boxes; we just finish them.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. You say that you think the American trunks are better than yours? A. I think they are got up nicer than ours; I do not say there is a great deal of difference but they have handsomer trunks there than we have here.

Q. You say that the materials used are imported from the States? A. Yes.

Q. Why are not the trunks made here as good? A. They are bringing better prices there than here; that is one thing.

Q. You do not acknowledge that our workmen are less handy? A. We do as good work as they can; there are men there who learned with me doing as well as any body in the States. I think it is very unfair for the Government to tax us more on the raw material than on the manufactured article.

GEORGE MUNRO, Trunk-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. You work in the factory of the last witness? A. Yes ; as a journeyman.

Q. You heard the testimony given by Mr. Munro? A. Yes.

Q. Are you able to substantiate it all? A. Yes; with the exception of his remarks as to the quality of the trunks.

Q. What exception do you take to that? A. I think we can make as good trunks as they can in the States, if not better.

Q. Does that apply to the appearance of the trunks, or only to their quality?
A. It is all a matter of taste, I think.

Q. So far as the substantiality of the trunks goes, you think ours are better? A. I think so.

Q. Have you worked in the United States? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know anything about this trunk hardware? A. No.

Q. Is trunk-making a trade by itself? A. Yes.

Q. An unskilled workman would not be able to work at it? A. No.

Q. He requires to serve his time, the same as at any other trade? A. Yes.

Q. How many hours do you work? A. Ten—nine on Saturdays.

Q. Have you any thing to add to the testimony which has been given? A. Nothing.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do you consider \$9 a week the average wages for a good journeyman? A. I have to consider it so.

Q. Do you consider it the average? A. I do not know, I am sure ; I am only speaking for myself—I can't average for any body.

Q. Do you consider the trunk-makers in St. John remunerated sufficiently for their labor? A. I don't know what others get.

JACOB S. CLARKE, Foreman *Globe* Office, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. How many hands are in the composing room? A. We have thirteen or fourteen.

Q. How many of these are journeymen? A. There are eleven.

Q. Is there any restriction imposed upon you by the Typographical Union as to the number of apprentices who shall be employed? I think there is; I am not positive.

Q. Do you know what the number is? A. I think they allow three to fifteen men; I would not be positive about that.

Q. What is the scale of prices for composition on evening papers? A. Ten dollars a week here.

Q. How much per thousand? A. We do not work by the thousand.

Q. Do you know if there is a fixed rate per thousand? A. I do not know whether there is or not.

Q. You do not know what you would be expected to pay if you had to employ your hands by the piece? A. I should think about 28 or 30 cents.

Q. What is the price on morning papers? Q. Thirty, I think.

Q. You would not calculate to pay the same price? A. It is generally a couple of cents less on an evening paper.

Q. Do you have any extra hands in case one should be off work, or do they employ substitutes for themselves? A. They employ them for themselves; we keep none in the office.

Q. You simply pay a weekly salary to the frame? A. Yes.

Q. Have you had any troubles in the office? A. We had some last fall.

Q. What was the cause of that trouble? A. I do not know; I never had any

official notice of it or intimation of it ; I heard it was on account of a man they wanted sent out of the office—that is the reason our men left.

Q. Were you foreman at that time ? A. I was.

Q. Did they not notify you ? A. I did not get any notice from the union.

Q. Did you get notice from the men in the office ? A. I heard the men talking of it ; I did not get formal notice.

Q. Do you know if they gave formal notice to any body ? A. I do not.

Q. So far as you were concerned, did they simply put on their coats and leave the office ? A. That is all.

Q. How long did they remain out ? A. They went out about ten o'clock Monday morning and came in on Wednesday morning.

Q. Were you able to get your paper out in the mean time ? A. Yes ; they did not all go out.

Q. Was the man discharged, as they demanded ? A. No; he is there yet.

Q. On what terms did the men return to work ? A. On the best terms they could make.

Q. Had any new hands been taken on in the meantime ? A. Yes.

Q. Were they dismissed to make room for the old hands ? A. No.

Q. Were all the old hands replaced ? A. No.

Q. Has everything been amicable since that time ? A. It has.

Q. Was there any change made in the wages ? A. No.

Q. Was there any change in the organization ? A. No ; they all came back into their places just as before they went out ; that is the terms that were come to, but the first negotiations were to make the best terms they could.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. You agreed to let by-gones be by-gones ? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. There is now a very good understanding between employers and employed ?
A. Yes.

Q. Are all the men in the office union hands now ? A. I do not know.

Q. Do you exact any pledge from any man that he will not belong any union ?
A. No ; nothing of the kind.

Q. How frequently are the hands paid ? A. Every week.

Q. In cash ? A. In cash.

Q. And in full ? A. In full.

Q. Do you ever have any night work ? A. Sometimes we have an extra amount of work and then ask the men to come back and work for two or three hours, but we have not now for a long while.

Q. Do they get any extra pay for night-work ? A. The custom has been 25 cents an hour.

Q. They are good, steady men ? A. Yes; the best men in the city.

Q. Do you know anything about the job office ? A. No; I have not anything to do with it.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. At the time of the labor troubles did all the men leave ? A. All the union men ?

Q. Yes ? A. They all left, except myself.

Q. Did any of the men remain or did all leave ? A. Two or three apprentices and myself remained. We took on three men while the others were out.

Q. With the apprentices and three men did you get out the paper as good as before the difficulty ? A. I could hardly answer that.

Q. You got the paper out ? A. Yes.

Q. Did you use plates considerably at the time ? A. We used no plates at all then.

Q. Had the issue as much reading matter? A. I guess it had.

Q. Do you belong to the Typographical Union? A. Yes.

Q. Was the strike a universal strike over the city or only an office affair? A. No; I understood there was a strike in the *Sun* office and the *Globe* office; that is all; it was not a general strike.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. Did I understand you to say that before the strike you did not use plates?

A. Yes.

Q. Are you using them now? A. We have used about sixty columns this winter.

Q. Was there an understanding with the men that the concern could use plates?

A. There was no such understanding.

Q. Were they given to understand that in future they would be used? A. No; they were not.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. When the men are paid by the week are they required to set up a number of thousand for a day's work? A. No; they must do the best they can.

JOHN C. KEY, Printer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. You heard the testimony of the last witness? A. Yes.

Q. Do you agree with it? A. Partly.

Q. What part do you not agree with? A. That part about the strike. I thought that the foreman understood the difficulty in our office when we left the office, or certainly we should have notified him; it appears that Mr. Ellis was not notified.

Q. Were the proprietors or the foreman not notified? A. It appears not; he says he was not notified officially of the fact.

Q. Was the difficulty the same in your office as in the *Sun*? A. It arose out of the difficulty in the *Sun*.

Q. It commenced there first? A. Yes.

Q. What was the reason it spread to your office? A. We had a man employed in our office and he went to work in the *Sun*, and we thought he was interfering with the men there.

Q. And that created an ill-feeling with the men in the *Globe* office? A. Yes; we naturally sympathized with our brothers, the union men.

Q. Would you prefer to see an evening paper worked by the piece or by day's work? A. It would be the fairer way all the way round, and the men would get then what they earned.

Q. Which is the fairest way—day or piece-work? A. To work by the piece.

Q. What is your reason for saying that? A. Take two men getting \$10 a week: one of these might be able to earn \$12 by working piece work—

Q. And still not get it by working day-work? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. And another man would get \$10 who was only worth \$8? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Is there an evening scale? A. Yes.

Q. What is it? A. Twenty-five cents on evening papers and 28 cents for book work.

Q. Would the men in your composing room earn more wages by the piece at 25 cents than \$10 a week? A. I could not answer that.

Q. I suppose as you are paid by the week it is a matter of indifference whether you get any fat matter or not? A. No; it is all the same for us.

Q. Is there a good feeling existing between employers and employed? A. There is.

Q. Were the printers of St. John receiving more wages some years ago than they are now? A. Less, I think, some years ago; it is only a little over a year ago that the scale was advanced from 28 cents on morning papers and from \$9 to \$10 for evening work—that is, day-work.

Q. Do many printers, after serving their time, remain here? A. I could not say many; there is a tendency amongst them to go west as soon as they are out of their time, and they look forward to that.

Q. How long do they serve? A. They are supposed to serve five years.

Q. Both in news and job rooms? A. I think so; I know nothing about job work—it is on a newspaper I am.

Q. Do the men, on the whole, prefer the indenture system with apprentices? A. That question has not been discussed much around here.

Q. Do many outside printers come in? A. Occasionally we get some.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Do your brother printers ever discuss any way to avoid strikes, whether it could not be done by arbitration, or anything of that kind? A. That is the plan we favor most—arbitration.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. The last strike was settled between the employers and employed—there was no intervention of third parties? A. No; there was no third party; we settled amongst ourselves.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. It is a rule in your union to resort to arbitration before you go to extreme measures? A. I do not know whether it has been done; we have not had occasion to strike—everything has gone along smoothly.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. You were successful last time in settling with the employer? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Are there any benefits in connection with your society? A. Sick benefits and death benefits.

Q. All out of monthly dues? A. No; at death there is an assessment.

EDWARD LAWLOR, Stone-cutter, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. In what class of stone-cutting are you employed? A. Monumental.

Q. Is it altogether indoor work? A. No; it is not altogether that, in so far as we may have to go to the cemetery to put up stones, for which we take fine days.

Q. But is the stone-cutting done inside? A. No; not altogether—in summer time we work outside. There are three branches in the States, but these are worked here altogether—freestone, marble and granite. The apprentices here learn the three. For building work they use freestone.

Q. Do the men who do the plain work also do the lettering? A. No; it is generally one man who does that.

Q. And the ornamental and carving? A. That is the marble-cutter who does that.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Monumental, ten; building, nine.

Q. What are the wages paid skilled hands? A. On average building work \$3 for nine hours, and in winter 25 cents an hour, or about an average of \$2.50 a day.

Q. And the men on monumental work? A. They get about \$2.50; they get steadier work; they work about ten or eleven months in the year.

Q. The best hands, such as those who do the best carving, and so on, what would they receive? A. They would be marble-cutters; they would receive \$500 a year; they are generally hired by the year.

Q. What about polishing? A. The polishing is done by men, who only require about six months to get into it.

Q. What wages do they receive? A. About \$1 a day—that is, right through.

Q. How frequently are you paid? Every two weeks.

Q. Have you ever asked for more frequent payments? A. No; we have a society here and that is what we agreed upon.

Q. You think that reasonable? A. Yes; it was brought up in the society and was thought reasonable.

Q. Would you not rather be paid every week? A. No; some are paid weekly.

Q. Do you know if the men ask advances between pay-days? A. No.

Q. Do you know of any of the men owning houses in which they live? A. There are a few.

Q. Do you think a man can maintain a family and save money to pay for a house? A. He may if he lived a couple hundred years; the general thing in this country is that the cold weather stops them considerably.

Q. Are apprentices frequently taken in this business? A. Two generally in each shop. The boss, if he has a son, can send him in as well.

Q. Is there a limit imposed by the society on the number of apprentices. A. Yes; two.

Q. There is a society in St. John? A. Yes.

Q. Are those two apprentices allowed in each shop, irrespective of the number of men employed? A. If there were forty men there are no more allowed than if there was five.

Q. How long do apprentices serve? A. Four years.

Q. What do they receive when they begin work? A. One dollar a week.

Q. And how rapidly does that increase? A. The second year they receive \$2, the third year \$3, and \$4 the fourth year.

Q. Do the boys who learn their trade in St. John generally remain here? A. In the granite work they do; the free-stoners generally go to the States.

Q. Do they understand that they can earn higher wages in the States than here? A. Yes.

Q. Those who go to the States, do they generally remain there or return to St. John? They may return during the winter, for in the United States the work generally goes out at Christmas, and if they have relations they come here.

Q. Have you had any labor difficulties here? A. Not the last two or three years.

Q. You get along reasonably well with your employers? A. Yes.

Q. You have a kindly feeling towards each other? A. Yes.

Q. If any difficulty should arise, would you try to settle it by strike, or by conciliation or arbitration, or between yourselves and your employers? A. We would not strike until the terms were settled upon; but there would not be any of that on monumental work.

Q. You would not strike on that? A. No; the average man they try to keep.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you think that if a difficulty did arise you could settle it with the employer? A. We think we could.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Did you ever live in the United States? A. No.

Q. You do not know whether these men could live cheaper in the States than here? A. I do not think it would be any cheaper; they have considerably more wages, but I do not know if they live cheaper. Wages there are by piece-work.

Q. Is your society a local one or is it connected with the society in the States? A. It was connected with the States, but now it is not—that is, in building work;

there is no society for monumental work; you would take your card, if you went from here to the States, and get in there for \$5, but if you took no card it would cost you \$20, and if they come from Boston they would not take you without a card.

Mr. CLARKE.—A kind of ticket-of-leave.

Q. Are you a married man? A. No.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. They find it to be a very honorable ticket-of-leave? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any benefit connected with the society? A. No; I don't know that there is any benefit.

Q. Has the formation of your society here been the means of keeping up wages? A. Yes; it has.

Q. You believe you would not be receiving the same wages as you now, do if your society was not in existence? A. Well, I want you to understand that in monumental work the society has nothing whatever to do; the society has only to do with the work in one or two months in the year. The building work done in St. John would not keep a couple of men, but say there was a building going up like this Custom-house, then the society would come in blooming and you would get \$3 or \$4 a day while it was going up.

JOHN C. THOMAS, Caulker, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Is there much work done in caulking in St. John now-a-days? A. Not so much.

Q. Is there any new work or repairing of old vessels? A. This summer, when the snow goes off, you will see the grass growing where ships used to be built.

Q. Are there many caulkers employed here? A. There may be half a dozen to-day.

Q. What wages do they receive? A. Two dollars and fifty cents.

Q. About how much employment do you get in the course of a year? A. Well, \$300 is about it. Supposing I give you a statement, and then you can average it for yourself, and this is for twenty-three years.

(The following is the statement handed in) :—

1865 amount for year.....	\$270 55
1866.....	311 70
1867 (perhaps not quite correct).....	220 00
1868.....	230 85
1869.....	320 05
1870.....	337 57
1871.....	382 16
1872.....	432 25
1873.....	458 85
1874.....	290 86
1875.....	372 58
1876.....	340 65
1877.....	413 25
1878.....	255 25
1879.....	245 50
1880.....	374 50
1881.....	454 46
1882.....	471 52
1883.....	415 38
1884.....	302 98
1885.....	427 46
1886.....	319 23
1887.....	377 08

Q. Would these be fair, average earnings of a caulker here? A. Yes.

Q. Did the depression begin in 1865? A. Yes.

Q. How many hours a day do caulkers work? A. Nine.

Q. I suppose not many apprentices are being taken at the work now? A. No.

Q. There is no encouragement for them to learn that business? A. No; and it don't offer any.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. All the steamers are of iron now? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any wooden steamers here now? A. About one.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are caulkers able to find other employment at skilled labor? A. Some of them can; some of them fish, and some—but very few—can do other work; he may be a block-maker or a carpenter, but as a general rule nobody wants to hire them. There is plenty of labor; I have never done anything else all my time.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Has the demand for caulkers been dropping off the past few years? A. Well, there ain't quite as many of them; there are not many of them wanted, only by spells.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. They disappeared as the iron shipping came in? A. A great many caulkers have left us; some have died and others have gone away.

Q. Since the building of ships of iron the number of caulkers has decreased? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. That is, the supplanting of sailing vessels by steam has had a tendency to do away with caulkers? A. It has a tendency to do away with wooden ships, and of course has a tendency to hurt us.

Q. Do you think caulkers are sufficiently paid for their labor? A. No; we don't get the amount of wages. You can see the wages there for a year, and if a man has to raise a family on that he has to scratch; I have done it for a good many years. You have to be sober, industrious, and so on, and at it all the time you can get.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is there any difference in the payment for new and for old work? A. No; there might have been along in the first, but not of late.

Q. Do you work tide-work at night? A. Yes; sometimes, just as the case requires.

Q. Are wages the same at night as in the day? A. If we work tide-work at night, as a general rule, we get double time. We get double-time meal hours or after hours.

Q. Are the caulkers organized at all? A. They are. (Witness produces Act of incorporation, showing them to have been incorporated in 1866.)

Q. The wages that are fixed now—how long have they been at that standard? A. I do not know exactly; I guess some eight or ten years. Since I have been in it there have been rises from \$1.60 to \$2.50.

Q. How are the wages fixed—by the men, or how? A. By ourselves.

Q. Did the caulkers strike in order to get it, or how was it arrived at? A. I most forget now whether we struck or not, but if we did strike it did not amount to much.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is there that much good feeling between employed and employer that you could settle among yourselves? A. They may hang off for a day or two, but it don't amount to much.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Would the presence of a dry-dock be of any benefit to ship-carpenters and caulkers? A. It might. I have hardly weighed the matter enough in my mind to give an answer, but there is many a small vessel could be done in a small dock; but I do not know what it would cost to put one on, but if we had employment I would sooner work dry than wet; still, we ought to have one.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do many of the caulkers own the houses they live in? A. I think they are scarce; I do not think those figures will give any man a house; there might be one or two here and there.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. About what is the cost of a tenement for a year? A. I suppose about \$50 now—that is what it is where I reside. When I was a boy we could get a house like that for—pounds it was then—£6, £8, £9 or £10; that would be \$24, \$32, \$36 and \$40 a year; there are not so many of them now as there used to be.

Q. How many rooms can you get now for \$50 a year? A. I have three rooms and three sleeping rooms, but there is no water in.

Q. Would that be in a healthy locality? A. Well, it is not too bad—it might be a little better; it is at the foot of King street. It would not be so healthy if it was not for the spring tides coming in there, which cleanses it out.

JOHN HASLAM, Caulker, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. You heard the evidence of Mr. Thomas? A. Yes.

Q. Do you corroborate him? A. Yes; it is correct, as far as I know.

Q. Is there anything you wish to add to it? A. No; I do not think I could add to it in any way.

DAVID FOOHEY, Soap-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How many men are employed in your establishment? A. Generally three; sometimes four.

Q. Is there much time required to learn the business? A. Yes; quite considerable to learn the principal part of it.

Q. What can a good man earn? A. I can hardly tell you that; he may earn \$15 a week—a foreman, or something like that.

Q. Are many of the men employed there unskilled? A. Yes; a great many.

Q. What do they earn? A. Seven dollars a week.

Q. Do you think a man who has a family to maintain can live in comfort on \$7 dollars a week? A. Not very well; he can only try to do it.

Q. Do many boys go to learn this business? A. No; hardly any just now.

Q. How many hours a day do they work? A. Generally ten hours.

Q. How frequently are you paid? A. Once a week.

Q. In cash? A. In cash.

Q. And in full? A. And in full.

Q. Are the boxes made in the establishment? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know what the men who make the boxes receive? A. The men who work at the soap make them, too; sometimes we are not busy, and do them; they are all ready, only to nail them together.

Q. Do they get constant employment all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. Is the shop reasonably comfortable all the winter? A. Yes.

Q. Is it ventilated in the summer? A. Yes; well ventilated.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles there? A. None at all.

Q. Get along comfortably with your employer? A. Yes; I have been there twelve or fifteen years.

Q. What class of houses can men afford to live in who earn \$7 a week? A. A very poor class of house.

Q. How many rooms would they have? A. Three rooms, I suppose, such as they would be—that is, a kitchen and two bed-rooms.

Q. Would they be small rooms at that? A. Yes; very small rooms.

Q. What rent would they pay for such rooms? A. From £9 to £10—maybe some £8—according to where they were and what kind of rooms they would be.

Q. That is from \$36 to \$40 a year? A. Yes.

Q. What conveniences would there be? A. There would be no water or anything of convenience into it.

Q. What kind of locality would these tenements be in? A. The locality would be pretty good but the rooms would be small.

Q. Would they be in good repair? A. Yes; pretty good repair.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. What tax have you to pay to the city to live in those houses? A. \$7 or \$7.25.

Q. You have no water at that rate—they do not furnish you with water? A. No.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you get water from wells? A. No; we generally get water in the factory or around; the water would not be in the rooms but you can get it around.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Are you taxed upon your whole income? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the weekly wages of a soap-boiler? A. I suppose about \$15 a week, or something like that.

Q. Are there any in St. John who earn \$20? A. I heard there is one.

Q. Only one? A. Yes.

Miss NIXON, Brush-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARK :—

Q. How long have been working at this business? A. Eleven years.

Q. In St. John? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do brush-makers receive—that is, those doing the same kind of work as you are engaged in? A. The work I am engaged in is piece-work and it depends upon the smartness of herself what she makes; I can make from \$3 to \$5 a week, and I have made as high as \$8 a week.

A. About what would be an average? A. I suppose about \$3, \$4 or \$4.50, up to \$5; they can make that.

Q. Are there many employed in the same room as you are? A. Fourteen girls. That is the staff of females in the factory.

Q. Is the room healthy—well ventilated? A. Yes.

Q. Comfortable in winter? A. Yes.

Q. Are the conveniences all that are desired for females? A. Yes; all that can be required for both sexes, male and female.

Q. Are there any children employed? A. Well, I do not know what you would call children.

Q. Young people, then? A. There are boys fourteen and fifteen.

Q. Are there any girls? A. Yes; a girl of fourteen.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. From 8.30 to 5.30.
- Q. You are not particularly tied to any hours? A. No; we are not; on account of doing piece-work we have our own time.
- Q. Are any of the young ladies employed by the week? A. No.
- Q. All by the piece? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you get constant employment all through the year? A. Yes.
- Q. The factory is not idle any considerable time? A. Since I have been there I have not been idle six weeks at a time.
- Q. Are you ever required to work at night? A. No; never.
- Q. How frequently are you paid? A. Every Saturday.
- Q. In full? A. Yes; in full.
- Q. And in cash? A. In cash.
- Q. Is there any system of fines for imperfect work, or anything of that sort? A. No.
- Q. Say a girl of fourteen or fifteen—when she begins first how much would she receive? A. Whatever she could make; it is piece-work, you know.
- Q. At first, do you go to work at piece-work? A. Yes; she makes for herself at piece-work.
- Q. How long would a girl work before she would be considered expert at it? A. I do not know; she might be four weeks; she might be three months—it depends upon her smartness.
- Q. Then she would be considered a skilled hand? A. In some branches she might, but not in all.
- Q. Are there many young ladies applying for this situation, or is there a difficulty in getting as many as are wanted? A. Sometimes we find it hard to get girls and sometimes we can get quite a number.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q. How many branches of the brush business are there? A. Two only.
- Q. Do the young ladies remain at the one branch of the business or do they change over to the other? A. No; the drawers draw all the time; I am a pitcher, and I pitch all the time.
- Q. Have wages increased the past few years? A. Yes; they have since I went there first.
- Q. What would a young woman pay for board in St. John—good, substantial board? A. I suppose she would pay from \$3.50 to \$4 a week—that is, outside of a private family; I suppose she would get her board cheaper in a private family—she would only have to pay \$2.50.
- Q. Earning only \$3.50 or \$4 a week, then they would not have much money for themselves? A. No; I do not suppose they would, but most of the girls have their own homes, and those who have no parents have sisters to live with, and as far as I can judge they live comfortably here.

G. FRED. FISHER (G. F. Fisher & Sons, Roofers &c.), called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. Are you a roofer? A. Yes; of the firm of Fisher & Sons.
- Q. What classes of roofing do you put on houses? A. We put on gravel roofing. We sometimes put on temporary roofing.
- Q. Is that a large industry in the city of St. John at present? A. Quite large.
- Q. Are there any firms engaged in the business besides you? A. There are at least three others.
- Q. Can you give us an idea of the number of men employed in that industry in the city? A. We employ on an average ten to twelve men and the others would employ altogether fifteen to eighteen.

Q. Do the men require much skill to work at your business? A. Some of them require skill—at least one man in each gang.

Q. What would a skilled man earn? A. The best men can earn about \$8 a week.

Q. How many weeks could he earn that in a year? A. About eight months in a year.

Q. How much do unskilled men earn? A. One dollar and twenty-five cents a day. We sometimes pay them higher wages; we do when doing extra work.

Q. Do these men find any employment during the winter, when there is no work at roofing? A. They do, in the woods and on the streets.

Q. And even then they have a pretty hard struggle to live? A. Yes.

Q. Is the occupation of roofing dangerous? A. We do not consider it so.

Q. Have your men met with any dangerous accidents of late years? A. Not lately; when I say lately I mean this year. We had one accident last year, when a man spilled some hot pitch on his hands, and he was laid up for some weeks. We have only had one serious accident happen to a man within my recollection.

Q. The roof where you work being flat, or nearly so, there is not danger of your men slipping or falling off? A. Usually there is not, but sometimes a roof is pretty steep, and when putting on temporary gravel roofs the men have, in some cases, to use rubbers, in order to walk on them, but not often.

Q. Do you provide scaffolding for the men in those cases so that the danger may be reduced to a minimum? A. In any roof we have worked on we have not found it necessary to provide scaffolding for the men to work.

Q. Do you take any apprentices in your business? A. No.

Q. When the men begin to work, do you take up unskilled laborers? A. We recruit with or take up unskilled laborers.

Q. And in course of time they become skilled? A. To some extent they do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do the men who do the roofing put up their own gear and tackle? A. The foreman looks after that.

Q. Is it tested before the material is put up? A. No special test is made. We know from experience what is needed to make it safe, and we usually look after it to see if it is safe.

Q. How long would it take to become a first-class worker? A. One man might learn it fairly well in a few weeks and another man might never learn it. We also manufacture roofing felt and tarred paper, and in that respect the freights on the Intercolonial Railway are against us.

Q. In what way? A. The rates to Halifax are the same from Montreal as to here—25 cents—and so we are not, in consequence of that discrimination, able to send our goods to Nova Scotia to any great extent.

Q. Is this a growing industry with you? A. It is nearly stationary with us, because we cannot send our goods to any great distance.

Q. Are you able to send any of your goods to Quebec? A. Not to any great extent.

Q. If you had more favorable rates to Halifax could you send a considerable quantity of goods there? A. We could send some goods there; I do not know what quantity.

Q. Have you ample supplies of tar here for the making of this tarred paper and felting? A. Our supply is rather short.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Where do you get your tar? A. We get it from the local gas-works.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Have you any other sources to get it from? A. We draw it from outside sources also.

A—10½*

Q. Of what material is the felt made? A. Wall paper—paper made from woollen rags.

Q. Where is the felt made? A. It is made in this Province, at the Penobsquis mill.

Q. Is this felt wholly of Canadian manufacture? Yes.

Q. Is the same true of tarred paper? A. The tarred paper is this felt saturated; it is a secondary manufacture of it.

STERLING B. LORDLY, Furniture Manufacturer, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What branch of the business do you follow? A. I have charge of Lordly & Sons' factory.

Q. Do you superintend the cabinet-making, upholstering, and all parts? A. No; only the manufacturing—that is, getting out the stock and seeing to the manufacture.

Q. The wood-work? A. Yes.

Q. What do skilled hands in your factory receive per week? A. The best men \$10 to \$12; an average would be \$7 to \$10.

Q. What would be the lowest wages to a mechanic? A. About \$7 is the lowest we pay any journeyman.

Q. You do pay some as low as \$7? A. One man; he is hardly out of his time; you can hardly consider him a journeyman.

Q. Are those men employed the year round? A. Yes.

Q. How many hours do they work? A. Ten hours five days a week; nine on Saturday. We work fifty-nine hours, but count it as sixty—that is, we give them an hour on Saturday.

Q. How frequently are they paid? A. Once a week, generally.

Q. Are they paid in full? A. In full in summer, and in winter they probably draw 20 per cent. less.

Q. Do they not require as much money in winter as they do in summer? A. Yes; but business will hardly warrant paying the men in full; still, when the spring opens the men are paid up.

Q. Does stock accumulate in winter? A. Yes.

Q. Are many apprentices taken at this business? A. We have three in the wood department and three or four, I think, in the upholstering and painting departments.

Q. What do they receive the first year? A. One dollar and fifty cents, and 50 cents raise every year for five years. At the end of five years wood-workers get a bonus of \$25 or \$30, according to arrangement.

Q. Do they generally remain with you when they finish their time? A. With very few exceptions; I think we have lost two apprentices that way.

Q. Do you know if any of the hands in the factory own the houses in which they live? A. I cannot say as to that, from my own knowledge.

Q. You think none own houses? A. Yes.

Q. Have there been any labor troubles in the factory? A. None; they have no labor organization.

Q. The hands get along amicably with their employers? A. Very nicely, indeed.

Q. Do you ever have any night-work? A. We have worked night-work three months this present year—from November to January.

Q. Are extra rates of wages paid for night-work? A. Journeymen get 20 cents and our boys about 10 cents an hour.

DANIEL DOYLE, Plumber and Gas-fitter, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are there many men employed in your trade in St. John? A. I could not say how many there are; there are quite a lot of them.

Q. What wages will a skilled plumber or gas-fitter generally receive? A. \$9 to \$10 a week.

Q. How many hours a day? A. They generally work ten hours a day—nine on Saturday.

Q. Do you get pretty constant employment all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. Do you get the same rate of pay whether you work in the shop or not? A. There is very little work to be done in the shop—it is all out.

Q. Are the places in which you work generally comfortable, or otherwise? A. They are not; you have to crawl in under houses, and every other place—anything but comfortable.

Q. Are you compelled to work outside in the winter time? A. Yes; in yards, mud-holes and everything of that kind; we have to take it as it comes.

Q. How frequently are you paid? A. Every Saturday.

Q. In full? A. Yes.

Q. In cash? A. Yes.

Q. Are many apprentices taken at your trade? A. There are very few now; in our place there is one.

Q. You have helpers not apprentices? A. No.

Q. When a man wants helpers he has the apprentice to help him? A. Yes.

Q. Is there a surplus of hands in St. John for the work there is to do? A. There are too many; the way of it is, that if you get out of a job you have to go away.

Q. Have the plumbers a union? A. No.

Q. How are the rates of wages fixed—do you have to take what the employers offer you? A. You have to take what you can get.

Q. Do you ever have night-work to do? A. For myself—not for the shop.

Q. You do it for yourself? A. I do little jobs at night for myself.

Q. You are permitted to take this on your own account? A. Yes.

Q. Do your employers know you do it? A. Yes.

Q. They do not object? A. No.

Q. Is there a friendly feeling between employers and employed? A. Yes.

Q. You get along comfortably? A. Yes; first-rate.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What are the weekly wages of steam-fitters? A. About \$9 to \$12 a week.

Q. The same wages as plumbers and gas-fitters? A. Yes.

Q. How long do boys serve at the business? A. Three to five years.

Q. Are they indentured—is there a written agreement passed between the employer and them? A. No.

Q. Do you think plumbers are receiving sufficient wages for their labor? A. I think about little enough for them.

Q. They have to take what wages are offered them? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think they would be able to do better if they were organized? A. I don't know; I never gave it a thought.

Q. Do the men work for the same amount of wages in summer as in winter? A. Yes; there is more work in winter than in the summer.

JOSEPH RYDER, Blacksmith, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What can a good blacksmith earn in St. John—about what would be a fair average? A. The average would be from \$1.75 to \$2.

Q. Are they pretty constantly employed all the year round? A. Some are—some not.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Does it depend upon the work or the man? A. A little of both.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. How many hours a day do they work? A. Ten.

Q. Are the shops comfortable? A. They are generally comfortable.

Q. Pretty cold work in winter, is it not? A. If you have an outside job it may be cool, but generally we are warm enough in the shop in winter.

Q. Are there many apprentices taken at blacksmithing? A. Not any; I think there are not more than two or three apprentices in the city.

Q. Are there many blacksmiths who own the houses they live in? A. I do not think there is more than one or two of them.

Q. How frequently are blacksmiths paid, as a rule? A. Once a week, generally.

Q. In full? A. In full, generally speaking; I have been in their employ for over seven and a-half years, and I have been, but one Saturday night when I went away without being paid in full, that I remember of.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Are you a carriage blacksmith or a horse-shoer? A. I was a ship blacksmith in the start, a horse-shoer, too; I served my time in the States.

Q. What would be the wages of a blacksmith's helper? A. About \$1.25; some are down as low as \$1.10; others would be up, perhaps, to \$1.30; about \$1.25 I should judge, on an average.

Q. Have the wages increased of late? A. No.

Q. Decreased? A. Well, they stand about the one thing for the last two or three years; there is nothing to increase them; ship-building is done, and that was my former trade; I work now at axle-making.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—While wooden ship-building was going on was there a good deal of work in the blacksmith line here? A. Yes.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. The shoes used now for shoeing horses—are they made in the factory or are they imported? A. I do not shoe horses now.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. The shoes generally used in St. John—are they imported generally? A. Yes; that is, most of them are. There are two or three horse shoers who turn their own shoes now, but outside of that I think the balance is imported.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you imagine a machine-made shoe is as good as a hand-made shoe? A. It is all owing to what kind of a man makes it.

Q. Do you think a machine-made nail is as good as a nail made by hand? A. I think it is better; I have seen shoes made by hand, and thought it was a poor machine that would not turn out as good a shoe.

JOHN SULLIVAN, Brush-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is much skill required in this business? A. Yes; there is a certain amount of skill required.

Q. How many years would a boy serve in learning it? A. From three to five.

Q. What can a good journeyman earn? A. From \$10, \$12 and \$15 a week.

Q. Is there much employment in St. John? A. There is considerable now.

Q. Do you get constant employment all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. How frequently are you paid? A. Once a week.

Q. Do you know if there are any brush-makers who own the houses they live in?
A. I know of none, except the boss himself.

Q. Have there been any labor troubles here in your business? A. Never.

Q. A good understanding exists between the employer and the employed? A. Yes; always.

Q. What would be the ages of the boys who go to work to learn the business?

A. I imagine between twelve and fourteen.

Q. Have you known any as young as twelve? A. I do not think I have; they are generally about fourteen.

Q. Is the trade increasing or otherwise? A. It is increasing every year.

Q. What classes of brushes do you make? A. All kinds—paint, whitewash and all painters' brushes.

Q. Do you know whether the materials are imported or produced in this country?

A. They are imported; mostly everything we use is.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Have you to pay duty on what is imported? A. The raw material comes in free. My boss desired me to say that he employs sixty hands—T. & S. Sims & Co.

JOHN KANE, Stone-cutter, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you approve substantially of what Mr. Lawlor said? A. I do.

Q. Have you anything to add to his testimony? A. I do not think there is anything I can add to it.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What are the wages of a granite-cutter and marble-cutter? A. They average from \$2 to \$2.50 a-day on monumental work; on building work—\$3 in summer time; in winter there is no building done.

Q. And what rate the polishers? A. One dollar a day.

HENRY BUCHANAN, Compositor, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you work on a morning or evening paper? A. Evening.

Q. You heard the testimony given by the foreman of the *Globe* office to-night?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you approve of it substantially? A. Not all through.

Q. In what respect do you differ from the statement made by that witness? A. With reference to the price of composition and with reference to the strike.

Q. What is the price of composition on evening papers? A. Twenty-five cents.

Q. Do you know if any of the men work by the piece—the thousand? A. Not on the evening paper.

Q. Would you prefer to work by the piece or by the week? A. By the piece.

Q. You think it would be more satisfactory? A. I think I would get more out of it.

Q. Do all the men employed on the evening paper receive the same rate of wages—all the compositors? A. So far as I know.

Q. In what respect do you wish to add to the testimony concerning the strike? A. It would be a long story to commence to tell it all now, with reference as to how it commenced and everything in connection with it.

Q. What was the cause of the strike? A. In reference to using plate-matter on a paper published in Sussex.

(Witness, at a later stage, desired to correct this, stating it was on a paper published in St. John, called the *Gazette*.)

Q. How did that affect you in St. John? A. It affected the pressman in the *Sun* office.

Q. How was the pressman in the *Sun* affected by it? A. He was a member of the union; no union man could work on a paper using that matter; the paper was printed in the *Sun* press-room.

Q. What action did the union take in regard to this pressman? A. The union struck.

Q. What demand did it make? A. That the paper should not be printed there.

Q. Did you ask the publishers to refuse to print this paper? A. I think the publishers had been asked.

Q. Did they consent or refuse? A. I think they refused.

Q. Did you ask for arbitration, or did any communication take place then? A. I think some negotiations took place, but of course not being there at the time I would not say what negotiations took place in the *Sun* office.

Q. Was a committee appointed by the union to confer with the publishers of the *Sun*? A. No; I do not think it.

Q. Why did they object to plate-matter being used in this paper? A. They did not object to it being used there, but were afraid it would crawl in here.

Q. Would it not have been better for them to wait until it crawled in here? A. It had been used here once before, on a paper called the *Standard*, and it was through the use by the *Standard* of such matter that this took place finally.

Q. When this difficulty took place in the *Sun*, how did it affect the paper on which you were employed? A. The pressman on the paper I worked on went up there and interfered with the pressman of the *Sun*.

Q. In what way? A. By doing his work.

Q. He worked in the *Sun* office? A. Yes; he worked on the *Sun* press.

Q. What did you do then? A. We appealed to him not to work there, and he said he would, and so then the union notified us we would have to go out if he worked there, and of course we struck.

Q. Did you ask for any conference with the publisher of the paper on which you were employed? No.

Q. You simply quitted when the union notified you? A. Yes.

Q. Was any attempt made at arbitration? A. No.

Q. Was any attempt made at conciliation? Well, between the foreman and me there was a sort of conciliation took place. He told me to request the hands to go to work on Monday morning and he thought the trouble would be tided over; in the morning I went away and the strike took place.

Q. You did not comply with the request of the foreman? A. Yes; the men complied with it and went to work on Monday morning, but went out that morning.

Q. How long did they remain out? A. To Wednesday, some time.

Q. What were their reasons for going back on Wednesday? A. Because the executive committee of the union ordered them to go back and ordered the strike off.

Q. Why did it order the strike off? A. They thought it was a failure, I guess.

Q. Have matters between the employers and employed been agreeable since that time? A. So far as we have been concerned.

Q. Everything is very pleasant? A. Yes.

- Q. That union continues to exist? A. Yes.
 Q. Are all the hands in the office union hands? A. No.
 Q. Do the employers object to the employment of union hands? A. No.
 Q. Do the union men object to non-union hands being employed there? A. They have no right to object now.
 Q. Is any plate-matter used there now? A. They have used plate-matter.
 Q. Without objection? A. No; not when it first took place.

By Mr. HEAKES.—

- Q. At the time of this difficulty the foreman of the *Sun* left work in obedience to the union? A. Yes.
 Q. The place was then vacant? A. Yes.
 Q. This pressman of the *Globe* went over and took his place? A. Yes.
 Q. Had he a steady situation in the *Globe* before he went over? A. Yes.
 Q. Did he go over for higher wages? A. No.
 Q. He went over to help them in their difficulty? A. Yes; I suppose.
 Q. Was he a member of the union at that time? A. No.
 Q. Do you think it as advantageous to the men on the evening paper to work by the week or piece, or more advantageous to the employer? A. I think it is more advantageous to the employer to work by the piece.
 Q. And to the men also? A. Yes; then a man would be paid for what he is able to do.
 Q. Have you worked outside? A. Yes; in the States.
 Q. As a general rule, are evening papers there set up and paid for by piece-work?
 A. Yes; it is generally by piece-work.

ROBERT CUNNINGHAM, Brush-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q. Have you heard the testimony of John Sullivan? A. Yes.
 Q. Do you approve of it substantially? A. Yes; I do.
 Q. Have you anything to add to the statement made? A. No.

DUNCAN SHARP, Furniture-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

- Q. In what firm are you engaged? A. A. J. Lordly & Son.
 Q. Did you hear the evidence given by the foreman of that factory? A. Yes.
 Q. Do you approve of it in every way? A. Yes; with the exception of the wages; he stated 20 per cent. was held back, and that might leave the impression that it was knocked off, while it is paid back.
 Q. Is there anything you can add to his statement for the information of the Commission? A. Nothing that I know of.
 Q. Is it in your knowledge that many of those engaged in the furniture trade as workmen own their own houses? A. I know of none, except myself.
 Q. Do you know if it would be the desire of the workmen to invest their savings, if any, in real estate or in some banking institution? A. I could not say whether they have any desire to do that or not; their savings are so small that they do not have much to invest in anything of the kind.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q. Did you purchase your house from your savings out of your wages?
 A. No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What are the wages of cabinet-makers? A. Between \$8 and \$9; that is the average.

Q. Can a man with a family live comfortably and save much out of that? A. He can live upon that, but not save anything.

St. JOHN, N. B., 24th, March 1888.

WM. S. CARTER, Public School Inspector, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you an inspector of the public schools? A. Yes.

Q. Over what districts have you charge? A. I have charge of St. John, Charlotte, and two parishes of King's county.

Q. Are the schools of New Brunswick established and regulated by provincial laws? A. Yes.

Q. Is attendance at them permissive or compulsory? A. Permissive.

Q. What percentage of children between the ages of six and fourteen attend the schools? A. The school age in New Brunswick is from six to twenty years, and all the statistics are made up on that basis. For the whole Province the percentage of attendance ranges between fifty and sixty. For St. John city the percentage last year was about seventy-four.

Q. As a rule is the percentage larger in the rural districts than in the towns? A. In the towns it is considerably larger.

Q. Do you know whether many children under the age of fourteen quit school in order to go to work at constant employment? A. I judge from the number in each grade. We have twelve grades, and nearly one-half of the pupils, according to the statistics, leave school. In the city of St. John more than half the pupils leave after they pass grade 4. A pupil may enter school at five years of age, and the ordinary child will go through a grade each year, so that in five years, say at the outside six, one-half the pupils would leave us before they reach the age of twelve.

Q. Have you any means of knowing whether these children go to work at that age? A. I have not; I cannot say positively, but I know a good many of them go to work; but I have not a great acquaintance with the factories of the city to know.

Q. After having completed grade 4, what branches of English education would the children have acquired? A. I have a course of instruction with me and I will read you the requirements of grade 4. Grade 4 of country schools is more advanced than the same grade in the city schools. The standard grade for the city schools; No. 4 is reading, spelling; correct pronunciation, all words used in Reader No. 3, exercises in pure tone; oral instructions, wrong forms of speech used by the pupil; written answers to the questions in reading, lesson in history, biography of at least four eminent persons, bringing out the general principles underlying their actions; industrial drawing, freehand on slate, print school writing, singing by note, arithmetic, notation, numeration—Arabic and Roman—mental arithmetic; geography, one or two descriptions of important countries—chiefly with respect to their physical features, products and industries; lessons on minerals, oral lessons on metals, names of the principal forest trees, their uses and agricultural products; animal life, domestic and wild; objects of oral lessons, articles of food for the table, lesson on common schools.

Q. That is the grade 4 for city schools? A. It is.

Q. In country districts it is somewhat more advanced than that? A. Yes.

Q. Do you find any disposition on the part of parents to take away their children from school, or do the children themselves desire to get away, so as to go to work? A. I think that most of the parents look out for their children, and for the most part act for them. Of course, some children are not very fond of school, and I think in the majority of such cases the parents find work for them.

Q. Are you able to say whether poor people take their children away from school at an earlier age than those who are in a little better circumstances? A. Yes; they do.

Q. Is technical instruction provided for by the Province of New Brunswick? A. Nothing more than freehand drawing.

Q. Have you given the subject of technical education any thought? A. Lately we have all been talking it over.

Q. Do you think that primary technical education could be imparted in the public schools? A. Not satisfactorily, I think.

Q. Do you think that if it was taught that distinct schools would be necessary? A. I do.

Q. Could evening classes be provided in the public schools at which pupils could attend, for the purpose of receiving technical education? A. I do not think there would be any difficulty about arranging that matter.

Q. Do you think it would be an advantage, in the cities at least, if technical education were provided for? A. I think if we are to keep pace with the age we must provide technical education.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What is the state of school accommodation? A. School accommodation in the city of St. John is excellent, and there are very few country districts that are bad off in that respect; in fact, the school accommodation is becoming better each year.

Q. How many pupils are assigned to each teacher? A. In the city of St. John I should think the average would be fifty; in country districts it depends upon circumstances.

Q. Is there any limit as to how many pupils the teacher may take? A. The law provides a limit in country districts of not over fifty from each parish.

Q. Have you a limit in the cities? A. The law does not provide for a limit in graded schools, as they are much easier arranged for than mixed ones.

Q. Is there a kindergarten school in St. John? A. Not in connection with the public schools; but there is a private school in the city.

Q. Have the school board ever thought of establishing a kindergarten school in St. John? A. Not that I have heard of.

Q. Is the sanitary condition of the schools good? A. Very good, especially in the cities.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. How many inspectors are there for the Province? A. Six.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Can you tell anything about the salaries of the teachers? A. I can give you the average for the Province: First-class male teachers average \$521.30; second-class, \$324.40; third-class, \$231. First-class female teachers average \$324.14; second-class, \$226.87; third-class, \$187.57. It is very difficult to estimate the salaries of city teachers, for their principals—first-class male teachers in nearly all the grammar schools—range all the way from \$1,385 to \$650. The lowest second-class male teacher averages about \$508; third-class, \$408. First-class female teachers in the city average \$390; second-class, \$281; third-class, \$213. There are many of these teachers who receive much more, but these figures that I have named are the minimum figures.

Q. Does a female teacher of the same grade receive as much as a male teacher? A. No.

Q. What is the reason for that? A. I do not know; but I know that many female teachers in St. John are the principals of the schools in the city.

Q. Do you not think that female teachers of the second grade should receive as much salary as the male teacher of the same grade? A. If she performs the same work I think she should.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. If she held the highest certificate she should be entitled to the same position and salary? A. Schools are not always awarded according to ability, but according to circumstances.

Q. Then, according to that, salaries do not go according to ability? A. I am sorry to say it does not always go according to the work performed between the male and the female teacher.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. I suppose that the certificate does not show that their abilities are greater? A. I think the requirements are not as great.

Q. Do you think that both teachers, having the same educational qualifications, have the same examinations? A. Not by any means.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do they not attend the same examinations? A. To pass the examination for a first-class teacher the male is required to know more than the female..

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Is it the same in every grade? A. Yes; the males require to know more than the females.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Have you known any children to be taken away from school because their parents were not able to purchase books for them? A. Our law provides for that.

Q. Is not that a species of charity? A. I suppose some people would look upon it in that light.

Q. Do you not think that if the purchase of books were made compulsory more children would attend school longer than they do, and that it would be a relief to the parents? A. I should not say that I think so. If we had compulsory schools it would not do away with many of the evils complained of, for in the city of St. John, according to the last census, we had something over 8,000 children between the ages of six and twenty, and only 74 per cent. of those attend school every day; it was about that number, or a trifle over, and in the Province only 6 per cent. on the roll attend school at all.

Q. Are the children who are not attending school—are they running around the streets idle or are they at some employment? A. A good many of them are running around the streets idle.

Q. Do you not think that it would be better for the Government to give a portion of the grant allowed for the higher education to the public schools, for the purpose of purchasing the school books—would not that be a better system? A. I imagine that nine parents out of ten buy their books. Unless the books were free to all you would be very likely to insult some people by purchasing books for their children.

Q. But suppose that it was the system? A. I do not look upon it as being of any very great advantage, for I do not think that our children suffer for want of school books.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you not think that it would be the means of pauperizing the people to give them free books? A. I think it might, in some cases. Unless in cases of indigent circumstances it is certainly not needed.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you not know that such was done in several of the public schools in some of the largest cities of the United States? A. I was not aware of the fact.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. You can only speak for your own Province? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is there any scarcity of school room in the summer time? A. There is no scarcity; the school accommodation could accommodate one-third more school children than they have in them to-day.

Q. Is there a truant officer in connection with the public schools? A. There is not.

Q. Do you not think that there should be? A. I think so; but we could not very well have one unless we had a compulsory system.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. How would the compulsory system work in country districts, where the children have to go four or five miles to school? A. I only speak for my own district, and I imagine that the districts could be made to accommodate all that could attend. I know that a man living more than two miles away from a school house is exempt from school taxation.

Q. In a distance of two miles, how are you going to get the children to attend school in the winter and spring of the year? A. I do not imagine that any compulsory system should be made cast-iron. I think our regulations touching upon school attendance should be made elastic enough to meet the requirements of the district in which the school is situated.

Q. What is the size of the school districts in this Province? A. They are not, any of them, over four miles.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you think that the position of truant officer would be useless in the absence of a compulsory system of education? A. I do not know how we could have such an officer without it.

Q. Are you aware of the fact that they have a truant officer in the Province of Ontario, and that they do a great deal of good? A. I was under the impression that there was a moderate system of compulsory education in that Province.

Q. There is no law to that effect there? A. I know that our teachers are supposed to visit the parents at least once a month, or as often as practicable. I do not see what benefit a truant officer would be unless he was backed up by authority.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you think that your system is ahead of that of Ontario? A. To some extent I do.

Q. In what respect? A. I think our primary schools are better than those of Ontario, and I think that their secondary schools are better than ours.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do the school books change very often in this Province? A. Not oftener than can be helped. We aim to keep the best text books before our pupils, and to give them every chance to learn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are there any night schools in St. John? A. There are not any now, but there was one some time ago.

Q. Why were they discontinued? A. I think it was from the lack of patronage.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there any school books printed in this city or this Province? A. Some of the school books are printed in this city.

Q. Are not the majority of them imported from Scotland? A. I do not think that the majority of our text books are imported, but I think that our Readers are.

Q. Do you not think that it would be better to have those books printed in Canada? A. If we could get an equally good book I should be glad to see it done.

Q. Have the publishers in this Province ever produced such a book? A. They have not, as yet.

Q. Have they had the opportunity? A. Yes; I think so.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. How could they produce a better book if they have no sale for it? A. I think if they produced such a book the board would appoint a committee to examine it.

Q. Is it not a fact that the Messrs. Nelson, of Edinburgh, have the monopoly of school books in this Province? A. They have it on the reading books, and that is because they are the best.

Q. For how many years has it been granted to them? A. I do not know; I was not teaching at the time the law came into force, but I imagine that as soon as better books are produced in the Province that the board will adopt them.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Then you think that this Scotch firm can produce better books than the Canadian publishers—that is, of Readers? A. I know that it is a better book than any of the Canadian Readers.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you think that a Scotchman can produce a better book than a Canadian? A. If I saw a Canadian book I should be better able to judge whether it was a better book than the Scotch.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are you a judge of the binding and printing of books? A. I am not a publisher, but I think I could tell about that matter.

Q. Do you not think that these books could be published in Canada 25 to 30 per cent. cheaper than the Scotch books? A. I do not know about that, but I do think that our text books should be of the best quality, and, if possible, that they should be printed by our own publishers. I know that so far as I have seen of school books the Readers used in our schools are the best I have ever seen.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Are you speaking of the composition of the book? A. I am speaking from an educational standpoint.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you think that the Scotch firm of whom these school books are purchased can produce better text books than the publishers in this country? A. They have, up to this time.

Q. Do you not think that, reasoning from the same standpoint, it would be better to import a foreign inspector or superintendent of schools? A. If a foreign inspector can do better work than I can, or has better abilities, he ought to be appointed to the position. The man who can do the best work ought to have the best position. As a matter of fact, I do not know that any reading-book series has been published by a New-Brunswick office.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Have they had any opportunities to do so? A. I think the board of education would be open to criticise such books if they were published, and pass judgment upon them, and I think they would adopt them if they were better than the Readers now in use.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Ability may not always mean ability of a teacher to impart knowledge? A. No.

JOSEPH ALLISON (Manchester, Robertson & Allison, Dry-goods), called and sworn.

Q. What firm are you a member of? A. Manchester, Robertson & Allison.

Q. What class of goods are manufactured by your firm? A. Shirts, ladies' undergarments and mantles, millinery and straw-goods.

Q. Do you employ hands in all these industries? A. We employ 150 to 160 hands on our premises.

Q. Does that include the hands in the straw-goods department? A. No.

Q. About how many would be employed in the straw-goods department? A. That depends on the season a great deal; sometimes there are more than others.

Q. How many would there be in the busy season of the year? A. I should suppose there would be about twelve at that time.

Q. At what age do you take girls to work on shirts and ladies' undergarments? A. I do not think we ever had them to work less than sixteen years of age.

Q. Do you hire any young children? A. No.

Q. About what wages do you pay to skilled sewing women who have had some experience in the work they make? A. They can make from \$6 to \$8 a week.

Q. Do they work by the piece or by the week? A. They work by the piece, principally.

Q. Can they do as well as that in ladies' undergarments? A. They can do as well as that if they are thoroughly well skilled; a good many of them can earn as much as that.

Q. Are your sewing machines run by steam? A. Yes.

Q. What hours do the women work in the stores? A. In summer they are supposed to be there at eight and work till six, with an hour for dinner. In winter they are a-half hour later coming in the morning.

Q. What do these earn who are working by the week on mantles? A. They cannot earn more than \$5 or \$6 a week; there may be some extra good hands that earn more than that; I don't think the average would go more than from \$4 to \$6 a week.

Q. What would these women who work on millinery earn? A. There is quite a wide range there; a good deal depends on experience and ability.

Q. I speak of the best hands? A. I should think they would earn \$8 a week.

Q. In all these branches of industries what would apprentices receive when they first begin work? A. It all depends upon their ability and experience; in millinery they get nothing for the first year.

Q. What length of time would they work for nothing? A. This depends on themselves and their own abilities entirely.

Q. About how long will an average girl work before she is considered a skilled hand? A. That depends altogether on herself and her quickness and ability.

Q. Would three or four years make her a good hand? A. If she is not going to learn in that time she had better go to some other business.

Q. What class of people do you employ on straw-goods? A. They are principally girls.

Q. How much do they earn? A. I cannot tell you exactly, for I am not familiar with that department.

Q. Do they work by the piece or the week? A. They work by the week.

Q. Are you in the retail dry-goods business as well? A. Yes.

Q. About what can an average male clerk earn in St. John? A. There is a very wide range there.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Have you men in the dry goods establishment, and if so, what salary do they receive? A. They go all the way from boys, at \$1.50 a week, to men at \$1,200 a year.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Would \$1,200 be considered a very high average? A. I should think so. Such a clerk would be required to be an extra good one.

Q. How many hours, as a rule, are dry-goods clerks kept in the store? A. In summer we open store at 7, but there are only a few who come down at that time to make the store ready for business. Eight o'clock is the hour for most of the hands in the summer; and 8:30 in the winter. The stores opens at 7 in the summer and 7:30 in the winter.

Q. What time do you close in the evening? A. We close at 6 o'clock.

Q. Is that the universal system in St. John? A. In all large establishments it is.

Q. Are a considerable number of female clerks employed in dry-goods stores? A. Yes.

Q. Do you employ any female clerks? A. We employ five or six.

Q. About what would a good, average female clerk receive? A. We would consider \$6 a week good pay.

Q. Is that about the highest wages paid to lady clerks. A. Yes.

Q. Do a good many work below that? A. They do.

Q. What wages do they get when they begin work? A. They are of very little use when they begin work, and consequently they get very little pay; they have to be taught; I do not think any of them get less than \$2 or \$2.50 a week. Of course, when taking them we would not hire them under seventeen or eighteen years of age.

Q. Are there many boys and girls employed in St. John as cash clerks? A. I think there are very few; we do not require any, for we have the Lampson system of making cash.

Q. Are separate conveniences provided for males and females employed in your establishment? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Have you any system of fines in your establishment? A. We have something of that kind—some 10-cent fines.

Q. Is this in the shirt department? A. No; among the salesmen; if they forget to send a parcel at the proper time or put all the goods in a parcel, or something of that nature, we fine them 10 cents.

Q. Does that apply to both male and female? A. Yes; to both alike, in the sales department.

Q. Would these fines amount to a very great sum of money? A. I think the sum exacted from them is very small. It is done to protect customers and to prevent mistakes and carelessness. We flatter ourselves upon our promptness; so very few mistakes occur that there are never many fines.

Q. Are these lady clerks allowed to sit in the store? A. They can sit if they are not tending customers and if they are not busy.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are there chairs provided for them to sit on if they desire to do so? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any fines imposed in your store for being late in the morning? A. No; but there ought to be.

Q. What are the average wages of a first class milliner? A. I should say they would be about \$6 or \$8 a week.

Q. Would these be for the whole year round or for the season? A. We employ them all the year round; we do not give them any compulsory holidays.

Q. Do you employ any extra hands during the busy season? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay them by the week or by the season? A. They are paid by the week.

Q. How long would the season last? A. It would last from early in September sometimes till Christmas.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Do these clerks receive any vacation with you? A. Yes.

Q. Do their wages go on during their holidays? A. Their wages are paid when on holidays, and also when they are sick, which happens not to be customary in all large dry-goods stores.

Q. Are white dress shirts made by the piece? A. No; by the shirt.

Q. So much a dozen? A. It is all separate pieces; there is so much a dozen for making cuffs, bosoms and wrists, and so much for holes.

Q. How much would you pay in that way for white shirts by the dozen? A. I am not positive, as I do not know how many pieces there are.

Q. Do you have any work done outside the shop? A. Yes; we have what we call the slop work done outside; they can't afford to do that in the factory.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is it done outside by contract? A. They are made so much a dozen. We can get shirts made for 75 cents a dozen—what we would call slop work.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. What kind of shirts are they? A. They would be the shirts worn by the workingman—the check shirts.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you include laundrying? A. These shirts are not laundried; they would all be cut and made; all they have to do is to sew them together. They make good pay at it, I think, and are all very well satisfied.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you know how many hours a day do they work? A. I do not know anything about that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do people who work for the factory get paid by the firm? A. They get paid by the firm; they take their work to the factory and are given a check for the work. They take this to the cashier and get the amount due them.

Q. Are these goods examined before accepting them? A. Not particularly.

Q. If any fault is to be found with the work is the maker not asked to pay for the shirt? A. I have never heard of a case of that kind.

Q. Would any of your hands work at night? A. Not on our premises.

Q. Are any of the clerks called back at night? A. Very seldom. Sometimes the hands in the office have to come back at the close of the year, when we close the books; but any young man that has charge of a department or has any special work to do can come back at night if he chooses. The door is open, and there is a watchman there all night. Some of the men that take special interest in their work do come back at night.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. But the employes are not compelled to come back? A. It is not the rule to come; they are never called upon to come back the same as in olden times, when they had to work till midnight. I do not think that any of the employes in St. John are over-worked; I give it as my opinion.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do the clerks have any advantages in your establishment? Is any reading-matter or anything of that sort provided for them? A. They used to have something of that sort, but it was not patronized and I think they gave it up. They took all the different magazines and papers, and had quite a reading-room amongst themselves. We encouraged it all we could, when it did not interfere with business, but I think it was given up. I do not know of it being in existence now.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Where do you sell your shirts? A. Mostly in the Maritime Provinces.

Q. Do you send any as far west as Toronto? A. No; we send some goods to Montreal, but it generally happened that it was the wrong season, and we have not got any orders from there. We sell all the goods in Montreal and the Maritime Provinces.

Q. Is your trade increasing or decreasing? A. It is increasing, and has been ever since we started business.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Have you any grievances or tariff duties to complain of? A. I prefer not to speak concerning anything of that kind. We have a great number of hands, who have been with us for a number of years—some five, some ten and some twenty. We try to encourage them to stay with us, and make them believe that what is to our benefit is theirs also, and we act the very best to all parties.

HENRY HILLIARD (Hilliard Bros., Lumber Merchants), called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What is your business? A. Lumber manufacturers.

Q. About how many hands do you employ? A. Somewhere about sixty.

Q. Is that men and boys? A. That is men and boys included.

Q. About what portion of boys would there be included in that number? A. About 10 per cent.

Q. What length of employment do these people receive in the year? A. They would get about seven months' work—from now till December.

Q. Will you give us an idea of the wages paid these hands? A. The wages vary; they run from 70 to 75 cents up to \$1.80 and \$2.50.

Q. I suppose the highest amount would be men's wages? A. Yes.

Q. What wages would a deal-piler receive? A. He receives \$1.80 a day; that is what we have been paying them for a number of years.

Q. And what do gang-men get? A. The same.

Q. Do head and tail gang-men get the same? A. There is about 30 cents difference—only where we used to employ two gang-men under the old style we now employ three.

Q. What wages do the middle-men get? A. One dollar and sixty cents.

Q. Is it necessary for that man to learn head and tail ganging? A. It is necessary for him to take turns with the head and tail gang-men.

Q. How is the work of these men compared with that of ten or fifteen years ago? As machinery advances, as it has grown, has it reduced their labor? A. Wonderfully.

Q. What pay do these circular-saw men receive? A. We pay our head man \$1.80 and the second man \$1.60.

Q. Do you have a foreman? A. Yes; and he gets \$2.50.

Q. Is he employed by you? A. He is employed by us.

Q. How do you hire your engineers? A. We pay the engineer by the season.

Q. What would his wages be? A. The engineer's wages are about \$10.50 a week.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. By the word "season" do you mean summer? A. I mean just our season's work.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What wages do lath sawyers receive? A. They receive \$1.80—the same as the gang-men.

Q. Those are the principal men? A. They all receive \$1.80.

Q. Do you make your own laths, or sub-let them? A. No; we sub-let them.

Q. About how much lumber do you manufacture in the season? A. About ten or eleven million. It is all owing to the season we have; if the season is a steady one we will vary a million here or there.

Q. What markets do you send your lumber to? A. Within the last few years we have sought markets all over the globe; we have gone to the west coast of Australia, England, France and Ireland.

Q. Do you ship anything to the American markets? A. Mostly all our small lumber seeks that market.

Q. Where does the bulk of your lumber go? A. To the English markets.

Q. Why can you not ship the bulk of your lumber to the American market?
A. We are prohibited by the treaty; that would be deals.

Q. Are you placed at a disadvantage with the other operators in St. John? A. In that respect we are wonderfully handicapped, not only on the bulk of our shipment but our smaller shipments; that would be what we call small stock, such as laths, boards, spiling, &c. These we cannot send as cheap as the American millers can send to the United States.

Q. Why can you ship to the American market and not to the other—that is, the small material? A. We can, but we do not find a demand for it.

Q. Is there always a demand for that in the American market? A. There is.

Q. What privileges do the other operators enjoy that you have not? A. In speaking of the English market, they have the benefit over us—American operators, I mean—for they have the option to sell to either market, while they force us to the British market, and pay more for your raw material. If we were not excluded to the British market for logs alone, we would have a better chance of manufacturing and of doing a better business.

Q. Are they able to purchase English goods and send them to the United States on any better footing than you? A. They select or cull out the certain sizes required by the American market and the balance they hold for the English market. We have to come into competition with that balance, which is frequently a very large one.

Q. Is there any larger portion of English goods manufactured by American operators in this Province? A. Not so much within the last four or five years as there was heretofore.

Q. It is only longer and larger stock that is required? A. Larger stock for the English market. We cannot find the stock in the Province as readily as we used to. We have to go into the American stock—what we call raw material.

Q. You find that you are really in competition with these American millers for the English markets? A. Very much so; we are forced to compete with them. Where they have the benefit of both markets we are forced to come to their prices; otherwise we are excluded from the American market.

Q. Do you go to the stump for your lumber? A. We do not go to the stump for all of it; we buy part of it in the market, but the great bulk of it we go to the stump for.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What description of lumber do you manufacture—what wood? A. Pine and spruce.

Q. Do you make any hard wood? A. Very little—there is no quantity of hard-wood manufactured in this market, except specially ordered.

Q. Of the two kinds of soft wood, pine and spruce, which is the more common here? A. Spruce.

Q. The bulk of New Brunswick lumber, then, is spruce? A. It is.

Q. What hard woods are mostly used in this market? A. Birch and maple, principally.

Q. What kind of birch—white or black? A. We get the two kinds of it, black and yellow.

Q. Where does the birch go mostly? A. It is shipped to England, and is generally appropriated by the operator in the woods, and it is overhauled there to make it merchantable, and then it is shipped.

Q. Is much spruce or pine exported as timber? A. Yes; a great deal the last two or three years; it is becoming more limited annually.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Does the American tariff discriminate against the raw materials, the

manufactured article, or both? A. Of course, one follows the other. The benefits arising out of the tariffs the merchants would get the benefit of.

Q. Can any but an American subject manufacture this lumber to go into Boston?
A. We cannot. That is the supposition, that they are supposed to be American subjects.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Where does that take place? A. Right here in this market.

Q. Is this lumber supposed to be cut on American territory? A. It is cut by American subjects here.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is not the principal lumber in New Brunswick—logs cut up and floated down the river? A. Yes.

Q. But in order to go in free they must be manufactured by American subjects?
A. Yes.

Q. Is that American law? A. It is our law.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you have many accidents take place in your mill? A. Very few.

Q. Is your machinery as well protected as it is possible to do so? A. It is.

Q. Is there any law for protection in New Brunswick? A. I do not know. We protect as much as we can, and we also guard the men against receiving any injuries or accidents.

Q. Have you any inspectors for the mills? A. We have none.

Q. Are these mills in fairly good condition? A. As far as our own mill is concerned; they are fairly well paid and fairly well off.

Q. Are their wages garnished? A. We have never had a case of that to occur with us. Our employés seem to be a careful and industrious, sober lot of men. That has been our experience during the last few years.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you know of any man working with you who owns his own house?
A. We have a few who own the houses they live in, but the laboring men would prefer to rent a house, for once they become attached to a place they would rather remain, and would feel bound to stay if they owned a house. They feel more open to come and go as they please when renting a house.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. If they have a house and go away they feel that they would have to sacrifice it? A. That is the idea they have in their heads.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. You think that these people would prefer to invest their money where they go rather than invest in real estate? A. That appears to be the disposition which governs them all, so far as we have observed. We have never had trouble with our men for years.

Q. Have you had any strikes? A. We have had no strikes.

Q. Is labor organized? A. None of our men belong to any association for the last six or seven years. I do not think that for six or seven years we have lost three men out of our whole crew.

Q. Has your labor ever been organized? A. Not among the mill-men. There is a scow-men's association, and a few men belong to that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What are the average wages you pay your men? A. One dollar and sixty-five cents a day.

Q. Would that be an average all round? A. That would be an average all round.

Q. Do you think that a man could pay expenses, supply himself with the necessaries of life and save much money on that salary? A. I think that a man could not save any money on that, but he could support a family. The rents are very low in Portland.

Q. How are rents of houses in St. John city? A. That I cannot say; we, in Portland, are separated from St. John, although we are an adjoining city.

JOHN MCGOURTY, Printer, called and sworn.

By MR. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are you a practical printer? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you worked in St. John? A. Ten years.

Q. Was the scale of wages some time ago higher or lower than it is at present?

A. The wages were lower; there was no real scale of prices till about two years ago.

Q. What was the rate of pay per thousand ems then? A. Twenty-eight cents a thousand.

Q. Do you not receive thirty cents now? A. Thirty cents.

Q. When the wages were 28 cents a thousand, comparing them with the wages earned now, which produced you the most money at the end of the week? A. I think that when the wages were 28 cents a thousand the men earned more money than now.

Q. The men could earn more? A. Yes.

Q. Give us the reason why? A. The paper was set in smaller type; the paper was set in minion type, and now it is principally set brevier solid.

Q. Did the men at that time participate in the advertisements, tabular work, commercial and shipping news? A. The advertisements were set by a weekly hand and all the "ads" that could not be got out by the weekly hand was placed on the hook. The tabular work was, as a rule, also placed on the hook.

Q. Is there any plate-matter used on the paper in space that was formerly set by the piece? A. Yes; lots of it.

Q. Has the publication of plate-matter a tendency to keep the men idle? A. I believe it has reduced the work upon the paper—the weekly bill.

Q. Has it decreased the number of men that would otherwise be employed? A. No; there is the same number of men employed on the *Sun* as were employed previous to the strike, but some of the men are greatly inferior to the men that left the city in consequence of and at the time of the strike.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do not the papers contain more reading matter of interest to the general reader than they did before? A. My impression is that the paper contains less.

By MR. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is there a good feeling between the employers and the employés in the newspaper offices in St. John at the present time? A. Yes; I think there is a very good feeling.

Q. Are there any benefits in connection with the printers' union in St. John? A. Yes; two—sick and death benefits.

By MR. FREED:—

Q. On what class of papers in New Brunswick is plate-matter generally used? A. I think it is principally intended for the country newspapers, although I cannot say that I have any knowledge of its being used on any papers outside of St. John.

Q. If this matter was not used on the country papers what class of printers would the type be set by? A. I have not much knowledge about papers outside of St. John.

Q. Would the matter be largely set by boys? A. On the country papers I believe that plate is a good institution.

Q. Then it is only on the city papers that you object to its use? A. I think it is injurious to printers.

Q. By reason of plate-matter being used on the country papers fewer boys are taken on and fewer journeymen are turned out, as a result, to compete with the city printers? A. If the same men were engaged on the *Sun* to-day that were there at the time of the strike, and if the same amount of plate was used as now, it would be necessary either to enlarge the paper or discharge a couple of hands.

Q. If plate were not used on country papers would more journeymen be turned out on those country papers than are turned out now? A. I could not say.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Would there be the same amount of country papers turned out as now? A. The use of plate reduces the number of workmen, for the more plate you use the less workmen you want.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do they not employ boys to set the matter on country papers? A. I think they do.

Q. And consequently more journeymen would be turned out than at present when the plate-matter is used? A. I think there was.

Q. When these boys finish their time and become journeymen do they remain on the country papers or do they flock into the cities? A. There are quite a number of country people at work in the printing business in St. John.

Q. So, in that respect, the use of plate is not wholly an evil on the country papers? A. No.

W. H. BURKE, Printer, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Did you hear the evidence of the last witness? A. Yes.

Q. Do you agree with what he said? A. Not altogether.

Q. With what portion of his evidence do you disagree? A. That regarding plate-matter.

Q. What is your experience of plate-matter? A. My experience at the present time is that it is detrimental to the best interest of the craft.

Q. With respect to town or country? A. In both.

Q. Do you think that if there was no plate-matter used in country papers there would be more boys go into the business? A. I think not.

Q. Why? A. More journeymen would be employed than now. I do not know much about any other papers in New Brunswick outside of St. John where plate-matter is being used. I know how it works in other places where it has been used.

Q. Are you speaking from your experience of this matter in other places? A. Yes.

Q. Of places where you have been? A. Yes. A journeyman would be employed on a country paper if there was no plate-matter used, and the boys would remain there serving their time. In my time they were generally indentured, and would remain on the paper till their time was out. At the present time the boys leave the paper, that is since plate-matter was introduced, and go from one office to another, the boy foisting himself on the printers as a full-fledged journeyman, thereby depriving men who have served their time out of their proper earning.

Q. Is that the sentiment or experience of the International Typographical Union in reference to this matter? A. That seems to be their feelings.

Q. Do all the newspapers in St. John city use plate-matter? A. They do.

Q. Is it all American, or is it celluloid or metallic? A. On the *Sun* it is. In

the *Globe* it is what is known by the craft as "boiler-plate." In the *Telegraph* it is celluloid, sent here from the States at a cost of 1 cent an inch, and I believe only 20 per cent. duty. I think the whole of the first cost would be 1 cent an inch.

Q. Is this plate-matter manufactured in Canada? A. That used on the *Telegraph* is made in Cincinnati; where that used in the other offices is made I did not inquire.

Q. Is it American plate? A. It is American plate.

Q. Do you not think that it would be better, even if this plate-matter were coming into general use, that the type for it should be set up in the first instance in Canada, so as to give the Canadian printers employment? A. Most decidedly.

Q. Do you think the duty on this plate-matter is sufficient to keep it out of the market? A. I do not.

Q. What is your opinion upon the matter? A. I think the first cost, or rather that the duty should be levied on the first cost of composition, which is 40 cents per thousand, which is the general rate charged for setting throughout the United States.

Q. Is that the kind of celluloid that you speak of as being used on the *Telegraph* (producing plate)? A. (Looking at plate). That is the same kind that is used on the *Telegraph* and it is made by the same company. It is what is called feather-weight. The back fastens on a block of metal. The compositor that set that up would receive 40 cents, and the papers here pay about 5½ cents for it.

Q. Is there more plate matter or celluloid like that used than there was shortly after the fire of 1877? A. There was none used in any shape or form in this city until last January—that is, on the *Telegraph*. I don't remember when it was first used on other papers.

Q. When they did commence to use it, what was the plea of the proprietors of the papers for doing so? A. Hard times.

Q. Was there not much harder times in St. John after the fire than there was at that time? A. Times were not harder after the fire; they were very much better after the fire, so far as printing was concerned on the morning papers.

Q. Is the pay which printers earn now at 30 cents equal to the wages formerly made at 28 cents a thousand? A. The wages are not equal to those formerly made at 25 cents a thousand.

Q. Were you in St. John at the time the last difficulty took place between the employers and employés on the St. John papers? A. I was.

Q. What was the cause of that difficulty? A. The union of this city passed a resolution some months previous to that time calling the men out, or at least ordering the men not to work in any office where plate-matter was used. The reason for passing that at that time was that a new evening paper was going to be issued in this city and plate-matter was to be used on it. The union upon, hearing this, immediately passed a resolution to the effect I have spoken of, but it remained in abeyance for some months. The old plant of this paper that had gone down in the mean time—the *Standard*—was converted into the *Saturday Gazette*, which paper was using plate-matter. The intention of their doing so was sent to the union and the resolution which was passed previously ordering the men employed in the *Gazette* office to go out was put in force—that is, if plate-matter was used on the paper. They, I believe, knocked off the day following, and the paper was printed in the *Sun* office—that is, the press-work was done there. The pressman of the *Sun* being a union man refused to work on the paper. In doing so he was acting according to union rules. A consultation was then, I believe, held between the chairman of the union in that office and the manager of the *Sun*, and it not being satisfactory the men were called out.

Q. Were there any other offices affected? A. The *Globe* was affected.

Q. Were the proprietors or the foreman of the *Globe* notified before the men going out that they were going to leave? A. I think not; though, as far as I understand it, according to the report given in the union the night before the *Globe* men were ordered out, the foreman of the *Globe* called upon and intimated to the chairman for the men not to go out till he came down from Fredericton, where he went to attend a sick call.

Q. Who is the foreman of the *Globe*? A. Mr. Clarke.

Q. Is Mr. Clarke a member of the union? A. He is a member of the union under suspension.

Q. Was he a member of the union at that time? A. He was.

Q. Then he must have known all the proceedings? A. He did.

Q. Was the difficulty amicably settled? A. It was settled by the union ordering the men back to work, principally on account of some of the men not being circumstanced to hold out any longer.

Q. Was the proprietor of the *Sun* notified of this difficulty before the strike took place? A. They should have been; I could not say, not being an employé of the *Sun*; but seemingly, from the information sent to the union, I presume notice was given, but whether the notification was long enough or not I could not say.

Q. Is it a principle of your union to resort to arbitration before using extreme measures in a case of this kind? A. We never had any difficulty before this like it. In the *Telegraph*, if we have any grievances to make we generally go and interview the proprietor, and if it is a union matter it is referred to the union; if it is only a personal matter between the hands and employer the union has nothing to do with it.

Q. Is there a law in your body authorizing arbitration instead of a hard measure? A. Yes.

Q. Are the advertisements in the *Telegraph* set up by any of the piece-hands?

A. They are set up by one hand on a weekly salary.

Q. How many men are placed on the advertisements on the *Telegraph*? A. Only one.

Q. If that man cannot set up all the advertisements in a night are they given out to the rest of the hands? A. They are held over till the next day.

Q. Even if the advertisement is kept out? A. The orders we have are that all the advertisements are crowded out that cannot be set by the "ad." hand.

Q. Are they set up the following morning? A. They are set up the following morning and go into the next paper.

Q. Is that done for the purpose of economizing? A. I presume it is for the purpose of driving the compositor and depriving him of a little money.

Q. How does the commercial and shipping news go? A. It goes to the piece-hand department, and the holder of the frame in the office receives it.

Q. On piece-work? A. Yes; on piece-work.

Q. And the commercial? A. Up to some two months past it went in turn to the frames, and it then stopped for a while, and then came back and was given out. Then it was stopped a second time, and shortly it came up marked as an advertisement. The men did not altogether object to it at the time, but things commenced to grind down pretty fine; other matter was being taken away; all the tables and fat matter was taken away. This matter of the commercial: the men in the office thought they were entitled to it according to all the rules in the United States and Canada. The men held a meeting and decided to interview Mr. Gilmour, the manager of the *Daily Telegraph*, and see if he could not give us it back again. It would only be a matter of 35 or 40 cents a day to the men. The men in the office appointed a committee of three to interview Mr. Gilmour with reference to the matter; and ask him, if he could not give that back, to give something else in its place. Mr. Gilmour received us very kindly and gentlemanly, and talked quite cheerfully. In the course of the conversation he explained to us that the commercial was paid for as an advertisement, but stated, during the conversation, that the real reason the change was made was to reduce the expenses, and in looking over the paper to see where he could do so he saw the fat matter in the paper, and he thought if that was brought to the office it would be a reduction in the expense of the establishment, and, of course, the white slaves of the composing room would be deprived of any benefit that would arise from it.

Q. Do the men now set everything solid? A. Yes; poetry is the only exception, and how long that will last we cannot say.

Q. How many hours a day do the men work, including distribution and other work, besides composing at night? A. From eighty to eighty-four hours a week—about fourteen hours a day.

Q. About what would be the average number of thousands set up by a compositor at night? A. Eight to nine thousand; 8,000 would be an exceedingly low night; 9,000 would be exceedingly long; 8,000 would be a good average—outside average.

Q. That would make \$12 to \$13.50 a week? A. The outside limit would be \$14 or \$14.50—that is, for six nights' work.

Q. Did the men some time ago make that amount working the same number of hours? A. Some months ago, say within seven, when I was working six nights a week, I made \$19, and now I have to work harder for \$13 or \$14.

Q. Can you speak in that respect for any of the other men? A. Yes; I could. There are some of them here, and they will speak afterwards.

Q. Have you anything else to add to the information you have given to the Commission? A. The apprentice system of printers is, I think, a wrong one—not particularly in our office, but generally all over. Boys will go into an establishment for a couple of years and then go out as full-fledged journeymen, depriving those who passed their life in the business of their living.

Q. Do you think that a boy serving his time gets a better knowledge of his trade in the job rather than in the composing room? A. I think that in the job office he will get a better knowledge of his business. The boy that serves his time in the composing room cannot be considered a printer.

Q. You think he will not become a printer in the composing room? A. He may become a compositor, but not a printer.

Q. Do you believe in the idea that apprentices should be indentured? A. I believe an understanding should be come to between the employers in the city, so as not to take boys from one office to another without first seeing the manager of the other office.

Q. Is that done in St. John? A. It is not done at all.

Q. Do the boys run from one office to another in St. John? A. They do.

Q. Is that practice carried on to any extent in this city? A. There is a great deal of it done.

Q. And you think there should be some definite agreement between the offices in that respect? A. There should be between the employers, as it is very injurious to the business.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. When the employers spoke of reducing expenses did they allege that there was any necessity for doing so arising out of the business? A. Mr. Gilmour stated that the advertisements did not make up the amount they formerly did.

Q. And that the profit of the business was such that it required less expenses? A. Yes; he said they looked over the paper and they settled upon this inside matter being taken out.

Q. At what hour does composition begin on the morning papers? A. It begins at seven o'clock.

Q. At what hour in the morning do the compositors generally get through their work? A. It varies; as a general rule, about four o'clock or around near five.

Q. Do you take any time during the night to eat? A. Merely half an hour for lunch—eleven to half-past eleven; it is not absolutely necessary to do so; it is only an agreement among the men to take that half hour.

Q. About what time do you get down in the afternoon? A. Between two and three o'clock.

Q. Do you have any afternoon composition at all? A. This time twelve months we used to, but we have done no composing since that time. Since the celluloid came we have been deprived of that, for it fills up a certain amount of space.

Q. So that you actually get about eight and a-half hours' composition? A. From eight to eight and a-half hours would be the average throughout the week.

Q. In the day time you have to distribute type? A. Yes; we do not rush ourselves distributing type, because if we did so we would be useless at night.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. There is a small town in the Province of Quebec where a daily newspaper is published, and where there are very few printers, and where it would be next to impossible to publish the paper if they had it set up type, but they use stereotype matter and so the paper is published. What would you do in such a case—prevent the paper from being published? A. I think it should not be prevented from publishing.

Q. What should be done in that case? A. The International Union allows that to be done.

Q. Would you allow the proprietor to judge whether the paper should be published in that way or not? A. I should think he ought to be master of his own business.

Q. Do you know of any country paper in New Brunswick that could not be published without using plate-matter? A. No.

JOSEPH SEYMOUR, Printer, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are you a compositor or job hand? A. I am both.

Q. Did you hear the testimony of the last witness? A. Yes.

Q. Regarding the rules of the trade in St. John? A. Yes.

Q. Do you agree with all the statements he made? A. I agree with the better part of it, but not all.

Q. With what portion of his testimony do you disagree? A. About the plate-matter. It was first used on the *Standard*. Before the *Standard* was started it was thought best to pass a resolution by the Union prohibiting the members from working on any paper which used this matter. Then the *Standard* did not last long, but went down, and then it was understood that the resolution would be put in force in case the matter was used on any other paper. The matter was afterward used on the *Saturday Gazette*, which paper was printed in the *Sun* office, where the foreman and the printers being union men went out on strike. I might say here that the matter was used on the *Standard* first in order to avoid the expense of setting type, but the paper did not last over a month, so that it did not do much harm in that respect; but that was the cause of the union resolution not being put into effect at the time it was passed.

Q. Do you think that the use of plate-matter is beneficial to the craft? A. I think it is hurtful.

Q. Have you much experience in reading plate-matter that comes from the United States? A. No.

Q. Did you ever know that the reading matter from the United States had a tinge of immorality? A. I do not think it has; I never saw anything in it to read.

Q. The plate-matter, if it is used at all, would you not prefer to have the type of it set up in Canada in the first instance, so as to be of a benefit to Canadian printers? Do you think that a composing room is a proper place for a boy to serve his apprenticeship, or do you prefer a book and job office? A. I think a great deal depends upon the foreman; still, I think that I would say that I prefer a book and job office. Sometimes a boy may serve his time in a job office and scarcely know anything, but the prospects are that if the boy is given a chance he will become a good journeyman.

Q. Do you believe in the indenture system for apprentices? A. I do. It would save boys from shifting from one office to another; I know that in my own case it had that effect; I went to serve my apprenticeship just about the time the indenture system was gone out.

Q. Are the printers of this city formed into an organization among themselves?
A. Yes.

Q. Are the printers and employers of this city formed into an organization together? A. No.

Q. Do you not think that it would be better for the journeymen and employers that they should be organized? A. Decidedly.

Q. Do you think if they were that both organizations could work hand-in-hand and act in harmony? A. I think they could.

Q. Do you know of any city where such an organization exists? A. I do not.

Q. Do you not think that in the job offices there are many men and boys employed in doing the press-work that should be employed at the case? A. I do.

Q. From a practical standpoint, do you not think that it would be better if the public school books that are being printed abroad were published in St. John? A. I think so.

Q. And they could do it as effectively and as well as it is done now? A. I think so.

Q. Could you give us an estimate of the number of printers, book-binders, &c., that this work would give employment to if it were done in the city? A. I fancy it would give employment to over 200 workpeople.

Q. Do the printers of St. John believe, as a whole, that they are sufficiently well paid for their services? A. They do not. My experience for the last nine years is that they were far better paid then than now.

Q. Has the cost of living increased in St. John of late years? A. The rents of our houses have; I know I pay higher rent now than I did fifteen years ago.

Q. Do many of the printers leave St. John after they are out of their time, or do they stay here? A. The majority of them leave here. I served my time with Mr. Chubb, and he treated his hands well. I know some of the hands remained there for twenty years.

Q. From your own knowledge, do you know that many printers in St. John own their own houses? A. They do not. I might say, in regard to this dispute about the commercial, that I think that our manager is not aware that when the "ad." hand had got through with the "ads." that they went on the hook. I know that, when he gets through his "ads." in the morning he helps on with our work.

Q. Is there not a good feeling between the proprietors and the printers in St. John? A. Just now there is.

W. J. CLARKE, Printer, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are you a printer? A. Yes.

Q. Did you hear the statement of the last witness? A. I did.

Q. Do you agree with his statement? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything to add to his statement? A. I have nothing to add, except there is a great many things that could be given to the hands if the proprietors were willing to do so; but the feeling of the proprietor seems to be to grind down the men so that they cannot make living wages.

Q. Under those circumstances, you believe that the men feel aggrieved in certain matters? A. I do.

Q. Have you any more information to impart? A. Nothing more, with the exception that in the composing-room of the *Telegraph* there ought to be fire-escapes provided, for I think one would be of great advantage in case of fire; if such a fire did occur it would be very difficult for us in the composing-room to make our escape, in case communication with the stairs is cut off.

Q. How high up is the composing-room? A. It is five stories high in the *Telegraph* building—that is, counting the basement.

Q. Have you only one stairs to get to it? A. In the centre of the building there

is another pair of winding stairs that lead down to the back part of the building, going to the press-room.

Q. Is that pair of stairs accessible to the printers? A. The back stairs would be, but you would have to go down through the composing-room first, and then take a winding road round; but providing the fire came up it would cut both those stairs away, I think—that is, providing the fire started underneath.

Q. How are the forms taken down? A. By a slide.

Q. In case a fire started would not that start a draft? A. I think it would, and it would send the flame right up.

Q. When the slide is not used are there traps to close up the box? A. It is just left as usual, with the exception that the box is sometimes run up, and then it partly covers the opening.

Q. Do the doors of the room open out or in? A. The doors of the composing-room open outward.

Q. Unto the stairway? A. Yes; back against the wall.

Q. How is the ventilation in summer time? A. When they lower the windows the ventilation is very fair, but it makes a great draft.

Q. And the men are liable to take cold? A. Yes; I think it would be better if the room was ventilated from the ceiling.

Q. Generally speaking, how is the sanitary condition of all the printing offices in St. John? A. I cannot speak of the other offices, because I have principally worked on our own paper—the *Telegraph*—and there it is pretty fair.

ARTHUR KING, Printer, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you heard the evidence of the last witnesses in regard to the printing business in this city? A. Yes.

Q. Do you agree with their statements? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything to add to them? A. I don't think I have.

Q. Have you anything to add that would be a benefit to the Commission? A. Nothing more than has been said.

W. C. STERLING, Business Manager *Daily Sun*, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are you the manager of the *Daily Sun* office? A. Yes.

Q. Did you hear that portion of the evidence given by the printers? A. Yes.

Q. And that part of it you are familiar with in your capacity in the *Sun*? A. Yes.

Q. Do you agree with that part of it that you have heard? A. No; not altogether.

Q. What portion of it do you not agree with? A. From their general talk I thought they were trying to make out that the employers on the daily papers were trying to grind the men down. I do not think there is any disposition of that kind shown on any of the papers. I know that, so far as our own office is concerned, there is no such disposition.

Q. Is there any plate-matter used in connection with the *Sun*? A. Yes.

Q. Are the men ever idle at night in your office? A. Not that I know of.

Q. Do you think if there was no plate-matter used that it would give any more composition to the men? A. With us it would not.

Q. Would you reduce the paper in consequence? A. We would reduce it by advertisements of our own, or something of that nature.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You mean you would insert your own advertisement in the paper? A. Yes.

Q. Are the advertisements set up by the week or by a piece-hand? A. By a week-man.

Q. How many hands have you on the advertisements? A. Only one.

Q. When he is incapable of setting up the advertisements at night does a part of the work go to the piece-hands? A. Yes; they are not held over till the next day.

Q. You say that, as regards the plate-matter, if it were not used you would fill your paper up with your own advertisements? A. Yes; we are setting up as much as we feel we can afford to and are giving as much composition as we ought to do.

Q. You mean you would keep your advertisement running for months afterwards? A. Yes; for some months after putting it in.

Q. Would you keep it standing in the forms? A. Yes; standing in the forms, or we would fill up with some railway table or fire-alarm card.

Q. Would not these advertisements have to be altered now and then? A. We could get the day foreman to make the alterations.

Q. Do you think that to employ the day foreman to do that work is his legitimate calling? A. There are little things in the day time that the day foreman ought to do if he has time.

Q. If there is any alterations made in the proof by the editor that is not in the original copy is it corrected by the office or the men? A. The men get 100 ems for every correction they make.

Q. Have they got to keep these proofs to show at the end of the week? A. They are made up by the foreman every day and handed into the office.

Q. And are they allowed for that? A. Yes.

Q. During the summer season is the room where the printers work at night well ventilated? A. I have never heard any complaints about it. It is as well ventilated as the majority of printing offices.

Q. Was the *Sun* establishment in existence at the time the men were paid 28 cents a thousand? A. Yes.

Q. Did the men make more money then than now? A. Shortly after I came on the *Sun* the compositors' wages were raised to 28 cents, but I, think their wages are just as good now as then.

Q. Can you tell that from the book? A. In glancing over our pay-rolls I find they are just as heavy now at 30 cents a thousand as they were at my time.

Q. With the same number of men? A. Yes.

Q. Can you state if that is the fact with reference to the other papers in St. John? A. No; I can only speak as regards our own office.

Q. What is the age at which you take an apprentice on? A. We have no apprentices in our office. The union passed some resolutions about apprentices, but there was nothing done about it.

Q. Don't the union allow a certain number of apprentices to a certain number of men? A. We do not recognize the union.

Q. Do you not pay union prices to your men?

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you object to the employment of union men in your office? A. No; for out of twelve compositors in our office ten of them are union men.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Has your business increased any? A. Yes.

Q. Has your business increased within the last few years? A. Last year was an exceptionally dull one in advertising.

Q. Has the job work in the *Sun* increased since you have been with them? A. I think it has slightly.

Q. Was that the reason that you used those stereotype plates—because of the falling off of advertisements? A. No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you use the plate-matter in the job office? A. No; we never used the

plate-matter until the late strike, and we never contemplated to use the plates till the union attempted to tell us we should not use them, whether we wanted to or not. Then, when we found we had so much space to fill, and as advertisements were dull, we filled it up with plate-matter, as we did not feel that we could afford to pay any more for composition, as our business did not warrant it.

Q. Was your business just as good then as now, and did you give as much reading matter in the paper? A. No; we are giving a more readable paper now than before the strike.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are you a practical printer? A. No.

Q. Have you had much experience in the newspaper business? A. Thirteen years.

Q. Have you been connected with newspapers in the United States? A. No; in Halifax, N. S.

Q. Have you ever been engaged in any other place than Halifax? A. No.

Q. Do you consider that a daily paper is a good, active and live paper when it publishes plate-matter? A. I think a newspaper in St. John can be classed as a live newspaper when it publishes plate-matter; I do not see any reason why it should not.

Q. Does plate-matter add to the appearance of a newspaper? A. I don't know that it does; still, I do not know that it detracts from its appearance. There is one plate-matter that does detract from the appearance of a newspaper—celluloid, for instance.

Q. What hours do your men work at night? A. From 7 p.m. to 4 a.m., on the average.

ST. JOHN, N.B., 26th March, 1888.

WALTER H. ALLAN, Iron Founder, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. You are an iron founder? A. Yes.

Q. Are many men employed in that industry in St. John? A. Quite a number.

Q. What are the usual hours which moulders work in St. John? A. They work ten hours a day, except on Saturday, when they work nine hours.

Q. Do they work by the piece or the week? A. Our moulders all work by the day; we have no hands on piece-work just now.

Q. Do they receive a uniform rate of wages all the year round? A. No; their wages vary.

Q. About what would be the highest and lowest wages you pay to moulders? A. We pay all the way from \$6 to \$12 a week.

Q. Do skilled moulders work throughout the year at as low a rate as \$6 a week? A. No; these would be the men who have just served out their apprenticeship.

Q. Can you give an average of what you pay to your men all the year round? A. I suppose that \$8 or \$9 would be about the average.

Q. Do they get pretty constant work all the year round, or do you shut down for any considerable period? A. We do not shut down; the only change we make is to run on three-quarter time when work is slack.

Q. At such times do you lay off many hands? A. It all depends solely on the work.

Q. If a man earns \$9 a week when he is fully employed, what do you think would be fair yearly earnings for that man? A. There would be no lost time, unless he made it in holidays.

Q. Then it would be his own fault or misfortune if he lost any time? A. Yes; if we were busy all the time.

Q. Do you employ many unskilled hands? A. We have not got many; we employ a few laboring men.

Q. What wages do they receive? A. \$1 to \$1.25 a day.

Q. What classes of castings do you make? A. Principally machinery castings, railway work and general iron work.

Q. Are the men better pleased to be employed by the day, or would they prefer to work by the piece? A. Our work is of such a nature that we could not very well work by the piece.

Q. Do you cast every day? A. That depends on the work we have on hand. At the present time we cast three or four times a week, and sometimes every day.

Q. Do you take many boys to learn the trade? A. Not a great many; we have not more than three or four apprentices all over the shop.

Q. What wages do they receive to begin with? A. About \$70 a year.

Q. How many years do they serve? A. They are supposed to serve four years, but they do not very often serve that time.

Q. What wages did you say you paid your apprentices? A. Seventy dollars the first year.

Q. Do these apprentices leave you because of differences, or in the hope of bettering their position elsewhere? A. Sometimes they leave us, and at other times they demand more pay, when, if we think they are worthy of it, we give it to them.

Q. Would you rather take a boy to learn the business under the present systems or would you prefer to have him indentured? A. I do not believe in the indenture system much.

Q. Why? A. It does not seem to work well. When men get to think they are worth something then they demand more pay, and if a man were apprenticed he would not be able, if worthy, to get his advance.

Q. What would you put in the place of the apprentice system? A. When the men demand more pay, and you cannot give it to them, let them go somewhere else and get it.

Q. Then you would rather not have your apprentices indentured? A. I think so.

Q. Do they become as good mechanics as they would if they were indentured and compelled to serve out their full time of four or five years? A. I think that the moulders who have learned their trade in my time have turned out about as well as any I have ever seen.

Q. Then the young men do as good work now as the old men did? A. Many of them do fully as good work.

Q. What is your opinion of the moulders of St. John, as a general thing? A. I cannot say much about the moulders outside of our own place, and of our own men I have nothing but good words to utter. We have very seldom any trouble with them.

Q. Do any of your hands own the houses in which they live? A. Some of them do.

Q. In any considerable number? A. I think we have four or five hands who own their own houses.

Q. Do you think that a married man having a family to maintain and earning \$9 a week can save money? A. I do not know about that, but I know that some of them do.

Q. Do you find that the men who work for you desire to get their children employed at as early an age as possible, because they want the money to support their families? A. I think some of them do, and I think others do it because they want to accumulate a little more wealth.

Q. At all events, they do desire to get their children employed at as early an age as possible? A. They do.

Q. Do you think that in doing so they take their children away from school before they get a good English education? A. In some cases I think they do, and in other cases I think they take them away because the children will not learn any more when they do go to school.

A. Do you favor a law making attendance at school, say up to fifteen or sixteen

years of age, compulsory? A. I think I would, for I think such a law would be of benefit to both the children and the parents.

Q. Is your moulding shop reasonably well ventilated? A. Yes.

Q. Are means provided for the escape of gases and smoke during casting? A. Yes.

Q. By fans? A. Not by fans, but by openings in the roofs.

Q. Is the shop reasonably warm in winter? A. It is heated by steam throughout.

L. R. HARRISON, Barrister, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What is your profession? A. I am a barrister practising in St. John.

Q. How long have you been a barrister? A. I have been an attorney for nineteen years; I was first admitted an attorney in 1869 and a barrister one year later.

Q. Do you occupy any official position in New Brunswick? A. Yes; I am and have been agent for the Department of Justice, and occupied that position since 1878.

Q. What is the law of New Brunswick in the matter of garnishment? A. We have no garnishee in New Brunswick at present.

Q. What is the law of seizure? A. The law of garnishee is that you can only garnishee for a debt where there is judgment due. The judgment must be for an amount of \$80, exclusive of the costs.

Q. The garnishment cannot take place previous to the judgment at all, but after a judgment of \$80 the primary creditor may recover? A. In this connection I may say that as far as wages are concerned \$20 are excluded—that is to say, that if there is \$20 wages due they are not liable to be garnisheed under our law.

Q. What is the law of attachment in New Brunswick? A. We have no attachment law. We have no law for imprisonment for debt, except in a way which I may describe to you, if you wish me to do so.

Q. Proceed, then, as you see fit? A. There is no law for attachment, and the garnishee law is only after judgment, and that judgment must be over the amount of \$80, out of which \$20 wages must be excluded.

Q. Then, you can sue at once by attachment? A. No; there is no attachment whatever.

Q. Have you any exemptions from seizure? A. Yes; we have exemptions on final executions, and that exemption, I think, amounts to \$100 of personal property, and will be confined to household utensils and tools of trade.

Q. What are the privileges of landlords? A. In what way?

Q. For the payment of rent. Is the landlord a preference creditor? A. Yes; but there is \$20 which is relieved.

Q. Have you any lien law in favor of contractors? A. We have not.

Q. Have you any lien law in favor of the laborers for the recovery of their wages? A. There is none.

Q. Have you such a law to recover the wages of a clerk in a store? A. None whatever.

Q. Have you any insolvent law in New Brunswick? A. We have got no law in reference to insolvency, except an old law in reference to an insolvent.

Q. What is the law concerning minors and apprentices? A. In answering your question I shall say that the law relating to minors and apprentices is to be found in Chap. 70, Consolidated Statutes of New Brunswick. The only amendment passed in reference to the Act relating to minors and apprentices passed in 1878, Chap. 42, entitled: "An Act relating to the Apprenticing of Immigrant Children having no Parents within the Province." That is the only amendment I know of passed relating to this Act of minors and apprentices.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What are the legal costs of securing judgment in the case of small debts?

A. We have a city court in the city of St. John with jurisdiction in contracts to the extent of \$30; in torts to the extent of \$20. Over \$20 the cause of action has to arise in the city and county of St. John, and the plaintiff or defendant has to reside in the city and county of St. John. In answer to your question as to costs in the city court I will simply refer you to Chap. 119, Consolidated Statutes of New Brunswick, page 964, entitled: "City Court of the City of St. John." That Act will give the cost of the summons and the cost of the constable who serves the summons, and the cost of judgment.

Q. Is there any exemption of homesteads in New Brunswick? A. Not at present.

Q. Is there any exemption for implements of stock? A. In answer to your question I will say that the law of exemption is framed under Chap. 47, Revised Statutes of New Brunswick, Sec. 24, and is entitled: "Memorials and Executions".

Q. Can a landlord in New Brunswick compel a tenant to open his house before the expiry of the present tenancy to any one who may desire to take it? A. At what time?

Q. At any time? A. He certainly cannot.

Q. Then the tenant is lord and master of the house he occupies? A. Certainly he is. You have no right to and you cannot enforce such a thing as that, for the tenant is absolutely lord and master of his own house.

ISAAC G. STEVENS, Policeman, Intercolonial Railway Station, St. John, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

What is your occupation? A. I am the policeman and gate-keeper on the Intercolonial Railway station at St. John.

Q. What are your weekly wages? A. My monthly wages are \$30 for policeman and \$15 for gate-keeper.

Q. What are your hours of work? A. From 1st June to the 1st of December. I begin work at 5:15 in the morning and leave off at 10:25 p.m.; during that time I have three-quarters of an hour to dinner and three-quarters of an hour to tea. I find that till the 1st of December that I was at the station on Sundays two and a-half hours, but it was not till the New Brunswick Railway was being run in there that I was kept there on Sunday night. I was at first obliged to be there on the Sunday morning, and I was kept there without any relief; I thought the time I was there during the week sufficient. During the winter, from the 1st of September up to the present time, I am there from 6:15 a.m. till 8:35 p.m. I have to get my breakfast before going out in the morning, or take it with me; I go to my dinner about noon, and take an hour or an hour and a-half, and then I have half an hour to tea.

Q. Do you consider those hours too long? A. I should consider five hours' sleep too little for any man.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. How long have you been doing this work? A. I have been doing my present work for five years; I have been eight years in the employ of the Intercolonial Railway; I have been in splendid health up to the present, but I am afraid if my hours are not shortened I will have to give up my position. I have been able to do my duties very well so far, but they are getting too hard for me to stand just now.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you ever made any complaint about your long hours? A. I have made complaints, times without number, but I could not have made them to the right party; I must have made them to the wrong service.

Q. Are you paid weekly? A. I am paid monthly; so far as the pay is concerned I am well enough satisfied.

Q. Are all the employés of the company paid by the month? A. All.

Q. Are there any accidents or risks to be run in connection with your position? A. I do not know that there is any risk, but at times the duties are a little unpleasant; I know that a short time ago I got a black eye, but still I cannot call the position a very dangerous one. I have to act as city policeman sometimes, and have often to struggle with big, strong men, which makes it a very difficult matter, as I am not a very large man; besides that, there are many things connected with my position which are not very pleasant.

Q. Is there any responsibility attached to your position? A. I am held responsible for anything done wrong in connection with my office, and sometimes I get a rap over the knuckles.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. How do your present hours compare with those you had to serve previous to the coming in of the New Brunswick Railway? A. Previous to the coming in of the New Brunswick Railway I would not be compelled to go to work till 7 a.m., and work till 7:20 p.m., and there would be times that I could get relieved, but now you cannot get any relief.

Q. Is the work of the New Brunswick Railway done by the Government or by themselves? A. Done by the Government, as far as the station part of it is concerned.

Q. Have there been any additions to your staff since the New Brunswick Railway ran into the station? A. There have been none since then.

Q. There have been additions to the work? A. Yes.

Q. Has there been any addition to your salary? A. No.

Q. And you say you are doing 25 per cent. more work now than you were doing then? A. Yes; there was no work done on Sunday night till the New Brunswick Railway came there; in fact, I could go to church with my wife.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Are you obliged to go to work Sunday night? A. Yes; I once got a rap over the knuckles for not going. I want to state here that besides being gate-keeper and policeman there is an inspection of lumber that comes down in the morning which I do, and for which I receive \$5 a month. To perform this duty will make me go to work a half hour earlier in the morning. That, with my other pay, makes the sum which I receive from the Intercolonial \$50 a month.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Are there many hands who work longer hours than you do? A. There are two men who work longer than I do; they are baggagemen, and have to handle all the heavy baggage. Their work is a little heavier than mine, but as there are two men to do it they can relieve one another. Their work is pretty nearly as long as mine in the number of hours.

H. B. ZEBLEY, St. John Street Railway Company, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you the president of the St. John Railway Company? A. I am the contractor who built the road and am operating it at the present time.

Q. Do you employ a considerable number of hands? A. I think we have about forty-eight or fifty hands on the railway just now.

Q. About what hours do the drivers and conductors work? A. We only run drivers on this road, and they will average twelve hours a day—a little under, if anything.

Q. What is the earliest hour at which you require drivers to go out in the morning? A. A quarter-past 6.

Q. And what time will he get through his work? A. He will finish somewhere in the neighborhood of 6:15 or 6:30 p.m.

Q. During these twelve hours what time is he allowed off for meals? A. He has probably half an hour in the morning for breakfast; then about 40 minutes at noon.

Q. How many trips would he make during the day? A. He will make twelve trips.

Q. What interval is there between the trips? A. There is about five minutes wait on one end and ten on the other.

Q. Has the driver anything to do with the hitching or unhitching of horses? A. His horses are all ready for him to hook to the cars.

Q. What wages do such men receive? A. We pay our drivers \$1.25 a day.

Q. Can you get a sufficient supply of drivers at those wages? A. Yes; and at the start we had applications from hundreds, and have had applications for vacancies ever since. Last Sunday night I had a large number of applications.

Q. Do you know whether these applicants are mechanics or not? A. I do not.

Q. Do the men remain with you a considerable length of time or do they frequently change? A. The most of the men have remained with us; we opened our road here last October.

Q. What wages do your stable-men receive? A. They get \$7, \$8 and \$9 a week.

Q. Do you operate your road on Sundays? A. We do.

Q. How long do the drivers work on Sunday? A. Not quite as long as on week days—about nine hours. They do not go out till after 9 o'clock Sunday and the last trip is run about 10:30 p.m.

Q. Do you pay a full day's pay to your drivers for Sunday work? A. Yes.

Q. Do you provide coffee or any sort of refreshment for the men in cold days of the winter? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do any of your men sleep in the stables? A. No; none of the drivers; there are two watchmen there at night. We have the finest car stable in America in Portland.

JOHN W. GILMOUR, Proprietor *Daily Telegraph*, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you the proprietor of the *Telegraph* newspaper in St. John? A. I am the manager of that paper.

Q. Have you any statement you wish to make before the Commission? A. I have.

Q. Proceed, then, to make your statement? A. I have made a memorandum of some things I thought I might possibly overlook, so I will refer to them from my paper. There is a matter of plate which was spoken of by one of the witnesses on last Saturday. I think he stated in his evidence that the duty on plate should be charged upon the first charge of composition, which, I believe, is 40 cents per thousand, I hardly agree with that proposal, for I think there is a large quantity of this plate struck off at one time, and I think the cost of composition is just as fully protected as in many other articles of art and trade which are used in our markets daily. Take the matter of steel engraving, and there you find a fine example of how this matter works; you may buy a copy of a steel engraving for a few dollars, while the cost of the original painting or engraving would cost, perhaps, \$1,000. This, I think, ought to prove that the people should be supplied with good reading matter at the lowest possible cost. There was also something said by one of the witnesses that this plate matter had a tinge of immorality about it. I must say that I have failed to notice anything of that kind in any of the plate-matter I have seen. I will also give it as my opinion that there is also a great deal of care and judgment exercised about the selection of the matter for plate.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. If there was no care exercised in this selection, and if it was immoral in tone, you would not publish it? A. No. Then the statement was made by some of the witnesses that the publication of this plate-matter interferes with their trade, and that less composition is given to the compositors in consequence thereof, I must say that I look upon this plate as a kind of improved machinery. There is improved machinery being invented all the time, which does away with a certain amount of manual labor in all callings and trades; so, I ask, if the publication of plate will interfere with the trade of the printers how will they be affected by these type-setting and type-distributing machines that are coming into general use throughout the entire newspaper fraternity; surely that will interfere much more with the printers' business than the plate does? It was stated that the tabular matter was all given out to the weekly hands, and in answer to that I would say that the tabular matter in the *Telegraph* is not by any manner or means given out to the weekly hands. There is a large amount of tabular matter which appears in the body of the newspapers that is equally distributed among all the men. Then, returning to the matter of the usage of plate in the newspaper, I would say that my foreman sets no type whatever; I am not quite sure whether the foremen of the other offices set type or not; but if they did set type in their leisure moments it might occupy the space which the plate-matter now takes up. The statement was also made by some of the witnesses that eighty-four hours' work was done in our office in six nights; and in answer to that I would say that it is my opinion that statement is a little over-drawn, for I do not think the men work eighty-four hours a week, as that would be equal to fourteen hours a day. I believe the rule of the office requires the men to assemble at one o'clock in the afternoon—I do not think they work more than three hours in the afternoon. They then assemble at seven o'clock at night and work till four in the morning—that would be equal to twelve hours a-day, which would amount to seventy-two hours a week. If they set at the rate of 8,000 ems a day that would be equal to 48,000 in a week, which would come to \$14.40—instead of an average of \$13, as was stated by one of the witnesses from my office last Saturday. Regarding the matter of men being aggrieved in my office, as was stated by one of the witnesses last Saturday, I hardly think that the statement is correct; I believe there are one or two men who seem to be not quite satisfied, but the general run of them are, in my estimation, satisfied. At all events, if they are not I would say that the world is wide and there is room enough for us all in it, and the men are not compelled to remain in the *Telegraph* office if they do not wish to do so. In regard to the statement made that they are not able to make so much money at the present time as they formerly did, I would say—

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. That was at the time of the lower rate of wages? A. Yes; at the lower rate of wages. As I was about to say, we made more money in the paper then than now. At that time business was better and money was more plentiful. At that time we set our paper principally in leaded nonpareil and more matter consequently went into the paper. I remember that some years ago, I think it was in 1883, I made a tour of the upper provinces, and during my visit there I made it my business to call into several of the newspaper offices in Montreal. I remember calling into the office of the *Gazette*, the *Herald* and the *Star*, and I had a conversation with the foreman of nearly all those offices. I can call to mind two instances where, in referring to the *Telegraph*, they made the remark that it was a "gold leaf". I was surprised to hear the statement made, and asked them what they meant by the term "gold leaf". In reply to me one of the men said: "Your printers must be getting rich very fast; leaded nonpareil is the most expensive type a paper can be set in, and if your printers cannot make a living setting that type they cannot make money in the business elsewhere." The statement was true, but at that time we were doing a large business and money was plentiful; since then depressions have come all around us, and with the failures in business that have taken place in this community and

the loss of business advertisements I was obliged to shorten sail. This was, in my opinion, the only course I could take; I well know that it is very difficult to apply the pruning-knife and give satisfaction to all, for when that is done it usually cuts into some one, and in this case, when we changed the price of the paper there was a considerable falling off in the amount of the printers' composition. I will say here, and I do it so as to make my position clear, that when I undertook to publish this plate-matter in the *Telegraph* it was not my intention to make a permanent thing of it; I simply intended it to be temporary and to last while trade was depressed. Advertisements is a very uncertain quantity—there may be plenty of them this month, and none of them next, or at least very few; but that space has always to be filled in the newspapers, and sometimes it is not judicious for a publisher to fill that space with reading matter which is set up by the compositors, because he might find that in doing so the composition ran into his resources much more than he expected. The reports in the newspapers here as to the statements of the witnesses last Saturday seemed to be decidedly contradictory, and I suppose that arises from the fact of the notes being taken by the reporters in a hurry. One of the instances which attracted my attention was the statement that Mr. Seymour said that the celluloid plate-matter had a tinge of immorality about it, and I would say that Mr. Seymour, in conversation with me to-day, assured me that he did not say that the plate-matter referred to had a tinge of immorality, but rather the reverse. From some of the statements made here by the witnesses last Saturday one would be obliged to come to the conclusion that the *Telegraph* building was a very poorly ventilated building. I contend that the *Telegraph* building is as good as any building used for the same class of business in the Maritime Provinces. Our composing room will compare favorably with the best composing room in Toronto and all the large cities in the Dominion. It is a very bright and cheerful building, and it was made so by the late proprietor, Dr. Elder. I will cite an incident to show the carefulness of him in building this block. Shortly after the building was well under way Dr. Elder, in company with the architect, went to the top of the building, where the composing room is situated and looking around he saw that the windows were too high from the floor and called the architect's attention to it. In reply to Mr. Elder the architect gave as a reason for making the windows so far above the floor that it would prevent his printers from looking out into the street and distracting their attention while at work. Dr. Elder then said that the windows came to about the printers' heads, and told him that they must be altered in some way, as he had no idea of placing his printers to work in a prison. The architect told him that the only way to lower the windows was to put in a floor above the flooring already there, and Dr. Elder directed the architect to have the work done in that manner. A flooring was then put in the composing room some feet higher than the original one, in order to make the room as pleasant and cheerful as possible for the printers, which I think goes to indicate that the building, in so far as the composing room is concerned, was put up with the desire to make their quarters as pleasant as possible. Further, I took the pains to-day to note the number of windows in the *Telegraph* building. My impression is that the building is about 60 feet long by 38 wide. In the composing-room there are twenty-five windows, all of them of good size—I think they would be more than half as wide as the windows in this room (Custom House, St. John).

Q. Are there windows on both sides of the room? A. The windows are on two sides and in the rear. In the job office, the next flat below, there are twenty-one windows; and down stairs in the writing room—which flat is cut up very much into smaller offices, for the sake of privacy to the reporters and editors—there are twenty windows, and I think that with that number of windows that the building should be well lighted, cheerful and bright to work in. Then as to the sanitary condition of the building, which was spoken of here last Saturday, I would say that I have had representatives of the board of health visit my office very frequently, and they have gone over the building with me and have always expressed themselves as being well pleased and satisfied with the sanitary condition of the building. The water-closets, so far as I can see, are always kept in very good condition, and if there is one

water-closet in the building with which fault can be found it must be that one used by the printers. If they would take a little pains to keep their place of that kind as clean and sweet as the other closets they might find less cause to speak about the ventilation or complain about the sanitary appointments of the building. Then there was something stated by one of the witnesses about a fire-escape being provided for the building, and I would like to refer to that matter greatly. The contractor of the building had his attention called to this matter at the time the building was being erected, and he stated, as near as I can recollect, that it was not necessary for a fire-escape to be placed in the building, because there is a hoist running from the basement to the top of the building, and that hoist has a slide door on every floor. The rule, as I have frequently spoken about it, is that those slide doors must be kept closed when the hoist is not in use, and the foreman of the office should see that they are closed, for with those slides closed a fire, even if originating in the building, could not ascend to the compositors' room. From the composing-room the printers have two exits: one, a very wide stair-case, goes down the middle of the building, and on the other side another staircase running down into the job office. There is a railing running throughout the stair-cases, so that the printers can come down either pair of stairs they like. I have often looked at the building, and I do not see that there would be any danger of loss of life in case of fire breaking out, especially where there are men employed on all the floors nearly all the time.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do these two stair-cases run into the composing room? A. You can go down from the composing room by the two stairs; then on the floor below the composing room there are two stairs running in different directions. Something was also said last Saturday in regard to the organization of employers, and in that connection I think the Typographical Union was mentioned. From what I learned in the upper provinces I have come to the conclusion that it would be a very difficult thing to have an organization that would be at all advantageous to the employer. Such an organization was attempted, I believe, in Montreal, and Mr. Stewart, of the *Herald*, informed me that it would break up every now and then and that it never would last very long at a time. In themselves these unions may be very good for the men and also for the employers, but I certainly do not think that it is a fair thing for the Typographical Union to admit foremen of newspaper offices into membership in their union. This seems to me to be very unjust, and I think I can illustrate it in a very strong manner. The foreman of a printing office is employed and paid by the employer; he gets his remuneration from him direct; so do the other men, for that matter, but the printers have a chairman in every office, who represents the interests of the printers and the Typographical Union, while the foreman is supposed to represent the interests of the employer, which I think is the correct principle. This would seem to be all right on the face of matters, but in cases of impending strikes or difficulty, when your foreman tells you that in the case of the men going down and out from your employ he deems it his duty to side with the men, then it seems to me to be a one-sided bargain. That is the reason I contend that the foreman ought not to belong to the union. I do not know how things were years ago in regard to the foreman gaining admittance to the union, but I think it is hardly justice to the employer for his foreman to belong to the union. I have not at any time expressed any positive desire that my foreman should not belong to the union, but I felt that as soon as difficulty did arrive in other offices and might possibly extend to my own, I then saw that the chances were that my foreman would side with the printers; so I think that it is scarcely fair to myself that he should be a member of the union.

Q. You stated that the tabular work did not all go to the week hands? A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell us what portion of the tabular work does not go to the week hands? A. The casual work; the reports and statements of insurance companies, I think that those are distributed among all the hands. My contention is, that the tabular work that is paid for should go to the advertising hands and that portion

which appears as news should go to the compositors. This matter will be illustrate to-morrow in our paper.

Q. How often do these bank and insurance statements go into the paper—once in six months or once a year? A. They would go in about once a year.

Q. Do you think it would pay an office to keep that matter standing? A. It hardly would.

Q. Does the tabular work which is published in connection with the markets and shipping in the summer time go to the piece-hands? A. It does not.

Q. Does any portion of it go to the piece-hands? A. I am not quite sure about that, but I think at times it does.

Q. What times would these be? A. When there is a press of matter in the paper.

Q. Do you not think that when a man on piece-work is compelled by the publisher or foreman to not get any solid matter that he is entitled to receive the tabular work? A. I do not.

Q. Do you not think that is the universal custom followed all over Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Toronto, Hamilton, London, and all the other large cities in the Dominion and the United States? A. I do not know about that matter.

Q. How long have you been connected with the newspaper business? A. Fifteen years.

Q. Have you been connected with any newspaper outside of St. John? A. I have not.

Q. Can you explain how it is that plate-matter belongs to new machinery? A. I do not say it belongs to new machinery, but I say it appears to me to be labor-saving. I think I stated that at the time that plate-matter first appeared in my paper that its use was only intended to be temporary and that the taking away of the tabular matter from the piece-hands was only temporary, too.

Q. Do you not think that it is very difficult for a man to go to work on solid work when he feels that he is entitled to twelve or thirteen hours of fat matter? A. I do not think that I agree that the printer is entitled to fat matter. I think that a man who has the control of a business like a newspaper, who has all the care and responsibility of the concern, should have something to say in the matter. I think his path is no more strewn with roses than the path of the printer.

Q. You say that a foreman of a printing office has no right to belong to the Typographical Union? A. In my estimation he has not.

Q. Do you not think that a fair, square and legitimate and honest man can act squarely between his master and the printers? A. Can one man serve two masters? In speaking of my foreman in the way I did I only wanted to show the position I was placed in when there was some difficulty pending a short time ago in the city between the printers and their employers in the other newspaper offices. I can see that the employés have rights which should be respected, but at the same time the employer has certain rights also. If a man is employed by me to look after my interests I do not see why he should look entirely after the interests of others. At the time I speak of I was placed in a very disagreeable position. At that time, when trouble seemed to be threatening my office, my foreman told me that if anything happened in our office he would have to go down and out with the men. I said, "I should be very sorry to have any difficulty in my office, and especially with you." I also said, "If the printers go down and out some of them might be taken back and gain their old positions, but I question very much if, under the circumstances, I would be able to take you back."

Q. As you said a moment ago, the world is wide? A. Yes; and open for all.

Q. You say that when the men were earning more wages at 25 and 28 cents per thousand that business was more plentiful? A. Yes.

Q. Was business more brisk—was advertisement stronger shortly after the fire of 1877, when half the business portion of the city was burned down, than it is at present? A. Yes; money was more plentiful then than now, and the reason is not

far to see: many houses, after the fire, found themselves possessed of more money than ever they had before—some from insurance received and some of them contractors, who were putting up new buildings—and this money was very freely circulated throughout the city.

Q. How are your advertisements set up? A. In what way?

Q. By piece or by the week? A. By the week.

Q. Are they all set up by one man? A. One man.

Q. When that man is not able to set up all the advertisements of a night what is done with the remainder? A. They are held over.

Q. If the advertiser makes inquiry why the advertisement is not in the paper what is the excuse of the establishment? A. That they could not be set up; that the man employed on that line of work could not set all the advertisements. It is very rare that this thing occurs.

Q. Is it not the custom of your office that when the advertising hand is not capable of setting up all the advertisements in a night that the parties are given to understand that their advertisements did not come in time, when in, in reality ample time was given to set them up? A. I do not think so.

Q. Do you not get advertisements saying "put in to-day," or "to-night," or "one insertion," that do not go in till the day after they are ordered by the advertiser to go in? A. I cannot call to mind any advertisement that I ever received expressing that it must go in to-morrow; but I suppose there have been cases.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Such a case as that would be between you and the person who sends in the advertisement? A. It is a matter that affects ourselves only. I have frequently had men come to me with advertisements at a very late hour, wishing them to go in the morning paper, and I have refused them many a time, because the advertising hand had as much as he could set. I think it is the duty of every business man to run his business as near to the wind as possible; still, I do not think it is his duty to grind down his employes. I think I can safely say that I have never attempted to grind down mine and that I have been as liberal to my employes as the majority of employes; I might say I have only heard complaints emanating from one of the men in my office, and only from one or two of them have I ever heard of dissatisfaction. We know there are black sheep in every flock, and I was very much amused to find that the man who is accused of having made all the trouble in my office last Saturday had nothing to say; in other words, he made the balls and allowed the others to fire them.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. When labor-saving machinery is introduced into any establishment generally somebody's work is reduced in consequence, and he suffers by the introduction of that machinery? A. Yes.

Q. And if the rotary press will do as much work as ten hand-presses somebody must be thrown out of employment? A. Certainly.

Q. Is that not generally the rule when labor-saving machinery is introduced? A. I think it is.

Q. But is it your opinion that though some may suffer the majority will benefit by the introduction of this labor-saving machinery? A. I do not know; I am not quite clear upon that point.

Q. Would you stop the introduction of new labor-saving machinery? A. No; I think not.

Q. Is the world better or worse by reason of labor-saving machinery having been introduced? A. I think that men will find occupations in other fields.

Q. Do you see any difference between the introduction of plate-matter and other labor-saving machinery? A. I cannot say that I do.

Q. You class it with labor-saving machinery generally? A. Undoubtedly it is

a mode of labor-saving machinery; it is introduced for the purpose of economy. Suppose we were to introduce one or two type-setting or distributing machines in the newspaper office, would not that be the means of throwing a large number of printers out of employment? These machines might give employment to another class of men.

Q. But you think that the good to the many outweighs the loss to the few?

A. I do not know; I cannot say I have thought very much about it.

Q. Do compositors on the morning papers in St. John, earn as good wages as the average wages earned by mechanics working an equal number of hours and requiring the same skill and knowledge? A. I certainly have always thought so.

Q. Can you tell us what is the scale of wages paid on book work in St. John?

A. I cannot.

Q. Do you know whether it is higher or lower than the rate paid on the morning paper? A. I cannot, and for this reason; book work with us is always done by the men who are employed by the week.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you think that the average wages given to mechanics in St. John are sufficient to keep a man, himself and family in comfortable circumstances and guard against all sickness? A. I do.

Q. What do you call the average wages that would do that? A. I should think that would depend entirely upon the amount of luxuries that a man was in the habit of having.

Q. Leaving out the luxuries; supposing he was living economically, how much wages should a mechanic have, or is he entitled to have, in order to support himself and family? A. I cannot say.

Q. Then, how can you say that the average wages of a printer is equal to the average wages earned by a mechanic in St. John? A. I say that is my impression.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you think that the average wages of the mechanics of St. John would equal \$2 a day for ten hours' work a day? A. I would hardly like to say that.

Q. If they earn \$2 a day, working ten hours a day, how many cents per hour would that amount to? A. That would be 20 cents an hour.

Q. Then, if compositors working on the morning newspapers earn \$14.40 a week, working twelve hours a day, would not that be about 20 cents an hour also? A. That is so.

Q. Do you think that the mechanics in St. John average \$2 a day, working ten hours a day? A. No; I do not think so.

Q. Are the publishers of the daily papers in St. John, as a rule, making much money? A. I do not think they are.

Q. If they were compelled to give all the fat matter to the printers and not use plate-matter would it be necessary for them to reduce the amount of reading matter published in their papers? A. I certainly think it would.

Q. How much plate-matter do you publish in your papers every day? A. Some days none; it is not used every day.

Q. How many columns do you publish in a week? I do not think there would be over three columns used in our paper in a week.

Q. How much type could your foreman set in his spare time? A. I do not know.

Q. You said a little while ago that you thought your foreman could set in his spare time? A. I said I thought he could.

Q. But you do not know the fact? A. I know he is a practical printer.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. But in that latter, like any other one man, he can do no more than another in ten or twelve hours' time? A. Yes; I think one man would do more than another.

Q. Do you know for a fact how many hours your men work at composition? A. I do not know.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you think that the men, after working hard all night and having to come back in the afternoons to distribute their cases, can work hard the next night? A. I do not think they have to work very hard in the afternoon.

Q. Do you not think that it kind of plays them out for their night's work when they have to come back in the day time to distribute their cases? A. That depends upon how long they would work.

Q. Suppose they were at work till four in the morning? A. I do not think that the man who is up all night is able to work as rapidly next day as a man who has had his sleep.

Q. Do you know the average life of a morning newspaper hand? A. I do not.

THOS. D. HENDERSON, Dealer in Mantels and Grates, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you a manufacturer? A. Yes.

Q. What class of goods do you make? A. Marbleized mantels.

Q. Do you manufacture that altogether? A. We have done some little in wood mantels.

Q. Where do you get most of your slate? A. Vermont.

Q. Is not slate to be found in Canada equally as good as the Vermont slate? A. I have understood that it is not so good and is not worked up as freely—that is, that it is flinty.

Q. Are there any slate mines in New Brunswick? A. None.

Q. Are there any in the Maritime Provinces? A. I know there are none in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick.

Q. Do you employ mostly skilled hands at this work? A. Yes.

Q. Do you employ a large number of them? A. Not very large; it would not exceed eight of any one kind.

Q. What wages would a skilled mechanic earn? A. Our work on mantels is piece-work.

Q. What would be the average earnings of those that work on them? A. They would average at piece-work, as long as they were at work steadily, \$12 a week.

Q. Do they get pretty constant employment the whole year round? A. We have not closed down as yet, for there has been some portion of our work going on all the year round. Occasionally slate may be detained in getting here, for it takes a good while to come, and it is very uncertain when it will arrive as it sometimes gets sided off on the track and does not come as rapidly as we would like, so that occasionally the cutters might be out of work for a very short time.

Q. What do you pay to unskilled laborers? A. In that department I may say we have not many men. There are a few young men who are coming along just out of their time who work in connection with the cutters. A certain number of the hands do the polishing and finishing and they pay juvenile labor to do a small portion of it.

Q. Do you know what wages these boys earn? A. I do not.

Q. Do they work for you directly? A. Not directly.

Q. Do you employ a considerable number of hands in making grates? A. We make grates in connection with our manufacture of stoves. The work of both goes on together in our factory.

Q. Do the men employed at this work by the day or by the piece? A. Mostly by the piece.

Q. What would be the average earnings of moulders? A. They average about \$10 a week.

Q. How many hours a day do they work? A. I do not think they would exceed nine hours a day. They are generally through by five o'clock.

Q. Where do you sell your mantels, as a rule? A. All through Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick; we have also a market for them in Ottawa and Montreal. We have sold and are still selling our grates in Montreal and in Ottawa.

Q. Do you send grates and stoves as well as mantels to these markets? A. We send grates and mantels, but we do not send stoves.

Q. Do you manufacture tiles as well as stoves—as well as grates? A. No; we deal in tiles, but do not make them.

Q. Where do you get them? A. Some we get from England and some from the United States.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are your stove-moulders on piece-work? A. They are.

Q. How much do they earn? A. They earn, on an average, about \$10 a week.

Q. Do they receive constant employment? A. They are employed ten months in the year. In the foundry, during the months of January and February, we generally shut down, but the mantel shops we never shut down.

Q. At the time of moulding is the shop well ventilated? A. Yes.

Q. In summer time? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any smoke when moulding? A. There is no smoke, but there is some steam when the men are pouring off, but that is unavoidable. There is plenty of ventilation.

Q. Have you a mill-room? A. We have a mill outside of the shop; it is just out under the angle, and it is covered.

Q. Are the stove-moulders of St. John receiving as much pay now as they did a few years ago? A. I can only go back three years, and there has not been much change in that time.

Q. Are there many stove-moulders in St. John? A. We are the only stove-makers in the city.

Q. How long does an apprentice serve with you? A. We have only been in business three years, and we have only had one apprentice we took on then, and we are now paying him \$7 a week.

Q. Are you keeping him on as a journeyman? A. Yes; and he will, probably, take up piece-work almost immediately. He was on piece-work last fall for a little while, but now he will commence to work on piece-work altogether.

Q. In taking on apprentices in the moulding business, at what age would you generally take them? A. I do not think we would take one younger than fifteen years of age.

GEO. F. SIMONSON, Paper Box Manufacturer, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a manufacturer of paper boxes and paper bags—principally boxes.

Q. Do you employ many hands? A. I average about fifteen, I think.

Q. Are they principally women? A. There are two men and two boys; the rest of them are girls.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest girl employed by you? A. I do not know—about sixteen or seventeen, I think.

Q. What kind of work are the men employed at? A. One man cuts the paper, and one of the boys works at the same business; the other man is on part of the time, and part of the time he is in the shop.

Q. Do the girls work by the week or by the piece? A. There is one girl working by the week.

Q. Are the other girls working by the piece? A. By the piece.

Q. How much do the piece-hands earn in the week? A. Well, it all depends

on how they work; sometimes they work harder than others and can realize more money.

Q. What would be the average wages they would earn? A. They would run all the way from \$2 to \$6 a week; the average, I think, would be \$3.50.

Q. How many hours do they work for this money? A. They commence to come in the shop at 7:30 in the morning, and except when we are busy some of them do not come till 9; when we are busy we have them all to come before 8—a little before.

Q. Have you any girls in your establishment receiving less than \$2 a week? A. I do not think there is among the regular hands. There is one girl that came to me the latter part of last week, and she cannot earn \$2 a week; she is just commencing to learn to make bags. They only earn less than \$2 while they are getting their instructions.

Q. In making boxes have you got any presses to cut them out and shape them? A. That is not the way we make our boxes.

Q. Are your boxes all pasted? A. They are all pasted and glued; we do not press them; they are run through the machine, cut and scored, and then they are folded and pasted.

Q. Where do you find a market for the sale of your boxes? A. Our trade is mostly local; we send them to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and all through the Province.

Q. Do you have much competition in the Province in paper box making? A. There is not much competition, except it comes from abroad; there are very few boxes coming here, and there is no other paper box maker in the city at present.

Q. Do you do the stamping and labelling on your boxes and bags? A. We get that done outside, for we have not got a printing office.

Q. How long does it take a young woman to become an expert at paper bag or box making? A. We find some that cannot learn the business at all, and so we tell them to go at something else. If they are smart they may earn more than \$2 at the end of the first week. Some work pays better than other, but the cheaper work does not pay so well. Some will earn more than others at the end of six months. There are some girls that have been with me for years and could not do some work that has been done by other girls that have only been a short time in the factory.

Q. When a new design of a box comes in for the first time to be made, and you get it done on piece-work, are the young women consulted regarding the amount of wages they will get from that work? A. If there is a new box comes in to be made that we have never made before we generally let the girl that is on week work make one, to see what time it will take and what it will cost to make it. In other instances we let one of the other girls go to work at it, but not very often.

Q. Well, it depends on the kind of a box, whether you get it done by piece-work or by time? A. No; we make them all by piece-work. There is only one girl works week work, and she has as much jobbing as she can attend to.

Q. Do you make all classes of boxes for hardware, &c.? A. I cannot say that we make all classes of boxes, for a good many classes are covered by patents, but we make most everything that is not covered.

Q. Are these boxes which are covered by patents American or Canadian? A. Some are made in Canada—may be in Toronto.

Q. Is the patent a Canadian patent or an American? A. I think Killgore Bros. have some patents on boxes. Then there are some patents like those folding candy boxes, on which there is a small demand, and the machinery to make them would cost \$1,000, so that it would not pay to get it.

Q. Are those boxes patented in Canada? A. I think they are; but then there are different patterns, for which, if we had the machinery, we could make a box that would answer the same purpose; but it would not pay to get it.

Miss ELLEN McLEAN, Operative in Park's Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. In what department are you employed? A. In the reeling-room.

Q. Are many hands employed there? A. There are about twenty hands.

Q. Are they mostly ladies? A. Yes.

Q. About what would be the fair average wages a week in that room for skilled hands? A. About \$6 a week.

Q. How long must a person work at that particular branch before being expert at it? A. Well, about two or three years.

Q. What would they be able to earn when beginning in the reeling-room? A. One dollar and fifty cents.

Q. And then their wages are advanced according as they become more expert? A. Yes.

Q. After you learn the business do you work at piece-work? A. Yes.

Q. Altogether? A. Yes.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Eleven and a-half.

Q. Do you have any time out of that eleven and a-half hours for meals? A. Three-quarters of an hour for dinner.

Q. Do you work the same hours on Saturday as on other days? A. Half a day on Saturday.

Q. What would be the ages of the youngest girls you have known to work in that department? A. Nine years old.

Q. Have any so young as that been employed recently? A. Well, I could not say; they are not in our room.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest girl now employed in that room? A. Seventeen years old.

Q. Do you get constant employment all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any fines in your department for inferior work? A. No; I have never known any.

Q. Are any fines imposed for being late in the morning? A. Yes; there have been, but I never was.

Q. Have you known any fines to be imposed lately? A. No; not lately.

Q. Is the room comfortable to work in? A. Yes; quite comfortable.

Q. Is there any machinery in the room which is dangerous at all? A. Well, no; none.

Q. Is the room uncomfortably warm in summer or is it reasonably well ventilated? A. It is ventilated just by the windows.

Q. They are kept open, so as to get a draft through? A. Yes; they are lowered from the top.

Q. How frequently are you paid? A. On every Saturday.

Q. When does the week for which you are then paid end? A. On Wednesday night.

Q. Are you always paid in full? A. Yes.

Q. And always in cash? A. Yes.

Q. Do the hands in that department frequently change, or do they remain there pretty constantly? A. Some of them change.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do the young women in your department eat their lunch in the factory at the dinner hour? A. Yes; a good many of them.

Q. Do they eat in the place they have been working in, or is it eaten in a separate room? A. In the same room.

Q. Is the ventilation in the room such that it is close in summer time? A. There is just the windows opened.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. It blows pretty hot in summer in St. John? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q. Is there any dust arising in the room? A. No; only when sweeping.
 Q. How many stories high is your room in the factory? A. Four stories high.
 Q. Is there any fire-escape? A. Well, not out of our room; there is out of the other room.
 Q. Underneath? A. No; in the room out of ours.
 Q. Do the doors open outwards or inwards in your room? A. Outwards.
 Q. Would the average wages, considering your room all round, be \$6 a week?
 A. No.
 Q. What would be the average wages? A. What I generally make is \$4.
 Q. Are there many of the young women making under \$4? A. Yes; from \$3 and \$2 a week.
 Q. Are there any little girls there that earn under \$2? A. No; not any.
 Q. What would be the average of your room, please? A. The highest wages?
 Q. No; the average wage between the highest and lowest? A. About \$3.

Miss * * * , Operative in Parks' Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. How long have you been employed in this mill? A. Six years.
 Q. In what department are you employed? A. In the weaving.
 Q. How much time would one require to serve before becoming expert as a weaver? A. I am not a weaver; I am a winder.
 Q. How long would it be necessary to serve at winding before becoming expert at it? A. Some are smarter than others; some are supposed to be at it two months; others are longer.
 Q. Is the work all by the piece? A. I am on week-work.
 Q. What do those receive who work by the week—skilled hands? A. About \$4.
 Q. Are there any working by the piece? A. Not, in that room. Not at winding.
 Q. Are all the hands there receiving \$4 a week? A. There is no one winding but me now.

Miss * * * , Cotton Mill Operative, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. In what department are you employed? A. In the weaving room.
 Q. How long does one require to serve before becoming expert at weaving? A. Three to four weeks.
 Q. At the end of three or four weeks how many looms would you have? A. One.
 Q. Before you would be able to manage two looms how long would you have to work? A. Well, six, seven or eight weeks, if you are pretty smart, I expect.
 Q. What are the greatest number of looms under the charge of one weaver?
 A. Three.
 Q. What can those weavers earn who manage three looms? A. From \$4 to \$6.
 Q. And those who manage two looms? A. Three dollars, or a little more, sometimes.
 Q. And those who have only one loom? A. One dollar and fifty cents; some weeks \$2.
 Q. You are paid wholly by the piece? A. Yes.
 Q. Are there many fines for defective work? A. No; I have never been fined.
 Q. You do not know of its being frequent, do you? A. No; I do not.
 Q. What do you call the person who inspects the cloth? A. Our boss looks over it.
 Q. If there is any defective work does he always find fault with it? A. No; not always.

Q. Is there any ventilation in summer in the weaving room? A. Just the windows.

Q. Are those windows opposite to each other, so that the wind can blow through them? A. Yes.

Q. Does bad work in weaving ever result, from the yarn being bad—not through your own fault, but because the thread is bad? A. Well, it is much harder to mind it.

Q. Are weavers ever reprimanded because the work is bad, when the bad work has resulted from bad thread? A. The weavers are supposed to have it pretty good.

Q. I mean, does the inspector of the work ever blame the weaver when it is not the weaver's fault? A. Well, he thinks the weaver ought to look out for it.

Q. If you have bad thread do you ever report it? A. Yes.

Q. And then the thread is taken away and good thread substituted? A. It is replaced with better.

Q. What is the age of the youngest girl employed in the weaving room? A. I think she would be about thirteen or fourteen.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest girl you have known to be employed in the weaving room? A. I do not think I have ever seen one younger than that.

Q. Do you know whether there is any particular age below which a girl will not be employed? A. No; I have heard some talk that they would not be employed under twelve, but I do not know.

Q. I suppose a very young girl could not do weaving, could she? A. No; not very well.

Q. Is your room warm in winter? A. Yes; very warm.

Q. Is it to warm, for comfort? A. Rather warm, sometimes.

Q. Is it necessary to have steam in the room to keep the thread moist, and that sometimes makes it too warm for comfort? A. Yes.

Q. Do any of the weavers eat their dinner in the weaving room? A. Yes; a great many of them.

Q. Is there plenty of room to sit down and be comfortable while eating? A. Yes.

Q. Would you think it a great advantage if you had a separate dining room, or would you as soon eat in your own room? A. I think I would as soon eat in my own room.

Q. Are you able to tell us the degree of heat in your room? A. No; I could not say.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

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

Q. In cash? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you find sometimes in the summer that the ventilation from the windows is not sufficient? A. No; it is very pleasant in summer; there is a very good breeze coming in there in summer.

Q. Do the young ladies feel they would like to sit down at the weaving while the looms are going? A. Yes.

Q. Are they allowed to sit down? A. Yes.

Q. And they do sit down? A. Yes; they sit down when the looms are going.

Q. There is no objection from the management to the young women sitting down? A. No.

Q. Do the young women think they can attend to their looms when sitting down at spells just as efficiently as if they were on their feet all the time? A. Well, sometimes you can't sit very much, and some days we can sit quite a while.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are the same number of hours worked through the whole mill? A. Yes.

- Q. Have you ever any night work? A. Not for a great number of years.
 Q. Are you ever required to remain after the usual hour for closing the mill?
 A. No; not unless we stop in the day when we have to make up for it.
 Q. How long have you to stop to make up for time lost in the day? A. I do not think we ever stopped more than a quarter or twenty minutes.
 Q. Do you receive extra pay for that? A. No

Miss * * * , Cotton Mill Operative, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. In what department are you employed? A. In the winding room.
 Q. Are many employed there? A. Seven girls.
 Q. Do they work by the piece or by the week? A. By the week.
 Q. What wages do skilled hands get? A. Three dollars and fifty cents.
 Q. Are there any working for less than \$3.50? A. Two or three of the new hands work for \$2.
 Q. How long will they work before they are considered skilled hands? A. About a year, I suppose, before they would receive full pay.
 Q. Are there any fines for imperfect work in that department? A. No.
 Q. Is the room comfortable to work in? A. It is cold, sometimes.
 Q. Is it comfortably warm in summer? A. It is just about right in summer.
 Q. Good ventilation? A. Yes.
 Q. What is the age of the youngest girl you have known to work in that department? A. Fifteen.
 Q. Is it work at which a very young girl could not be employed? A. No; they can work at it from twelve to thirteen.
 Q. Are you ever required to work at night? A. No.
 Q. Have you ever been compelled to remain after the ordinary hour for closing? A. No.
 Q. Never have done any extra work at all? A. No.

By Mr. HEAKES —

- Q. Do you think, from the length of hours you work, that you are sufficiently remunerated for your labor? A. I do not think the pay is large enough for the work.
 Q. What would be a fair rate for good, respectable board in St. John? A. About \$2 a week.
 A. Can you get good board for that? A. Yes.

Miss * * * , Cotton Mill Operative, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. In what department are you employed? A. In the winding room.
 Q. In the same department as the last witness? A. Yes.
 Q. Have you heard the testimony given by that young lady? A. Not quite all.
 Q. So far as you heard it, do you approve of it all? A. Yes.
 Q. How long have you been at work winding? A. Four years.
 Q. Do you receive the same rate of wages as other skilled hands? A. Yes.
 Q. Have you ever been required to work at night? A. Only when the mill is stopped during the day.
 Q. And that does not frequently occur? A. No.
 Q. Have you ever been fined for imperfect work? A. No.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are the persons in your room generally satisfied with the wages and hours?
A. With the hours they are not satisfied.

Q. They think the hours are too long? A. Yes; for the wages.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. When you are checked for doing bad work or not paying attention to your work, who does the checking—the foreman? A. Yes.

Q. Does he do it in a gentlemanly manner? A. Yes; he does.

Mrs. * * * , Operative in Cotton Factory, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. In what department of the mill are you employed? A. In the reeling room.

Q. How many hands are employed there? A. Twenty.

Q. Are they all young ladies? A. Yes.

Q. How long would you have to serve before becoming expert at reeling?
A. Some three or four days.

Q. Do you work by the piece or by the day? A. By the piece.

Q. What would be the average earnings of a good hand? A. I make from \$5 to \$7 myself.

Q. The average would be about \$6? A. Between \$5 and \$6 and some \$7 a week is what I earn.

Q. Do you get constant employment all the year through? A. Yes.

Q. Do you work the same number of hours as the other hands? A. Yes.

Q. Is it very hard work? A. No.

Q. Can very young girls work at it? A. Yes; they can.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest girl you have known to be employed in that room? A. The youngest that I can remember has been twelve years old.

Q. Are there any so young as that now? A. No.

Q. How is your room for comfort? A. It is very comfortable.

Q. In winter and in summer? A. Yes.

Q. Well ventilated in summer? A. Yes.

Q. Is it very crowded? A. No.

Q. How long have you worked in this room? A. Seven years.

Q. How long did you work before you were able to make \$6 a week? A. I think I was there about two years.

Q. Do you think you make more or less than the fair average of those in that room? A. Well, I think I make more.

Q. The majority earn less than you do? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Have the wages increased or decreased since you went to work there?
A. Well, they have increased.

Q. Have you ever had any accidents in your room? A. No; none.

Q. There is machinery there, of course? A. Yes.

Miss * * * , Operative in Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. In what department are you employed? A. In the twisting room.

Q. About how many hands are employed there? A. About thirty.

Q. All young ladies? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest working there? A. Fifteen.

Q. Are very young ladies able to work at this employment? A. No; not very young.

- Q. Have you ever known any mere children working there? A. No.
- Q. How long have you been employed in that department? A. About eight years.
- Q. Do you work by the week or by the piece? A. By the week.
- Q. What wages do good, skilled hands receive? A. Four dollars.
- Q. Do all the skilled hands receive the same rate? A. Yes.
- Q. What do they begin at—the wages? A. About \$1 and \$1.50.
- Q. How long would it be before you would be able to earn full wages? A. About three or four years.
- Q. Is the machinery at all dangerous? A. No.
- Q. Is the room comfortable to work in? A. Yes.

Miss * * * , Cotton Mill Operative, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. In what department are you employed? A. In the reeling room.
- Q. Did you hear the testimony given by _____? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you substantiate that? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you anything to add to it? A. No.
- Q. You think that, substantially, she told the whole story? A. Yes.

Miss * * * , Cotton Mill Operative, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. In what department are you? A. In the spinning room.
- Q. Are many hands employed in the spinning room? A. Yes; about forty-five or fifty.
- Q. Are they all young ladies? A. No; some boys.
- Q. How long would a person have to work before becoming thoroughly skilled at the spinning? A. Two years or three; it would depend upon the person.
- Q. What do they receive when they begin the work? A. About \$2.
- Q. Do you work by the day or by the piece? A. By the week.
- Q. Altogether? A. Yes.
- Q. What do skilled hands receive? A. Four dollars.
- Q. Are the boys paid at the same rate as the ladies? A. I do not know.
- Q. Is it altogether mule spinning? A. Trestle spinning.
- Q. Is the machinery at all dangerous? A. No.
- Q. You have never known any accident to happen? A. No.
- Q. Is the room comfortable to work in? A. Yes.
- Q. Is steam used in the spinning room to keep the air moist? A. In winter time, but not in summer.
- Q. You have good ventilation in summer? A. Yes.
- Q. What is the age of the youngest girl you have known to work in the spinning room? A. Thirteen or fourteen.
- Q. You have never known any mere children to work there? A. No.
- Q. Are any of the young girls ever punished in any way? A. Not that I know of.
- Q. Are any fines imposed in your room? A. I have never been fined.
- Q. Have you known others to be fined? A. No.
- Q. Have you ever been required to work at night? A. If we stop during the day we stop at night ten or fifteen minutes.
- Q. You do not get extra for that? A. No.
- Q. Are you ever reprimanded for turning out bad yarn? A. I have never been.
- Q. Have you known others to be? A. No.
- Q. Have you known yarn to be returned because it was imperfect? A. Yes.
- Q. What does the foreman say when that occurs? A. He tells us to be careful.

Q. Does he do so with unnecessary severity, do you think? A. No; he never has to me.

Q. He does not use bad language, scold violently, or anything of that sort? A. No.

Q. Simply cautions whoever it is to be careful and do better work? A. That is, so far as I know.

Q. The foreman is courteous and reasonable with the employés, is he? A. With me he is; I do not know of the others.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do many of the hands in your room eat their lunch in the room they work? A. Yes.

Q. Is the machinery stopped at the time that lunch is being eaten? A. Yes.

Q. Any dust in the room during spinning time? A. No.

Q. Do you consider the ventilation sufficient when the windows are open in the summer time? A. Yes.

Q. Has any young woman been discharged for imperfect work? A. Not that I know of

Miss * * * , Cotton Mill Operative, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What department do you work in? A. Weaving room.

Q. You heard the testimony given by the young lady who works in the weaving room? A. Yes

Q. Do you approve of that, substantially? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything to add to it? A. No.

Miss * * * , Paper Bag Maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How long have you been working at the paper bag making? A. Eight years.

Q. Are many young ladies employed there? A. About ten.

Q. Are many of these very young girls? A. No.

Q. Are there any very young boys employed there? A. No boys employed in the work-room at all.

Q. Are any men employed there? A. No; not upstairs.

Q. How long are you required to serve before you become expert at this business? A. About a month, I think—according to how smart you are.

Q. What can a young lady earn when she begins to work first? A. From \$1.50.

Q. Take one like yourself, who has been working several years—how much could they earn now? A. From \$2.50 to \$3—we work on piece-work.

Q. Are you not able to make more than \$2.50 or \$3 a week? A. No; there are some who make more than that—\$4.50 to \$5.

Q. Would \$2.50 and \$3 be the average earnings, do you think? A. From \$2.50 to \$5.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. We have no regular hours; we can go just whenever we like. In summer we generally go at eight in the morning, and in the winter it is later.

Q. What hour do you leave work in the evening? A. Six o'clock.

Q. Do you take an hour at noon? A. Yes.

Q. Do you work about as hard as you please, or are you generally pushed to work as hard as you can? A. We work as hard as we can, except when orders come in.

Q. And then you are pushed? A. It is just as we like about that; they don't push us.

Q. Do you get constant employment all the year round? A. No.

Q. How much time do you lose, do you think? A. Last year we had work all the year, except for about three weeks, but this winter we have not been to work at all, till last week, since the new year began.

Q. Do the young ladies working there live with their parents or depend upon their work for their living? A. They all live with their parents.

Q. Is the room comfortable to work in? A. Yes.

Q. Warm in winter? A. Yes.

Q. Well ventilated in summer? A. Yes.

Q. How frequently are you paid? A. Every week.

Q. In full? A. Yes.

Q. Are you paid on Saturday? A. No; on Monday.

Q. For the previous week? A. Yes.

Q. Is the work very hard? A. No; it is not very hard.

Q. Is it all hand-work? A. Yes.

Q. Any machinery employed? A. No machinery employed at all, only in the cutting.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Are paper boxes made in the same establishment? A. No.

Q. All bags? A. All bags.

Q. The largest wages that are made—\$5—is that on a special kind of work?
A. Well, of course, according to the work we get paid.

Q. Take from \$2 a week up to \$5—what would be the average earnings of a young lady? A. Three dollars would be the average.

Q. Are any fines imposed? A. No.

Miss * * * , Paper Bag Maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You are at the same work as the last witness? A. Yes.

Q. You have heard the testimony given by her? A. Yes.

Q. Is it correct, so far as you know? A. It is about correct, so far as I know.

Q. Do you think a fair average of the earnings of young ladies would be \$3 a week—that is, taking one week with another? A. Yes; about \$3.

Q. Some earn more—some less? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do the young ladies in the bag factory consider they receive enough for their labor? A. They are all content; they all have good homes.

Q. Supposing a young lady had to pay her board out of that, would she be able to dress herself comfortably? A. No; she would not; they have all good homes to live in and the same girls have been there for years.

Q. Do you not think that \$3 would leave the young ladies, if they had no homes, at times in straitened circumstances? A. Yes; she would, unless she had a home of her own.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Then she would not engage herself unless she had her own home? A. No; they never do.

Miss * * * , Paper Bag Maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Did you hear the testimony of the last witness ? A. Yes.

Q. Are you employed at the same work ? A. Yes.

Q. Do you approve of her testimony ? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything to add to it ? A. No ; nothing.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do you believe in that portion of the testimony, that if a young lady had to pay her board she would be at times in straitened circumstances ? A. Yes ; she could not pay her board very well.

Q. Does the employer ask the young women whether they are living on their labor or living with their parents ? A. He knows.

Q. Does he made inquiry as to whether they live with their parents or pay their board ? A. Well, I do not know, but he always knows.

Q. Does he make it a special point to inquire ? A. There never was any one there that he did not.

St. JOHN, 27th March, 1888.

ROBT. W. LEETCH, Paper Bag Manufacturer, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are you a manufacturer of paper bags ? A. Yes.

Q. What is the name of your firm ? A. Brown & Leetch

Q. Do you make anything else besides paper bags ? A. Shipping tags.

Q. What classes of hands do you employ in these industries—men or women, or both ? A. Women, chiefly, in the manufacture of paper bags.

Q. How many hours a day do the women work in the manufacture of paper bags ? A. They come about eight o'clock in the morning and leave about six.

Q. Can you give an idea of how much those who have become pretty skilled at the work can earn ? A. \$4.50 to \$5 a week.

Q. How much would they earn when they begin work ? A. From \$1.25 to \$2, or something like that.

Q. Do they work by the piece when they first begin ? A. They work piece-work altogether.

Q. How many of the women who are working on paper bags make more than \$5 a week ? A. There is only one that comes up to it at all.

Q. Are there not some skilled hands who have been working with you for a considerable number of years that make less than \$3 a week ? A. That may be so, but if so it is because they do not work steady enough. I should imagine that one had just as good a chance to make \$4.50 or \$5 as the other.

Q. Cannot some hands work faster than others ? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a large, comfortable room for the hands to work in ? A. Yes ; pretty comfortable. We keep all the fire the hands require ; it is right over the shop.

Q. Is the room well ventilated in summer ? A. There are windows in it.

Q. On both sides ? A. Yes.

Q. Are the hands ever required to work after dark ? A. In the busy season they are, but we do not compel them ; we only ask them to come, and they can do as they please.

Q. If you asked one of these young ladies to come back at night, and she declined what would be the consequence ? A. There would be no consequence ; we do not compel them to come, and there is no single one that comes back alone at night.

Q. When they work at night do you give them an extra rate of pay ? A. We give them the same rate as in the day time ; we do not compel them in any way to come. We generally, when we are very busy, tell them that we wish them to come back, but we have no compulsory way of bringing them back.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest girl you now employ? A. I should imagine somewhere about eighteen.

Q. Have you ever employed any children under twelve years of age? A. I do not think we have; I never remember of it being done.

Q. What classes of hands do you employ on the tags—girls? A. We would employ one of the girls on the machine, which is run by steam power.

Q. Do you do the printing on the bags you make? A. We have a printer outside who does that by contract.

Q. You do not control that? A. He does that for us.

Q. Where do you sell your bags chiefly? A. All over New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and everywhere around the lower Provinces.

Q. Where do you sell your tags? A. In just about the same field.

Q. Do you meet with any competition in either of these lines from western Canada, Quebec or Ontario? A. Quite a sharp competition; that is our chief competition.

Q. Do you meet with any competition from abroad—any foreign country? A. No; Upper Canada is our chief competitor.

Q. Can you sell any of your goods in foreign countries? A. We have never tried; I do not imagine that we could.

Q. Where do you get the stock for your bags? A. Chiefly from the Montreal mills.

Q. Where do you get the stock for the tags? A. In Montreal now.

Q. Do you get as good and as cheap stock in Montreal as you could import from any foreign country? A. We find it to be cheaper.

Q. And is it as good? A. Just as good.

Q. What would be the averages of wages paid all over your factory? A. Six dollars a week is the highest we have ever paid yet.

Q. To how many in your establishment do you pay \$6? A. The young man there gets that amount; he is paid a weekly salary.

Q. How many women have you in your employ? A. We keep about ten at present.

Q. Would \$3 or \$3.50 be the average wages all round your factory? A. I should imagine so.

Q. Do you shut down work at any time of the year entirely? A. We shut down two or three weeks in the first of the year; this year we were shut down a little longer, because the mill where we got our paper for the bags was out of the sizes we wanted. They could not give us the paper, on account of the mill being shut down from scarcity of water. That kept us back, or we would have had the hands to work earlier.

Q. Have you any machinery in your factory that would be called dangerous? A. I do not think so. We have a kind of cutting machine that is worked by hand, but there is nothing dangerous about it.

Q. Are any of the machines in your establishment patented? A. I presume that the cutter and this machine are patented.

Are they Canadian or American? A. Our machinery is American. We are about going into the making of paper boxes, and we have purchased all the machinery. It is all American machinery of the latest invention.

F. McCLENNAN, Conductor, New Brunswick Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you a railway conductor? A. Yes.

Q. On what railway? A. New Brunswick

Q. Freight or passengers? A. Conductor of passenger train.

Q. Is your day's work regulated by the hours you work or by the runs you make?
A. By the hours I work.

Q. How many hours, as a rule, constitute a day's work for conductors on the New Brunswick Railway? A. Some days I work eight hours and other days I work four.

Q. Do you receive the same pay for the eight hours as for the four? A. The same pay.

Q. If you work longer than eight hours do you receive any extra pay? A. Sometimes I do.

Q. In case of detention from any cause you receive extra pay for the detention? A. Yes.

Q. What is the average pay given to passenger conductors on the New Brunswick Railway? A. Passenger conductors get \$60 a month.

Q. Do the conductors earn just \$60 a month, or more or less? A. Sixty dollars would be a fair average; sometimes they get a little more if they make extra time.

Q. If you lose time you lose your pay? A. I do.

Q. Are you allowed sufficient rest after coming from an extra long run before you are required to go out again? A. I am.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. Do you take American money in pay for tickets on your road? A. I do.

Q. Do they take it all over the road? A. They do.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. At par? A. At par.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. Do you know the reason why they will not take Canadian money on the Eastern Railroad, in Boston, for the pay of tickets? A. I cannot say.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Have you had any experience as conductor on freight trains? A. I have had experience on freight trains; I was brakesman on a freight train for three years and ran as conductor about one year.

Q. What form of coupling is used on the freight cars on the New Brunswick Railway? A. We couple with the common link and pin.

Q. Do you know of any form of coupling that would obviate the difficulty of link and pin? A. I do not know of any for freight trains.

Q. Has any other coupling, within your knowledge, been tried for freight cars? A. There has been a patent coupling tried. It was invented by a man named Richards; he got a patent for a coupler, but it did not work satisfactorily.

Q. In what respects was it a failure? A. I do not know that I can say, for I did not have much to do with it; in fact, I did not have anything to do with it.

Q. Are accidents frequent in coupling or uncoupling cars on the New Brunswick Railway? A. They are not.

Q. Are any extra pains taken different from that on other roads in doing this work? A. I do not know; I know the men who do the work are careful, and very few accidents take place.

Q. What is the width of the running-boards on freight cars on your road? A. I should think them to be about 18 inches to 2 feet.

Q. Do you think that sufficient to guard against accident? A. I think so, for I have seldom known of a man falling over the side of a car when it was in motion.

Q. Do you think that it would be an advantage to have a guard-rail along the edge of the car, so that if a man were to fall he would be caught on this rail? A. If there was one there it would be used but very little, for we hardly ever hear of a man falling down towards the side of the car; I have never known of such a case.

Q. Do you use bell-ropes on your road on freight trains? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think the bell-ropes give good satisfaction and do good work? A. I think they do.

Q. Have you ever, in your knowledge, known of a bell-rope to fail to give warning to the engineer? A. No.

Q. Do you know of men being tripped by the bell-rope when running along the top of cars? A. I never heard of it.

Q. Do the running boards project beyond the end of the car? A. Not on our road; I have seen cars where they did project.

Q. What kind of deadwoods are used on freight cars on your road? A. What size do you mean?

Q. In what place are they put, in the first place? A. They are placed right over the draw-bar.

Q. Don't you think that accidents are more likely to occur when the deadwoods are placed over the draw-bars, by men getting their hands caught, than if it were placed otherwise? A. I do not think so; I do not know why that should take place.

Q. Have you ever known men to get injured when coupling or uncoupling cars? A. I have never seen a man getting injured by coupling or uncoupling cars.

Q. Do you think that the air-brake could be satisfactorily applied to freight trains. A. I think it could.

Q. Do you think that there is any serious objection to its application to freight cars, except the expense? A. No; I don't think there is.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is there any insurance scheme or benevolent fund in connection with the company that the employes of your road are compelled to join? A. There is not.

Q. When a man is discharged from your road must he get a recommendation from the company that discharges him before he is employed in any other company? A. Sometimes they do get these recommendations, but I do not know that it is compulsory to get them.

Q. Will your company employ a man who has been formerly in the employ of another company without a recommendation? A. I could not say; the superintendent is here, and he might be able to tell you.

Q. Do you know that there is an understanding between the railway companies of Canada as to the discharging and employing of employes? A. I do not.

Q. Do you know, also, that there is an understanding between the railway companies as to the employment of hands discharged from other roads? A. I do not know of any.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. If men are injured on your road while in the discharge of their duty does their pay go on? A. Generally it does.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. How many miles do you run before you make a change? A. Ninety miles

Q. That is considered the terminus of the division? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever worked on any other railway than the New Brunswick Railway? A. I never worked on any other road.

MELBOURNE BURGESS, Conductor, New Brunswick Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you in the employ of the New Brunswick Railway? A. Yes.

Q. In what position? A. I am a conductor.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. In what railway? A. New Brunswick Railway.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you heard the testimony given by the last witness? A. Yes.

Q. Do you approve of it, substantially? A. I do.

Q. Have you anything to add to it? A. I do not think I have.

Q. Are you a freight or passenger conductor? A. Passenger.

Q. Do you agree with all the statements of the former witness? A. I do.

Q. Have you any organization in connection with the employés of the railroad?

A. Not in connection with the railroad, but I belong to the order of Railway Conductors.

THOMAS, McKENNA, Engineer, New Brunswick Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you a locomotive engineer? A. Yes.

Q. On the New Brunswick Railway? A. Yes.

Q. Passenger or freight? A. Passenger.

Q. How many miles constitute your day's run? A. Ninety miles constitutes a day's work.

Q. What is the usual pay given to locomotive engineers on passenger trains on your road? A. Sixty-five dollars a month.

Q. As a rule, do the engineers make exactly that sum, or more or less? A. Some get more; some get less. We get paid for what over-time we work.

Q. Do you think that the average passenger engineer would make less than \$65 a month, take the whole year through? A. I do not know; I think that would be about the average.

Q. Do the engineers have anything to do with getting the locomotives ready for service? A. They have all to do with that.

Q. You have to see to the firing-up? A. We have not to do that; all we have to do is to be there in time to oil and get the other materials ready.

Q. How many hours would make your day, suppose you made your regular run of 90 miles? A. From six to seven hours.

Q. If you do any extra work over that 90 miles do you get paid for it? A. Yes.

Q. If you are detained and kept a long while on the road do you get sufficient rest before you are required to go out again? A. Yes.

Q. What is the longest number of hours that you have been continuously employed, owing to any cause whatever? A. I have been fifteen to eighteen hours on the road at one time; that was in a case of emergency, and I could not get relief.

Q. Was it in storm or accident? A. Storm. As a general rule, we are not asked to run over-time.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. If an engineer died suddenly who would take his position? A. The fireman takes the place of an engineer; generally.

Q. Does he stay in the same room with the engineer? A. Yes.

Q. Are there always two in that room? A. Yes; always two in the cab.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are all the engineers on your road members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers? A. All but one, I think.

Q. Has the company no objection to the employment of men belonging to that society? A. No.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. Has the brotherhood any objection to the engineer that does not belong to them working on the road? A. No; I never heard of any objection.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. What kind of coal do you use for your engines? A. We use Spring Hill.

Q. Is it the best kind of fuel to use for that purpose? A. The company consider it to be the best.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is there any Sunday work on your road? A. Yes; we have a little Sunday work on the passenger train; we have to take a passenger train out every alternate month on Sunday.

Q. Is it the regular train out? A. Yes.

Q. Is that the only Sunday work you have to do? A. Yes; unless in case of an emergency.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Has there been an explosion of a locomotive engine on your road lately? A. I know there was one exploded lately.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you know anything about the explosion? A. No.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Was it an old engine? A. No; the engine was only six or seven years old.

Q. Do you know how the engine exploded, or what was the cause of the explosion? A. I was not there.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you have to have a certificate as an engineer before being engaged on the road? A. No.

Q. There is no examination of engineers on the road? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Before employing an engineer, would the superintendent satisfy himself as to his qualifications before giving him a locomotive? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is the sight of engineers examined in regard to color on your road? A. No.

ROBERT BARTLETT, Engineer, New Brunswick Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you a locomotive engineer? A. Yes.

Q. On what road? A. New Brunswick Railway.

Q. Passenger or freight? A. Passenger.

Q. Did you hear the testimony of the last witness? A. Yes.

Q. Do you approve, substantially, of what he said? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know anything of your own knowledge about this explosion of the locomotive on your road lately? A. I was not there at the time.

Q. Have you anything to add to the statements made by the last witness? A. I have not.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Did you see an account in the paper of an engine that went through a bridge near Montreal? A. I did not see the account.

Q. Have you always two men when you are driving an engine? A. Always.

Q. Is that the rule of the road? A. Yes.

Q. And has it got to be followed? A. Yes.

Q. Is it the rule on every line that you know of? A. It is, as far as I know.

JAMES C. JOHNSTON, Baggage-master, New Brunswick Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am, at present, engaged as baggage-master on the New Brunswick Railway.

Q. Do the baggage-masters on the road have to work as many hours as the conductors? A. A trifle longer, if anything; they are supposed to be there earlier in the morning.

Q. To receive the baggage? A. Yes; and to see that the train is ready.

Q. And possibly to wait until after the train is in order, to see the baggage in the baggage-room? A. We have to handle all the baggage at the terminus, but it only takes a very little time after we arrive there.

Q. What is the pay usually given to baggage-masters? A. We are paid at the rate of \$36 a month.

Q. Is there any system of fines on your road in case of the baggage going astray or mistakes in handling it? A. I have never been called upon to pay a fine; I have never heard of such a thing.

Q. You have never heard of it personally? A. No.

Q. When mistakes have been made have you known a baggage-master to be reprimanded or suspended? A. I have known a baggage-master to be reprimanded, but not suspended.

Q. Are the baggage-masters ever injured by reason of the baggage being thrown about? A. I have never known of it in my experience.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. Are you aware that there is lots of baggage being broken up in travelling? Have you ever heard a complaint of that kind made? A. I have handled lots of broken baggage.

Q. Don't you think you have done your share in smashing it? A. I think possibly I have.

Q. Is there any way that you could suggest whereby less baggage would be smashed? A. I think that the trunk-makers might put better material in the trunks. Some trunks are made of very light material, and they are over-loaded, in the majority of cases.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Could you give an opinion as to whether the Canadian or the American "Saratoga" trunk is the easiest to break? A. I could not.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. If the platform were raised a little higher towards the cars do you not think that less trunks would be smashed in getting them out of the cars? A. We use boards to slide the baggage down to the station; at some way-stations they do not have them.

Q. Does the company pay when a trunk is damaged through carelessness? A. They do.

Q. Do they wait to be sued? A. I could not say.

H. D. McLEOD, Divisional Superintendent, New Brunswick Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are you superintendent of the New Brunswick Railway? A. I am divisional superintendent of one of its divisions.

Q. Have you heard the testimony given by the employés of your road? A. Yes.

Q. So far as you know, are their statements correct? A. They are correct, but they are a little astray with regard to the runs they make. They would lead you to

the belief that they made a run of 90 miles a day by the week. The line is 90 miles long on this division, but they make four double trips a week—a day and a night—so they really make 720 miles a week instead of 540.

Q. Do they receive wages at the rate mentioned by them? A. Yes; these passenger men do.

Q. What does a fair conductor on your road receive? A. We pay him \$2 a day for his regular run.

Q. And how many miles is his regular run? A. 90 to 116 miles per day.

Q. Do those who run the longer distance receive the same rate of pay as those who run the shorter? A. They receive the same rate of pay by the run.

Q. Do you change them about, so as to equalize the work among them? A. The length of our road makes the shorter run necessary, sometimes. These conductor men have the short run, but if our road was 30 miles longer they would have to run at the same rate that they do 90; the freight men are shifted around, but it is not specialy for the sake of equalizing their work, but it is for the general service.

Q. What wages does an engineer in a freight train on your road receive? A. The mechanical superintendent fixes their wages; it is at so much per month. I am not positive as to the wages he receives, as the money does not pass through my hands.

Q. Are you able to tell what a brakeman on your freight train receives? A. The brakemen have a uniform rate of \$36 a month for a regular train. If he starts out in the morning and does not get home till next week there is nothing extra allowed for it, but if he comes in at night and is sent out again there are circumstances under which he might be allowed more pay.

Q. What do the firemen on passenger trains receive? A. I do not know what their wages are.

Q. Do you know what they receive on freight trains? A. I do not.

Q. What do you pay to laborers, track-men and other unskilled hands? A. We pay \$1.10 to common laborers—that is, per day.

Q. Do you get all the hands you require at those wages? A. Yes.

Q. Do you give them any advantages in the way of fuel, &c.? A. They get a little, but it is not given as part of their remuneration.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you got any laboring men on your road to whom you pay less than \$1.10 a day? A. We have a few station-men that get \$25 a month.

Q. Did you ask those employés of yours to come here and give evidence before this Commission? A. I did.

Q. Did you outline any of their evidence? A. Nothing further than when they asked me what they were coming down for, I said, "Probably the Commission will ask you what wages you receive, and you can tell them that you get a good deal of extra pay."

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Did you tell them to say anything that is not correct? A. No.

Q. And do you believe that any of them would have done so if you told them so? A. I do not think it; I would not ask them to do it. The extra pay was a little bone of contention among the men.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you know anything about the exploding of an engine on your road lately? A. I know there was an explosion a few days ago.

Q. What was the cause of the explosion? A. I examined the engine to see, and from my limited knowledge I should say it was a defect in the plate that caused the accident.

Q. Are you a practical mechanic? A. I am not.

Q. Was it an old engine? A. No; it was delivered to us in 1882.

Q. Had the engine been repaired at any time? A. She had gone through the

shop and was considered to be the best locomotive on the road. She was an English-built locomotive, and her builder was considered to be one of the best.

Q. Did the explosion kill any people? A. It killed no one.

Q. Did it hurt any person? A. It injured three men in the cab slightly around the head.

Q. Does the company pay those men while off the road? A. Those men have not yet returned to work and the pay-roll has not been made up. It is not in my department, but I think their time will be allowed just the same as if they were at work.

Q. Does the company pay the medical attendance? A. The doctor's bill will be so slight that the company can afford to be generous.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Have you heard any complaints from the brakemen in regard to the running-boards and bell-ropes on the train? A. I have not.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do a great many freight cars of other lines run over your road? A. Yes; we have connections from all points.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Do you know what make the iron was in the boiler that exploded? A. I do not; she was an English locomotive and was built at Manchester, England; she was built and tried at the Atlas works.

Q. What is the reason that the Eastern Railway refuses to take Canadian money in payment for a ticket from Boston? A. I do not know what is the reason; I do not know why they refuse Canadian bills. I know that at Boston the agents there have always deducted 5 per cent. off a Canadian bill. We have remonstrated against it, saying to them that they were running in connection with us, but there seems to be some little difficulty about Canadian money there just now.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you require the men, before hiring them, to sign any document or contract? A. No.

Q. When a man leaves your road can he get the amount of his wages without any discount? A. Yes.

Q. Whether he is discharged or not? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. Every month, between the 1st and 15th; sometimes, when the general manager is away, it may be put off for a little while. I think that one time it was the 30th day of the month before we paid the men.

Q. Do you pay to the end of the previous month? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever been applied to to pay your hands more frequently? A. I have not.

Q. Have you any knowledge, whether any of your men have been, at times, in need of money between the pay days? A. Not to any extent. Sometimes a man will come in the office and ask for money, and we give it to him. There is no recognized system about doing this, but it is so seldom asked for, that it is always done when requested.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. How far does your road run? A. From St. John to Edmunston, with branches to St. Stephen, St. Andrews, and Houlton and Presqu'Île.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. How many miles is there on your road? A. Four hundred and fifty-two, I think.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. When an employé begins to work on your road in the middle of the month

do you pay him the first pay-day after? A. Yes; we pay him the first pay-day if he began on the 1st of the month he would be paid up to pay-day.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. When a man asks to be employed on your railroad, coming from another railroad, would you employ him without a certificate from his former employer? A. We would not be apt to.

Q. Do you ever write to another company in such a case, asking the cause of the man's discharge? A. I have hardly ever had an instance like that. We have had lots of men come from other roads, asking to be taken on ours, but we have not taken their applications; we prefer to employ the men living around here. If a man came from the Grand Trunk or Main Central we would suppose there was some reason why he left that road, but we would not hire that man.

Q. Would you expect the Grand Trunk to do the same with your discharged employes? A. We do not expect it, for there is no understanding about the matter. If a man should come from the Maine Central or the Intercolonial, who are our next connections, we would not take him from them without asking them about him. He would have to be fully relieved from them, before we would take him on.

Q. Do any mechanics apply to you for work as laborers or track-men? A. I do not know.

Q. Do you know if many of your engineers and conductors own the houses in which they live? A. I know that some engineers own the houses in which they live.

Q. Do you think they have paid for these house out of their wages? I have never considered the matter, but from the character of the men I speak of I should think they had.

Q. Are you able to say whether any of your track-men or any other laborers own houses? A. Some of the track-men do; they would be those that have come off farms, but I do not think they have more than a shanty, or something like that.

Q. Do you think that any of these men who earn \$1.10 a day, and who have families to maintain, can save money out of their wages to buy houses? A. No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. When you engage men in your private capacity do you want to know their antecedents? A. Sometimes I inquire into that.

Q. When you are going to give a responsible position to a man would you not inquire what he used to do and where he was formerly employed? A. I think I invariably ask him that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. And if his great-grandfather was hanged, would that prevent him from receiving employment? A. It would not.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. In employing men to work on your railroad do you make any farther inquiries into their antecedents than to find out that they are honest and capable men? A. No.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. Have you ever had any applications from foreigners for employment on your railway? A. I have never had such applications.

Q. Do you think that any of those people would like to work on your road? A. I do not think so.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Is there any system of black-listing men who may have become obnoxious to other railroad officials to which you are a party? A. No.

Q. And any inquiries you may make into the character or antecedents of a man applying for work are solely made in the interests of the company and to secure good employes? A. That is it, exactly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Suppose a man on the Grand Trunk Railway was discharged for being a labor agitator, and he came to you for employment, would you employ him, knowing him to be such? A. I would tell him I had no place for him.

Q. If you would write to the Grand Trunk and they would tell you that he was a labor agitator, would you employ him? A. I would not.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. When men leave your employ do you give them certificates of character? A. Sometimes I do and sometimes I do not.

Q. When you think they are worthy of it do you give it to them? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. You would not refuse to give a man a certificate for past good conduct? A. I would not.

Q. If you were required to give a man a certificate when in your employ would you refuse to give it to him if he were a good man? A. I would not. Sometimes, rather than refuse to give a man a certificate when he asked me for it, in the face of being discharged, I will tell him he is just as well without a certificate. I used to give more certificates than I do now, but at present I am more particular about the wording of them.

Q. Are there not some exceptional cases when you would not give a certificate at all? A. To a man who has been discharged for drunkenness or disobedience I would not give a certificate.

Q. Would you give a certificate to a drunken engineer? A. I would not recommend him.

SAMUEL SCOFIELD, Ship-broker, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What is your business? A. Ship-broker and agent.

Q. Can you give us an idea as to the relative costs of loading steam and sailing vessels in St. John as compared with other ports in Canada or the United States? A. I think I could. I made some inquiries about a year ago concerning the expenses in other ports, and I found that labor in 1886 ranged in Montreal from 22 to 25 cents; Halifax, 20; Portland, Maine, 35. In those places, that is the same price by day or night. In New York the price ranged 40 cents.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. Is that for both day and night? A. Yes. Boston by day 30 cents and by night 40 cents. At the same time, in St. John the wages were \$5 a day of nine hours, pay here being pretty near equal to 56 cents per hour. I said about a year ago it was that I made up these figures, but properly speaking those are the wages current in 1886 at all those ports, as well as St. John; so that, in St. John, the cost is nearly three times greater than that of Halifax and nearly half as high again as that of New York, which was 40 cents. The cost of loading deal cargoes in St. John, with general cargoes in these other ports, when compared, would be just in proportion to the above figures, and comparing the cost of loading general cargoes here and in those other ports the difference would be still greater, owing to the fact that we have a rise of 26 feet of tide here, which would add on to the cost of labor as well as wages. That does not apply to deals, as the greater part of them are delivered in scows along side the ship or wharf, and they rise and fall with the ship, so that there is no extra cost in that respect.

Q. Is that clipping which you are reading taken out of one of the St. John papers? A. I am reading you from a letter which I wrote to a St. John paper in answer to a contrary statement which was made by the secretary of the Ship Laborers' Union, and I give these figures and facts as bearing on the point.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Did you get your figures relating to the other ports from trustworthy authorities? A. From the very best and most respectable steam and ship agents to be found in these places.

Q. And are you satisfied with that statement? A. Yes.

Q. How do the wages of to-day compare with that statement? A. I fancy that in other ports they are the same; I know that in Halifax they are the same, and I think if there are any changes in the others it would not be higher. Concerning St. John, I can speak positively and say the wages are lower than they were. Last year the rate of labor was reduced on steamers from \$5 a day to \$3. We made an arrangement for one of the lines of steamers that comes to St. John, and which I represent—the Furness Line, from England—an agreement for one of the St. John line of steamers for \$3 from the 1st of April to the 1st of November and \$2 from the 1st of November to the 1st of April. That arrangement has been in existence up to this time, but is open to be cancelled at the 1st of April. The society has just informed me that they contemplated making an increase in the wages and I informed them that I could see no justification for it. The rate of freights on deals by steam is 36s. 6d. per standard.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is that by steam or sail? A. Steam; sail is a little higher, so that I see nothing in trade to warrant the increase of wages, for the steamers are not able to bear any more, and so I have informed the society. It seems to me as if they were going to raise the wages to \$5 a day, the same as before, and lower them in the winter. I think, for myself, that \$3.60 is too high, for we think the rate which we have been paying this last year, of \$3 for summer and \$2 for winter, is the best. It looks as though they might take an advantage of us; whatever they agreed to they will keep, and I would be just as willing to enter into an agreement with the union as I possibly could, for I find that they keep their engagements faithfully. The great trouble is to strike a bargain with them. The rate is right for winter but too high for summer. Last year we had to concede to them, for we felt we could not but conciliate them, so we thought we would try their rates. I am also of opinion that the rates should be the same on steamers as on sailing vessels entering into this port.

Q. Can you give us the average rate of towage for a vessel coming into this harbor? A. During the last year or two it is somewhat lower, because there is no combination now among the tug-boats, and so they have fallen in the prices charged.

Q. Are the sailing vessels entering into this harbor bound to take a pilot? A. They are bound to take a pilot whenever he speaks them, or else pay him.

Q. What are the pilotage regulations in St. John? A. They are printed, and they will give you the rates per ton.

Q. Is there any regular wharfage charge per ton? A. It is not exactly per ton, but it is from fifty to one hundred tons; it is a sliding scale, according to the size of the vessel.

Q. What would it be per ton on vessels? A. We have just been paying on a steamer \$10.25 a day, which we found was a very high charge.

Q. What other port charges are there, besides wharfage? A. Sick mariners' funds, which is the same in all ports of the Dominion; harbor master and anchorage dues, which are really a charge for nothing at all, for steamers often pay anchorage without throwing out an anchor.

Q. Where do vessels begin to require a tug-boat? A. At Partridge Island, about two or three miles from the city. Sailing vessels might come in without a tug, but they would be of the smaller class.

Q. Where do sailing vessels entering the harbor take the pilot? A. Under the pilotage law they are bound to take them, or pay him without having his services.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. By whom was the law for anchorage dues made? A. The city corporation.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Have you any light dues? A. We have no light dues.

Q. The aggregate cost on a vessel entering this port, compared with vessels of the same tonnage entering the port of New York, would be higher here than there? A. Pilotage would be higher here than there, for our charges are 3 cents a ton against their 2 cents.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Are not the wharves of New York owned by private individuals? A. In part they are, but a portion of them belong to the corporation, and are regulated by a corporation enactment.

Q. Is it not a fact that the steamship companies pay much less for wharves by renting several at a time? A. I am not very familiar, but I think that in New York and Boston steamers pay no wharfage, but that the goods pay wharfage charges.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Have you had any labor troubles in connection with the loading of vessels in the port of St. John? A. We have.

Q. Were they settled by consultation or arbitration? A. They were settled in different manners. Sometimes we have gone on and carried our point, and sometimes we have had to give into the labor combinations, but I do not remember of a time when there was an arbitration or understanding arrived at.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. How were the troubles finally settled? A. Sometimes we settled it one way, sometimes another; sometimes the laborers had their way and sometimes we had ours. We have had serious trouble. We have had steamers laying at the wharf in St. John, being discharged by what are called outsiders, and also by the crew, interrupted in their work by these society men, because we would not agree to give them their exorbitant demand of \$5 a day. These laborers have gone on the steamer by hundreds, completely crowding her, and terrorizing our men, who have quit work and left us, leaving the steamers perfectly idle. And this is a matter I should like to see this Commission take hold of. There was an Act passed last year by the Dominion Government, called the Quebec Act, the object of which was to meet difficulties of that kind which had arisen at Quebec. I have seen the Act and think it is very good; but so far as our experience here goes, I consider this Act insufficient for our purposes. It provides penalties and imprisonment with hard labor for a term not exceeding three months, for any person that interferes with laborers about vessels or makes threats, but it does not provide for the difficulty we have experienced in this city. We have had men at work beaten here in this city while at work, and they have been made to go away from our city on account of treatment received at the hands of this laborers' society. This laborers' society, when they wish to prevent any vessel being loaded by outsiders, knock off work on all the vessels in the harbor, and congregate by hundreds, perhaps 600 or 700 on the wharf watching and talking. They may offer no violence to any body, and perhaps say nothing that could be construed into being illegal, but it is a species of intimidation, the effect of which is that these outsiders are so frightened that when they get home, at night they are afraid, and will not come back to work. They are also afraid when going home that they will be attacked. It strikes me that this Act ought to contain a provision to prevent the men massing together in such large numbers with the evident intention of intimidating, for their actions strike terror into the minds of those who are at work on these vessels.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. How can you prevent the men from assembling on the streets? A. We can; our policemen can move people from the streets when congregated together in numbers larger than three. Therefore, we feel that a section of that nature should be

introduced into the Quebec Act and enforced. I think it would be the only thing that would apply to those difficulties.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Have these labor troubles seriously militated against the port? A. Undoubtedly they have. We do not object to any man refusing to work for a less rate of wages than he wants to, but we do think that while that is the right of every man that this intimidation and crowding at special wharves is wrong. It is a right that every man has to charge what he sees fit for his services, but we do object to this intimidation in any shape or form, and I think that the law ought to be so arranged that intimidation of all kinds will be impossible. That is what I refer to; I think that the Quebec law is insufficient in that respect for us here.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Did not the members of the Ship-laborers' Union meet the merchants and arrange a scale of prices to be paid by them? A. Yes; but there was no general meeting; such I would infer from your question. The ship-laborers went around to the different ship-brokers and owners and saw them separately.

Q. It is not the document signed by them separately? A. Yes.

Q. Is it not signed as a joint document? A. Yes; they all signed the same document.

Q. Did the Ship-laborers' Union follow up that document and do just as they stated they would? A. Yes.

Q. Have there been any labor troubles since that document was signed? A. There have not.

Q. Are not the Ship-laborers' society this year following out the terms of that document—is it not true that some of the shipping merchants of this port have signed a document to something of the same effect for the coming year? A. I have heard so; I think that they have signed a document to the effect that they will pay the laborers \$3.60 a day on steamers.

Q. Are there not one or two merchants outside who have not signed that document? A. Yes.

Q. Is there not one of them that wishes to have a particular scale lower for their work than for the whole lot—in other words, this party wishes to discriminate? A. I do not know that to be the case; it may be so; I cannot contradict you. I know that so far as the line I represent is concerned, they do not wish to discriminate. I suppose you do not mean me, for there are a great many merchants in St. John who have not signed that document.

Q. Ship-owners? A. A number of ship-owners and their agents, too.

Q. Are there any steamship agents who have signed that document? A. Two, I think, have and two have not.

Q. How much a standard do you pay for loading deals on steamers in this port? A. I think that the cost last year under that arrangement would be probably under \$2. The rates vary, according to the demand; from 75 to 80 cents a standard has been the cost for loading steamers. The steamers are different from sailing vessels.

Q. Is there not a regular standard rate for loading deals in the summer? A. No; not always. The rates I was giving you are winter rates.

Q. Is there not a regular standard rate for loading in winter? A. Not until this last one.

Q. Do you allow stevedores to do your work? A. Yes.

Q. What is the regular standard rate paid to stevedores? A. I could not tell you correctly; we have paid them by the day, but we have never kept any separate account of the cost of discharging and loading. It is all done in one time and it all goes into the same bill.

Q. You say you do not know what the labor would be? A. I think with the winter rate on steamers the price per standard for deal would be 75 or 80 cents.

Q. And what would it be in the summer? A. It would be about \$1.20—that is, in proportion to the winter rates.

Q. Do the Ship-laborers' Union work on steamers? A. They do now, but they have not always done so.

Q. Did they do so last summer? A. They did.

Q. And you say the stevedores get about \$1.20 a standard? A. I think it would be that amount.

Q. Do you know what the actual labor would be on steamers? A. I could hardly tell you, from actual experience, what a stevedore would get; it is likely that he does not get any great amount of profit out of loading a vessel, for I think that those prices would only leave him a fair amount for his own services. I do know that none of the stevedores seem to grow rich.

Q. Can you tell us how much a ton it would cost to discharge a cargo from the steamer in this port? A. You have asked me a question that I cannot answer very readily.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are the men working on the vessel paid by the day? A. The stevedore must do the work and get the men.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. How much would a stevedore working here average in a year? A. I do not know; some get a great deal more work than others, so that the amount of their earnings would vary greatly. I have never had any information of that kind before me; I suppose stevedores will make, on a small vessel, anything ranging from \$20 to \$60. If they average \$50, it would be the best they could do; some take very few vessels and some more.

Q. Have you any idea what a stevedore would earn in this port? A. I do not think any one can tell you that.

Q. Have you any idea what ship-laborers can average? A. I think the same rule applies to the ship-laborers; some get a great deal of work to do and others do not get so much. This port is open all the year round, and there are men at work in it all that time; but to say what they would earn would be mere guess work.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you know of any case where the stevedore receives a contract for discharging steamers and at the end of the job he returns some of the money to the broker or merchant who had charge of the vessel? A. I have heard of that taking place, but I have never experienced it; that is what used to be called the loading clause in our charter party.

Q. Do you not think that thing has helped to hurt this port more than anything else? A. I think so; I think that it was a very objectionable clause.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. How long is it since that clause was abolished? A. Speaking from memory, I should say it has not been in existence for three years. It was an excessive charge, and it was made to protect certain port charges, which were paid for at a certain rate per standard, but there is no doubt it was abused and got to be very injurious, and from the fact that the charge seemed high it was abolished. In some cases, even owners of steamers got part of it back themselves.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Are there any ports in the lower Provinces where vessels go to load that they did not five years ago? A. There are several.

Q. And has that not hurt St. John? A. Yes.

Q. And has it not helped to take the trade away from St. John? A. I think it has. I think the charges here have been the cause of our losing trade, to some extent. The expenses in these out-ports are less than they are here and vessels naturally wish to go to the cheapest port. Parrsborough is a good port, and a large amount of shipping is loaded there. It used to be thought necessary for all large

ships to come to a place like St. John for loading, but it was found there was no necessity for it, because a schooner would have to go to the smaller port for a load and bring it here, all of which added to the expense; whereas, the vessel could be chartered from these smaller ports more cheaply. I think this would have come about in any case, because the expense of carrying deals from these out-ports of St. John was very high, and by chartering direct all this may be avoided.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. And once a trade of that kind is gone it is not likely to come back? A. No; the trade of these out-ports is likely to increase.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you ship any small square timber from this port? A. We used to.

Q. Do you use steam in loading or unloading in this port? A. We do on steamers.

Q. Do you use donkey-engines on sailing vessels? A. No; there are no facilities of that kind for loading sailing vessels; I have seen horses used on the wharf.

Q. Could not a donkey-engine be used? A. When a ship has a wharf to herself she might do it, but in St. John our wharf accommodation is limited, and sometimes we have two, three or four vessels lying abreast. If the vessel had a wharf to herself it could be done. There could be no objection to it if this was a river harbor, but we have a strong current here, so that it is safer not to use the donkey.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Can you tell why it is that the majority of ship-owners in St. John are willing to pay \$3.60 on steamers and only \$2.50 a day for loading sailing ships? A. I think it is very ridiculous, and I have told the society so, because I know from my own experience there is more labor involved in loading steamers with the same quantity of deals than sailing vessels; therefore the ship-laborers, instead of looking upon steamers, should view them in an opposite light. A few days ago I asked this question of a stevedore, and he said he thought the coming of steamers to this port was an advantage to the port. If all the deal were carried by steamers the laborers would get more than they do now. We consider the charging of \$3.60 a day on steamers exorbitant, and last year we agreed on \$3 as a compromise arrangement.

Q. Were the merchants who signed the agreement for this year compelled to do so? A. No; they are not compelled to sign, but it might be possible that the laborers would say, if you do not give us this agreement and pay \$3.60 a day you will have to pay \$5 some other day. The labor market is limited here, and with the intimidating that is done on the part of the Ship-laborers' Union we find it extremely difficult to get people to work outside the union.

Q. Are not some ships and other crafts loaded in this harbor by non-union men at the present time? A. There are some little crafts that are, but the ship-laborers let them go by; but it is only small crafts; occasionally a large ship may do so. There is a struggle going on all the time between the union and non-union men, but the greater part of the work is done by the union men. We, in St. John, prefer to work with the union men, provided their rate of wages are only reasonable. Speaking for myself, I would say I consider that \$3.60 a day, not to talk of \$5, is entirely too high to pay for labor, for there is no laboring man can earn that sum of money.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. If a laboring man can get \$3.60 a day is it any more than he is entitled to? A. I think that good men ought, perhaps, to get more than that, but there are many causes for objecting to giving the rate of wages. Some of the men are good, intelligent men, and well suited to their work; others are bad, and we do not wish to pay as much to the poorer class of men as to the good ones, but this is just the very thing that the union wishes to force upon us. Our port is getting more favorable for the laboring man every day, and when the Short Line Railway is completed to Montreal, and we get better connection with that city, our men will be better off, and

will not have to go away in winter, as they do now, and as many of them have done. I look upon it that the laboring man will have better times here if they do not act unwisely and frighten the tonnage away from the port; and probably in this respect the union might do good service, but these intimidations and strikes kill their own business.

Q. When you talk about these laboring men, do you mean to say that you expect them all to be first-class men? A. They might be all good deal stowers; some might be stronger than others and better able to do a day's work.

Q. Do you think that if these men had continual work all the year round, as other mechanics have, that they would charge so much a day? A. Perhaps not; I think not. I think part of our trouble arises from the fact that our work is not steady and that there is a great deal of broken time in the winter.

Q. Is there not a great deal of broken time even on one vessel? A. There is, but I do not think there is any great complaint on that head. It is certainly not so much in their favor that the work is broken and not continuous.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do they not lose the broken time themselves? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is it not more dangerous to load deals by steam than by hand? A. I suppose it is, but there are very few accidents happen here.

Q. Do brokers in this port charge a uniform commission? A. No; I think the rate varies very much.

Q. Is there a uniform rate of entering and clearing vessels at the Customs? A. I suppose the usual rate is \$5 for entering and clearing a vessel.

Q. How long does it take to do that? A. That depends upon circumstances. Some vessels may be entered in a very few minutes, but where a steamer comes here, and the whole manifest has to be made out, it would take a clerk, probably, a whole day to copy it out.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is skilled work of that kind calculated by the hour? A. It is not in St. John.

Q. Do you know the average time required to enter and clear a vessel? A. I should think that, in the majority of cases, in entering and clearing vessels, in ballast and deal cargoes, an hour would be sufficient time to do all the work; but in the case of a general cargo there might be exceptional circumstances, which would make it take longer time.

Q. Did you ever hear parties complain that the charge for this work was exorbitant? A. I think there is, more generally, no charge made for that than there is.

Q. Do you consider \$3 too high wages for a steady and industrious ship-laborer? A. We consider that to be fair wages the way times are.

Q. How much would a man save, pay house rent and keep a family, on \$300 a year? A. I do not think he would be able to save anything, but I think he could live comfortably in his way.

Q. What do you mean by "in his way"? A. According to the station of his life—that is, when times are as they are now and many things are cheap.

Q. Do you consider \$300 a year good wages for a ship-laborer? A. I consider them to be fair wages.

Q. Do you consider house rent in St. John cheap alongside of other cities in Canada? A. I am not familiar with the price of house rent in other places, but I consider house rents are low in St. John. This I know by my own experience; I know that I am renting several houses now, and am not getting so much for them as a few years ago. I know a house that I am renting for another person for \$140 a year which I have seen rented for \$350 since the fire. I call rents low now.

Q. Have you ever known items in ships, disbursements to be placed to the credit of laborers that ought not, in reality, be placed there? A. I never have.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Could you suggest any means to the Commission any system of arbitration, whereby these labor troubles might be avoided? A. Of course, if arbitration could be made compulsory by law it would be all right, but I do not see how you could interfere with the rights of the subject; because, if a man chooses to ask a certain rate of wages Parliament will never interfere with him doing so. Every man has a right to ask whatever he likes for his services, and the only extent that Parliament can deal with this matter is by preventing unlawful combination or combinations, which act injuriously to trade. I have indicated one way in which I think they could remedy this evil. This Act before me (Quebec Act) was got up by some gentlemen to meet existing labor troubles there, and with a little amendment it might be made to work in St. John. We have an Act passed by the New Brunswick Legislature which is very good to a certain extent, but I do not see what it can do beyond preventing these combinations by law from doing overt acts.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Has arbitration ever been suggested to you in reference to any of these troubles? A. No; we have talked the matter over ourselves with the society and I am of opinion that where they and the steamship owners cannot agree there is no one else will make an agreement for them; we have tried all we could, when these difficulties have been up, to meet the laborers, and have, at times, conceded a great deal but still we have, at times, failed to accomplish our object.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. When you speak of any Legislature making combinations illegal, do you refer to trades unions? A. I mean laborers' unions, such as we have here, for I suppose that was the only thing I was asked to reply to.

Q. Do you think that Parliament ought to make it illegal for any body of men to associate together to protect their own interests? A. I think they ought to be allowed to do that, but where they intimidate other men from working, that ought to be prevented and, those sort of intimidations should be stopped in all their various forms.

Q. If they ask the privilege of assembling together and offer violence to no one does not the law protect those persons and punish the guilty if they are discovered? A. Yes; this Quebec Act covers that ground.

Q. Then you say that at present the police authorities have power to prevent any illegal assembly and compel persons to move on the street? A. I think that our police have authority to that effect.

Q. What other power is necessary to deal with cases like you have in view? A. I think that the Quebec Act ought to have provisions in it dealing with such troubles as we experience with the Ship-laborers, Union in St. John.

Q. What power has charge of the police regulations? A. I suppose the police regulations are made by the local authorities.

Q. Do you think that the Dominion Government has power to give the police authority to interfere with any assemblages that do not go so far as to offer violence to people? A. I think the Dominion Parliament is supreme, and can do anything.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Cannot a man who commits an overt act or an act of intimidation be punished by the common law? A. Yes.

Q. Is not that the law of the land to-day? A. Yes.

Q. Do you require a special law for that purpose? A. No; I would ask for this Quebec Act to be amended. There is no law to punish men who congregate in large numbers, crowding the wharf.

Q. What do you call large numbers? A. Five or six hundred people; the mere fact of their being there on the wharf intimidates the men who are working; so I do not see but what there ought to be a law passed to stop that practice. The Government passed this Act in 1887; it was introduced by a member from Quebec.

Q. Is that the Act that the Minister of Justice got passed? A. Yes.

Q. Do you prefer it to the Amyot Act? A. I did not know that Act. We have had labor difficulties here, and all the work on shipping has been stopped at once, just from sheer intimidation by the men congregating in large numbers on our wharves.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. Do you want a law made against these people? A. No; to interfere with such proceedings.

Q. And with large congregations of people? A. Yes.

Q. Would you want to apply that to a political meeting? A. That is a matter that might require consideration; I am speaking about the laborers congregating in large numbers on our wharves.

Q. Do you approve of the plan that the laborers have adopted of holding a meeting every year, between themselves and the merchants, and fixing the rate of wages to be charged for the ensuing twelve months? A. That is a very good plan, and the great majority of the merchants agree to their demands when they are at all reasonable, but I think the wages the men are asking this year are unreasonable, for \$3.60 a day all the year through is too high.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are the men employed all the year round? A. There are vessels here all the year round.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. But the men are not employed all the year round? A. Not steadily; there is some work going on all the time. This harbor is not like a port on the river St. Lawrence; it is open all the year round and is never frozen up. Sometimes we have half a dozen vessels here in the winter, and from that to 100 ships loading at the wharf in summer time.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. Is there ever a scarcity of the laboring men here to load vessels? A. I have seen that take place.

Q. Within the year past? A. I think there were times even last year when men were scarce.

Q. Do you know whether the stevedores have the privilege of picking out the best men among the union? A. They do now, but the union used to make us take some poor men in every gang.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What is the greatest number of vessels that you have seen idle in this port at once on account of a strike among the laborers? A. I have seen all the vessels in the harbor, and I think there would be somewhere about fifty.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. How long a time were they idle? A. I do not think that they were idle a week, but I think they have been idle the biggest part of it; sometimes it would be for a day and sometimes three or four.

Q. When the union make arrangements are they not satisfactory, and do they not do away with all these troubles? A. So long as there is an arrangement the union carry it out.

Q. Will both parties carry it out? A. I do not think there is a case on record where the society has made any agreement or arrangement but they have carried it out. I would make arrangements with them to pay, believing in good faith that they would carry them out.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q. Do not the society generally go to the merchants to make arrangements? A. They generally come to the offices.

Q. Did they not do this last year? A. I do not remember how the negotiations began; they may have begun in that way.

Q. Are they not willing to make concessions? A. I guess they have to make a virtue of necessity. Times are dull and labor is plenty, and that is the cause of the arrangement being made. The merchants are of opinion that if work was more plentiful there would be no arrangement.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. Would you want to go back to the old standard of \$5 a day? A. I would not.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. Does each steamer take coal enough for its own use? A. They do at Halifax.

Q. Do the American steamers take coal here? A. The American steamers use anthracite coal, which is imported from the States, but the European steamers coal at Halifax, where they have better facilities for coaling than we have here, and the Government has not supplied us with them.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. I presume the steamers you are agent for take coal enough on board for the voyage? A. They generally take some coal at Halifax; the steamer which left here Saturday took 300 tons of coal on board at Halifax; the amount of coal they take depends upon how much cargo they carry.

Q. How much do the steamers pay for coal at Halifax? A. I think we pay for coal \$2.80 a ton.

Q. Was that put on board the steamer? A. Trimmed in the bunkers at Halifax. Coal varies very much in price; Sometimes it is lower than others.

S. B. PATTERSON, Accountant, Savings Bank, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am accountant in the Dominion Savings Bank in this city?

Q. How long have you been engaged in that capacity? A. Fifteen years.

Q. What classes of people are depositors in the savings bank? A. Our customers are very largely among the working people of the city. I mean by that that they are among the laboring and mechanical classes; possibly they are three-fourths of our customers.

Q. Can you give us any idea what is the proportion of the people who deposit their surplus earnings in the savings bank? A. The people who come regularly to the savings bank are those that we call working people—mechanics, or farmers and their families, and also some mariners. I think three-fourths of our customers are among that class of people, for we do not encourage depositors from any other class.

Q. Do they deposit frequently? A. Yes; we have a great many depositors who come regularly once a week. We look for them, at all events, once a month, and if we find they are not depositing we know there is something going wrong with them—some sickness, or trouble of that kind.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. What is the lowest deposit you take? A. One dollar.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What is the limit of deposit? A. Do you mean for a year?

Q. Yes? A. Three hundred dollars.

Q. Have many mechanics reached that limit? A. Yes; a great many. The total limit is \$1,000, and a great many mechanics and laboring people have reached it.

Q. In what time did they reach the \$1,000 limit? A. There are a great many who reached it before the new regulations of \$300 deposit in one year came in force, and who since have put in money for their children. A great many people have

adopted that plan. They have put in the full limit for themselves and now they are at work filling up an account for their children, and in this way laying by money. In that way they evade the law.

Q. Do many of that class of depositors frequently withdraw their deposits?
A. Yes; in the spring of the year. We will, during this month and the next, perhaps, pay out quite a large amount of money to some of those people, who will want to buy a house for themselves, for just now building lots and houses are cheap, and some of those people will want to buy a piece of land. I know we are paying out a great deal of money this month for that purpose—for buying lots in this city.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do they buy vacant lots? A. Building lots.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are these sums paid out to mechanics or laboring people? A. To the customers I spoke of.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q. As a rule, do you ask those people what their occupation is? A. We have to ask them that when they first deposit, so as to get their names on the book.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q. How long does it take a mechanic to save \$1,000? A. That depends upon business; some mechanics can save a great deal more money than others. If a man is steady at work and his family are earning, provided they are total abstainers, they can save \$1,000 in St. John in three years.

Q. How many of a family would he have? A. Himself, with a boy and girl earning.

Q. How long would it take an individual mechanic by himself to save \$1,000?
A. I know mechanics who live better than I do, whose houses are better furnished than mine, and who have all the comforts and conveniences that a great many professional men have not. They have money in the savings bank; they have but little or nothing in their houses, but they put all their money in the savings bank. This they do so as to be able to get it when they want it, and until that time comes the money remains there. This they would sooner do than invest in real estate.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. You think that that man would prefer to invest his money in that way instead of in real estate? A. I think so.

Q. Do they think that when they are moving around they can take their bank-book with them easier than a house? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. What is the average expense of a mechanic who is not a total abstainer?
A. The ordinary man, who is a moderate drinker—I mean, a man who drinks a little but does not get drunk—will find it costs him \$1 a week for his liquor; that is \$52 a year. He will admit that, but the unfortunate part of the case is that if the husband is fond of liquor his wife gets fond of it too, and the chances are that the children will soon follow them; if a man drink socially and respectfully he is likely to drink too much and his children are likely to drink too, and in a very little while there is trouble in the family. I am intimately acquainted with some of those people and I often go to see them.

Q. Were you ever a mechanic, and are you able to speak from a mechanic's standpoint? A. I was a mechanic; I have employed men to work for me.

Q. What business did you follow? A. I was in the boot and shoe business.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. You say that you know mechanics who are living in much better circumstance than you are? A. Yes.

Q. What position do they occupy? A. They are men engaged as foremen and machinists.

Q. What would their wages be? A. I do not know; I know they are able to dress their families very nice. I know a family that is in one of our cotton factories and the wages for himself and girl are among the \$20 a week.

Q. Do you know what their wages were before he went there? A. I do; he was once a ship-carpenter, and then he earned about \$8.

Q. Could a man in St. John live economically, savingly and comfortably, and support a family, on \$8 a week? A. Yes. This is a fact not generally known, that the poorer class are wasteful.

Q. What do you call the "poorer classes—" the unskilled laborers? Yes; the laboring classes, and any body visiting the families of the poorer classes will see there is a waste.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. You mean there is a lack of management? A. Yes; there is a waste of what comes in, and a want of intelligence in producing results in the kitchen and the sewing room that works against the poor man.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. Have you studied the expenses of living as between the French and English people? A. I have not, but I think that the French can live cheaper than English people. I know that the charitable societies in St. John have undertaken to take care of some families in the city, and they have managed to run the families on 90 cents a week, and give them food, which may not have been of the very best quality, but which was good and wholesome.

Q. Are the deposits made by the working people in St. John increasing, decreasing, or do they remain stationary? A. This last year, under the new regulations, they have been decreasing.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. That is to say under the regulations by which the amount of deposits is limited? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are their deposits decreasing from any other cause? I think that if it were not for that they would be increasing.

Q. Do you receive many deposits from sewing women? A. Yes.

Q. Do their deposits increase or decrease? A. Where everything is right, in the shape of good health, their deposits keep increasing; if they deposit at all they must increase.

Q. Are many persons compelled, for purposes of subsistence, to withdraw their accounts in winter? A. Not many, but there are a number of cases where it is necessary for them to do so. Our mechanics keep up depositing, perhaps not so much in January and February as they do in the other months, but where everything is all right at home we do not notice that there is much difference because of the slackness of the time or work.

Q. Do you think that the number of persons, who stop depositing on account of drinking is increasing or decreasing in St. John? A. It is decreasing, for we are getting, as a community, more temperate.

Q. Do you, from your observation, think that the working people are less or more able to deposit money than they were ten or twelve or even fifteen years ago? A. They are more able, for the laboring people were never so comfortable in St. John as they are now, and I know this from having been among them for forty odd years.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q. Do you give that opinion based upon statistics which you have gained from the position you have occupied? A. Yes; I give this opinion, not from the know-

ledge I have gained in my official position, but from the position I have occupied in the temperance societies.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. And from personal observation? A. Yes; and from personal observation.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Do these people who deposit in the savings bank have any difficulty in getting other investments for their money if they choose? A. They are not the kind of people that like to make investments, for they have not got confidence in them. I direct their attention sometimes to corporation and provincial bonds, and tell them that they had better make arrangements to get some of them; but not many of them take my advice.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. What interest do you pay? A. Four per cent.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. How long is it since the new arrangements were introduced? A. July, 1887.

Q. How do these people who have deposits in the savings bank look upon their investment; do they think it secure? A. They do; they have thorough confidence in it.

Q. Do you have deposits in the savings bank from people who reside in other countries? A. Yes; we have deposits from the United States.

Q. Would that be people who have lived here and who have gone away? A. Yes; and they keep sending their money to us all the time.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q. Are their families here? A. They are single men, who have fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters living here, and they keep up their connections.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do these people hope to come back? A. They intend to come back.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Can you give some idea of the temperance work in St. John. Can you tell us whether the number of licenses for selling liquor is increasing or decreasing? A. The liquor business in St. John is getting circumscribed very much.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. That is to say, that the number of licenses have decreased? A. They have decreased very much. The liquor business has decreased very much, and the business is getting into the hands of persons who are not very proud of their business; that is to say, the men who took out licenses some years ago will not go into the business now.

Q. Who grants the liquor licenses in the city? A. The mayor of the city issues the licenses and the revenue goes into the city funds; but the Provincial Parliament makes the license law.

Q. Are the number of liquor licenses limited in this city? A. Yes; so many for each ward, according to population. In the cities of St. John and Carleton the number is, altogether, sixty; whereas, it used to be unlimited, and we could have as many licenses as the mayor saw fit to grant.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What was the greatest number of licenses you ever knew to be granted in any one year? A. I think 130 or 140.

Q. In the city of St. John? A. Yes; and Carleton.

Q. What is the fact to-day? A. We have not quite sixty; there is not, perhaps, over fifty-one licensed taverns to-day in this community.

Q. Is the Scott Act in operation in Portland to-day? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know whether there is more or less crime in St. John than Portland, according to population? A. I do not.

Q. Do you know whether there is more or less drunkenness in St. John, according to population, than in Portland? A. I think there is more in St. John.

Q. Is the difference marked? A. To us who are watching it, it is.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. The position of the two places being so closely connected makes it hard to distinguish it? A. Yes. The reason why I say there is less drunkenness in Portland is that the workmen there have more total abstainers among their ranks than the men in the city of St. John.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Then, you think that the more temperate condition of Portland, as compared with St. John, is more due to individual effort than to the existence of any statute on the Statute-book? A. I think that individual effort and opinion produced the statute, and that there has not been enough thought, industry and effort given to enforce it; but the main reason for the failure of the Scott Act in Portland is the lukewarmness and indifference of the authorities.

Q. Then, if the law is not enforced it does not produce sobriety? A. It does not.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Do you think that the temperance sentiment is stronger in Portland than it is in St. John? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think that the savings from Portland and Carleton are greater than from St. John? A. I think so; and I think that the temperate habits of the people is the cause of it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are there not liquor saloons in Portland that are wide open? A. Yes.

Q. And where people can get a drink when they want to? A. Yes.

Q. Every day in the week? A. Yes.

Q. And is not the Scott Act supposed to be in existence in Portland? A. It is.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What is the cause of that? A. I sometimes blame the temperance people; if I lived there I should blame myself.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Who enforces the Act? A. The city authorities.

Q. Then where is the mayor of Portland? A. The people are more supreme than the mayor and they should see that the law is enforced. The people will wake up some day and then there will be a change.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q. Does not the Provincial Government put the Scott Act in force? A. No; it is the Dominion Government.

Q. Do not the provincial officials have to see that it is enforced? A. No; with us it is left to the municipality.

Q. How long is it since the Act was passed in Portland? A. About a year ago.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Have not the Portland council refused to appoint inspectors to carry out the law? A. Yes; we have two or three cases now arranged by private individuals, which are before the courts and awaiting the process of the law before conviction can be had, and until those are settled we cannot do anything to carry out the law.

JAMES A. WHITE, Earthenware Manufacturer, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a manufacturer of earthenware.

Q. What class of earthenware do you make? A. We make common earthenware, brown, majolica and basillicaware. We have also prepared ourselves to manufacture fire-bricks and drain-pipes, and as I thought that this Commission would be the place to bring this matter up, I would state that the Government last year took the duty off imported fire-brick, and consequently the plant and all the machinery we got to go into that manufacture is lying idle on our hands.

Q. Do you employ both skilled and unskilled laborers? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do skilled hands earn with you? A. Nine dollars to twelve dollars a week.

Q. How many hours a day do they work? A. Ten hours.

Q. How much do unskilled laborers earn with you? A. One dollar a day; the skilled men work piece-work.

Q. Do the skilled hands work at night? A. Yes.

Q. Do they receive any extra pay for night-work? A. They receive the same as in the day time.

Q. How many hours a night do they work? A. They divide the night into two watches; one will take the night work one week and change off with the other gang the next week.

Q. Do the men who work at night remain at day work, too? A. Yes; but they do not generally remain after they make three hours.

Q. Do you employ any boys? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest boy in your employ? A. Fourteen or fifteen years of age.

Q. What wages do you pay them? A. They start at 40 cents a day.

Q. How long do they remain with you before they become skilled workmen? A. About four years.

Q. How rapidly does their pay increase during these four years? A. When learning our business they commence at a discount of one-third of a journeyman's price, and they work piece-work; so it all depends on their skill.

Q. Do they get any difference between the first and third year in price—before they get through? A. The third year there is only 25 per cent. off the price and the fourth year 20 per cent.

Q. As a rule, do you give them employment when they become skilled workmen? A. As a rule, they find employment with us if we have enough work to keep them.

Q. Do you get the clay for your brown ware in New Brunswick? A. Yes.

Q. Do you make Rockingham-ware? A. Yes.

Q. Where do you get the clay to make it? A. We import it from New Jersey and Jersey, England.

Q. Where do you get your material for your fire-brick? A. We get part of it from New Jersey and part of it here.

Q. Do you know whether the clay got nearer home than New Jersey and England can be used for making Rockingham-ware? A. We have found some in Grand Lake, but it has got grit in it, and it was not uniform in quality; so we could not use it for that purpose.

Q. Without a duty, can you compete with the foreign-made fire-brick. A. We cannot.

Q. What duty would be sufficient to enable you to compete with the foreign-made article? A. The same as we had before—25 per cent.

Q. Where do you sell your fire-brick? A. To the rolling mills and foundries.

Q. In the immediate neighborhood of St. John? A. Yes.

Q. Do you manufacture drain-pipe? A. We have not made any as yet, for that would be the outcome of making fire-brick. We have the machinery fitted up for it, and we intended to make the manufacture of drain-pipe a part of our business.

Q. And you have been prevented from the manufacture of that on account of the duty? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Where do you find a market for your goods? A. In this Province, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Cape Breton.

Q. Do you ship anything to Quebec Province? A. We have shipped some car-loads to Montreal of milk jugs, but when the duty came in force we put off the making of these, and since then we have not sent any to Montreal.

Q. Are classes of goods in your line imported much? A. Very largely.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you employ boys? A. Yes.

Q. How many? A. Five.

Q. What is the age of the youngest boy? A. Fourteen.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Do you use wood or coal for fuel? A. We use wood for burning the kiln and we use some fine coal for burning the clay.

Q. Do you use soft coal? A. Yes; soft coal.

ROBERT IRVINE, Trackmaster, Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What is your position? A. Yardmaster, Intercolonial Railway.

Q. At St. John? A. Yes.

Q. What are your hours of duty? A. They are about ten or eleven hours.

Q. What wages do you receive? A. Two dollars a day.

Q. At what hour do you begin work in the morning? A. There is only one yard-master at the Intercolonial Railway here, and I have to be round near all the time. One train comes in on the New Brunswick Railway at 5:45 and I am there to see it. I may not be needed to go there, but I go to see that everything is all right.

Q. And how long do you work? A. I generally work till the last train goes out.

Q. What hour is that? A. Half-past eight.

Q. In the evening? A. Yes; in the evening.

Q. During this time, what length of time may you be absent? A. I am about the yard all the time, and unless I take a run around town I am at the side of the track all the time.

Q. Have you any time for meals? A. I can run and eat my meals in fifteen minutes if I am in a hurry, or take an hour and a-half if I wish to.

Q. Do you do any Sunday morning work? A. I attend the express that comes in; then we have a freight train which if on time comes at 5:30 and the night express comes in at 7 o'clock. We shift her and get her ready for Monday morning, and then we get the day express ready, and then we shift the American train and get them ready for Sunday night in the station.

Q. Are you paid for Sunday the same as the other days? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think that these hours of work are such that you can perform your duties with reasonable vigor and diligence every day straight along through the whole year? A. I am always healthy and have never been sick; I have been at it for twenty-three years.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Have you any yard-men under you? A. Yes.

Q. What are their wages? A. When they come in the yard first they get \$1.25 a day and their pay is raised 5 cents a day every year for five years, till they get \$1.50.

Q. How many hours do they work? A. Ten hours, maybe eleven, but on our road they are paid for every hour they work extra. They do not work without they are paid for it.

Q. Is this extra work at night? A. Yes.

Q. Are they paid extra wages for night work or just the same as for day's work?

A. Just the same as in the day; we do not get any double pay; if they work till 9 o'clock they get half a day. One gang will work in the day and one gang at night. They get half a day allowed at night, even if they are only two or three hours out. That is the men on the shunting engine.

Q. How often are you paid? A. Once a month.

Q. Is it regular? A. Always regular, from the 1st to the 10th of the month.

Q. Are any of the men's wages in the yard garnisheed to the company?

A. Never, that I knew of.

By Mr CLARKE:—

Q. Are you doing any more work now in the Intercolonial Railway yard than you were previous to the New Brunswick Railway coming in to your station? A. Yes; the work is increasing every year, but we have the New Brunswick work added to our own ever since they came into the station.

Q. Have you had any additions made to your staff on that account? No; we are one man less since the New Brunswick Railway came there.

Q. Have any additions been made to your salary? A. No; we handle from 1,500 to 2,000 cars of their road.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is that for the New Brunswick road? A. We do not want to take pay for that.

Q. Have you ever had applications made to you for an increase of wages in that respect? A. No; I have not.

Q. Have you had any addition made to your salary? A. No; there are fines on our road for mishaps.

Q. Have you ever made application for an increase of wages? A. Yes; I have written to the Minister of Railways, Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Costigan and several other members of the House.

Q. What was the result? A. Mr. Schreiber said that he would not give it.

Q. Do you think that you and your men under you receive sufficient wages for the work you do? A. No; a yard-master in the States gets \$90 to \$100 a month; that is for the days. In Bangor the head yard-master gets \$90 a month, and he has two yard-masters under him, and they get \$60.

Q. How many yard masters have you under you? A. I tend to the whole business. My son is my assistant and betwixt him and myself we do the work. A foreman in the yard in the States gets \$2.50 a day; my assistant gets \$1.50 a day.

JOHN RUDDOCK, Ship Repairer, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a repairer of ships, and wrecker.

Q. Do you employ ship-carpenters, caulkers and men of that class? A. I do.

Q. Are you able to employ men the year round? A. I am able to, but we do not have employment for them—that is to say, we have facilities for employing them but we do not have the vessels come here to have the work done.

Q. How many months in the year do you find employment for caulkers? A. I think caulkers will work four or five months.

Q. What would ship-carpenters work? A. I should think six and a-half months.

Q. What does a good ship-carpenter earn? A. Ship-carpenters would average, the year round, \$2 a day.

Q. Do these men ever receive any other employment when you have no work for them to do? A. Quite a number of them are fishermen.

Q. Are they able to make themselves a comfortable living? A. I think they are.

Q. Do you know if any of them own the houses in which they live? A. Quite a number of them do.

Q. Have they paid for these houses out of their wages? A. I think so.

Q. Are any new hands coming in to take their places? A. New ones do not want to come. We want a dry-dock here. It is a reasonable place to have ship's work done, but we are handicapped by not having the dock.

Q. If there was a dry-dock here would there be any more repairing of wooden vessels than now? A. I think there is many a case where ships would be repaired here. The ship, Flying Cloud, was putting in a new bow here, and he would copper her if he could have it done, but he will go to the other side to have the work done, because we have not a dry-dock. It is not because we cannot do the work as cheap, but because we have not the facilities. I think that with a dry-dock we could do that work cheaper than they could on the other side of the water.

Q. If you had a dry-dock in St. John could you do repairs to iron vessels? A. Do you mean permanent repairs?

Q. Yes? A. We would require plant that we have not here but would be here in connection with the dock.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Could the men soon be educated to do the work? A. We have the very best class of men here to educate, that I know of.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you take on any boys as apprentices? A. No.

Q. Is there no inducement for them to learn? A. No.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Have you ever known of vessels belonging to St. John people going to Boston or New York for repairs? A. Not from here, for we can do repairs 50 per cent. cheaper than in New York; I exclude copper work.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are United States vessels permitted to come here for repairs? A. I think not; I am not conversant upon the matter, but I think we do repair some American ships here that have come to be loaded. Within five years I have repaired as many as twelve American ships, but there has been a great falling off in that trade.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Are your men obliged to furnish their own tools for repairing? A. Yes; they do not furnish anything but a five-eighth auger, and I furnish that and all the plant in connection with the repair work.

Q. What is the value of the tools they would have to furnish? A. Twenty dollars would be the outside figure.

Q. If they lose or break those tools would they have to furnish new ones themselves? A. Yes.

Q. There is none furnished them? A. There is not.

Q. Are there many caulkers out of employment in St. John? A. Sometimes we find it very hard to get caulkers, and we are obliged to them to come and work for us; we have to send to Boston for them. It does not cost them much to go, to Boston and New-York. Twelve of my hands went to Boston and have not come back yet. They generally go away in the winter time and return in the summer season.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you know how the wages of ship-carpenters and caulkers of Boston and Portsmouth compare as against St. John? A. I think they pay caulkers \$3 and ship-carpenters \$2.50—that is in Boston.

Q. Do you know what the wages are in Portsmouth? A. I do not know, but I imagine they are the same.

Q. Have you heard your men say or do you know from personal experience what the cost of living in Boston is as compared with St. John? A. I do not know that I can speak with any degree of certainty, but I have heard the men say that have lived in Boston that it costs more that double to live there—that is, people who leave St. John.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. When they go to Boston in the fall do they ever take their families with them? A. They scarcely ever do. If they do they are not likely to return; in fact, they hardly ever do in that case.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. What would ship-carpenters earn with you? A. They would get \$2 a day.

Q. What would they get in Boston? A. Sometimes they would earn \$4, I think—pay \$3.60.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Can a caulker get more work in his business in Boston than he can here? A. Yes.

Q. Is the season more suitable? A. Yes.

Q. Was there not a time in the history of the port when they did not seek for work as they do now? A. Yes; in the time of ship-building.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. That would be wooden ship-building? A. Yes; we used to employ 150 to 200 ship-carpenters, and we used to build two ships a year.

Q. Are you still hoping for wooden ship-building to stir up? A. Yes; the last ship we built was in March, 1868. We will build coasters here for a long time to come.

HENRY LOGAN, Raftsman, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What employment are you engaged in? A. Tapley Bros.

Q. What work do you do? Rafting, log-driving.

Q. What wages do raftsmen receive? A. My wages are \$2.25 a day; other men get \$1.75.

Q. Are you a foreman? A. Yes.

Q. What hours do raftsmen work? A. They have to work different hours; they work ten or twelve hours sometimes.

Q. What constitutes a day's work—one run through the falls? A. Sometimes running through the falls once and sometimes twice—when the tide suits.

Q. How many hours does it consume to make two runs through the falls in the day? A. The way we would do in that case would be to go through the falls at 5 o'clock in the morning; then we would come right back about 7 o'clock; then we would go up again at night, about 5 or 6, and perhaps get home at 7:30.

Q. After you return from your first run through the falls are you not employed all the time handling logs till the next run is made? A. Pretty much so.

Q. Is there any organization in your work? A. There is not.

Q. Was your work ever organized? A. Yes.

Q. Who fixes the rate of wages—the men or the employers? A. The employers.

Q. Have you ever had any trouble with your employers? A. We had a great deal of trouble with them once, I believe; they had a strike there which was raised by the society asking for 25 cents raise a day. We had a little trouble there since.

Q. How long is it since you had the first trouble? A. I do not exactly know.

Q. Is it ten or fifteen years ago? A. Some four or five years ago.

Q. Do the men that he employed on the river rafts get paid by the day or month? A. The raftsmen are paid by the day. Some of the steamers owned by Messrs. Tapley pay the men by the month; she will go away and take a crew of

raftsmen with her, and they get the same wages as the other raftsmen, and found.

Q. How much employment do raftsmen receive during the year? A. Somewhere about eight months.

Q. Do you know if any of these raftsmen have been able to procure houses of their own from their earnings? A. There are some of them that have done so.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. What do these men do after the rafting season is over? A. Sometimes we may have logs to run through in the winter time, but this winter there has not been many. All these American mills have their logs piled. During the winter time I have generally been busy repairing boats.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You mean small boats? A. Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. What are the yearly average wages of raftsmen? A. My wages between building boats and rafting are somewhere about \$500. They may, perhaps, be more, for I work in the winter. I commence in the spring to repair the boats, and am employed nearly all the time.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are many of the raftsmen idle in the winter? A. They are pretty nearly always idle; some go away to the woods in the winter; they go trapping.

Q. How much do these men receive while in the woods trapping? A. I do not know, for I was never there; I suppose \$20 a month.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Are not these men boarded while in the woods? A. They are.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Can all the idle men get work in the woods in the winter if they desire it? A. I suppose so, but it is a business I do not know anything about.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Do you know what other raftsmen besides yourself earn? A. They generally make about eight months in the year, at \$1.75 a day—that is, when running logs through the falls; but I really do not know anything about the time or wages of the other men, outside of myself.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do not men have to work three tides a day to make fourteen hours? A. I do not know. They might sometimes, perhaps, make that time, and at others not so much.

Q. Do they receive the same wages per day when they work two tides as when they work one? A. Sometimes we get some extra pay if we are very late in making the two tides.

Q. Are your wages as high now as they were four or five years ago? A. Yes; I think so.

Q. Were the wages all round, when the men were organized, greater than they are now? A. I think we had \$2 a day or \$2.50. It has been some years since we had an organization. We had some little trouble with our employers a few years ago, but none since.

Q. Are the wages of the raftsmen settled upon between the employers and the men at the commencement of the season? A. There is never anything said about the wages when we go to work; we always get the same wages.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is not the work pretty dangerous? A. I suppose running through the falls is.

Q. Have you known men's lives to be lost there within your time? A. Yes; some years ago a number of men were drowned there that had been working on lumber and were going back through the falls.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Have you heard of any loss of life taking place there lately? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How long is it since you have known lives to be lost in the falls when men were engaged in the ordinary work of rafting? A. I could not say; it was some time ago.

Q. A number of years ago? A. Yes; some years ago.

THOMAS BAGNALL, Raftsman, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Did you hear the evidence of Mr. Logan? A. Yes.

Q. Can you corroborate that evidence? A. Yes.

Q. In every particular? A. Yes.

Q. Does your work vary at all in the different departments? A. No; not very much; it is pretty much all alike. Some days we have more work to do and some days less.

Q. Do you ever get any extra time? A. Very seldom; sometimes we do.

Q. If you work late at night is it only counted a day's work? A. That is all.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What would be the number of hours in the average day, when you only work one tide? A. We hardly work that way; at times we leave at five and at times we go out into the bay and are there very late.

Q. How many hours a day do you work, taking one day with another? A. I should think we work over eleven hours.

Q. That would be about an average day's work—from eleven to twelve hours? A. Yes; very seldom we would not work so long. I do not mean to say we work twelve hours very often, without there is something particular doing and it is wanted in a hurry.

Q. You think eleven hours would be about the average? A. Yes; I think so.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Are there any young boys working with you? A. No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. All men? A. All men.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you work on Sundays? A. No; not with our crew.

Q. Have you ever known raftsmen to work on Sunday? A. Not unless it was necessary, on account of lumber being in danger of being lost.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. When on drives do you work on Sunday? A. I never was on drives; my work is here about Indiantown, working through the falls and at times going into the bay.

ANDREW BROWN, Harness-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q. What is your business? A. Journeyman harness-maker.
 Q. Is this much of an industry in St. John? A. Yes; quite an industry.
 Q. About what would be fair average wages for a skilled journeyman harness-maker? A. About \$9 a week.
 Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten.
 Q. Do harness-makers get plenty of work all the year round? A. Yes.
 Q. Comfortable shops to work in? A. Yes.
 Q. Are many apprentices taken on? A. Only one in our shop.
 Q. Is that just at the will of the employer, or is there any restriction put upon him by the men? A. No; just at the will of the employer.
 Q. Do you know if any harness comes in here from Quebec, or west of Quebec?
 A. Prison-made and factory-made harness comes in from the upper Provinces.
 Q. Do you know where that prison-made harness comes from? A. No; but I understand it comes.
 Q. Do you know whether that harness comes here in large quantities? A. Well, I do not; I have heard that they run it into all the country places.
 Q. Do you know whether there would be more work here if that prison-made harness did not come? A. Yes; there would.
 Q. Do you think journeymen harness-makers would receive more wages than they receive now if it were not for that prison-made harness? A. Yes.
 Q. Do you know whether more or less men are employed in this industry than there was some years ago? A. Well, I think in 1873-4 there were more men employéd.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q. That was before the fire here? A. Yes; and in 1878.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. Were the wages as high then as now? A. About the same, I think.
 Q. Is collar-making a distinct branch in itself? A. Yes.
 Q. What would be the wages of a good collar-maker? A. A good collar-maker would make from \$10 to \$12 a week.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

- Q. Do you use much imported leather for your harness? A. Yes; we use altogether imported stock—that is, from the upper Provinces.
 Q. Nothing from Europe? A. No—well, we do for our fine work; we use oak leather from the States, but in the general run of work we use Ontario leather.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q. How is it that you cannot get as good leather in St. John as in Toronto?
 A. We cannot; we have not the hides, for one thing.
 Q. Why cannot you get the hides? A. We find the North-West hides are the best hides.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

- Q. Are you paid every week? A. Yes.
 Q. In cash? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. Is any class of American harness imported into this Province—light harness, such as saddles, &c.? A. Not that I know of.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

- Q. Where are your buckles and all your furniture for the harness imported from—England or America? A. From the old country—from England and from the United States, both places.

Q. None made in Canada? A. No; there are no buckles made in Canada.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You are now in Canada—you mean from Montreal, &c.? A. No; there are none made in Montreal.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How long has an apprentice to serve before he becomes a journeyman?
A. Four years, I believe, now.

Q. Do they generally remain, after they become journeymen, with their employer, or in the city? A. Some do and some do not.

Q. Did you ever work on the other side? A. Yes.

Q. Where? A. In San Francisco, Boston, and over these Maritime Provinces.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Do you know if they receive whips from Upper Canada? A. Yes; and from the United States.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Cannot you make whips here as good as in Upper Canada? A. No; we cannot make them here.

Q. You get whipped by other people? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Could you tell us the relative wages of harness-makers in Boston and in St. John? A. No. Just now they average in St. John from \$7 to \$9.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is there any surplus of harness-makers in the place? A. Yes; I think there is.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Those who have situations, are they all employed all the year round? A. No.

Q. There are slack times? A. There are not over three or four journeymen harness-makers in St. John employed all the year round; the rest are all boys, who are employed all the year round.

FREDERIC BUSTIN, Nailor, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are there many men employed in the cut-nail industry in St. John? A. I cannot say exactly; just at present there are about thirty-five to forty.

Q. Are they all skilled mechanics? A. Skilled.

Q. Does it not require a good deal of skill to work some of those machines?
A. It ought some of those machines in my branch.

Q. What is your branch? A. Horse-nails.

Q. What does a good, skilled man earn at that? A. I could not tell exactly, as we all work at piece-work.

Q. What do you think is a fair day's earnings—an average—taking the year round? A. About \$2.

Q. A good, steady man can make \$600 a year? A. I should think so—between \$500 and \$600.

Q. Are there unskilled hands at work at that branch? A. Not at mine.

Q. Are there any unskilled hands at work in that shop at all? A. There are what we call laboring men.

Q. What do they receive? A. Seven dollars a week is as near as I can tell you; I am not positive.

Q. How many hours a day do they work? A. They are supposed to work ten.

Q. Are there any boys employed? A. They have none in their employ under seventeen or eighteen.

Q. Are these learning the business or are they just helpers? A. Some are what they call nail-feeders.

Q. What can they earn? From \$1.10 to \$1.50 a day.

Q. They work by the piece? A. By the piece.

Q. Is the place comfortable to work in? A. Yes; pretty fair in the summer time—not overly warm in winter; there are worse places to work in.

Q. Any of the machines dangerous? A. No.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Did you ever work on the other side? A. No.

Q. Have you a uniform scale of wages for certain departments? A. There is, so much a hundred pounds, according to the size of the nails.

Q. Who makes the scale of wages? A. The employer.

Q. Has the employé got a say in the matter? A. If they undertake to interfere too much with the wages the employé may have a say in it.

Q. Do you know the difference between the price paid nailors here and what is called "Pittsburg prices"? A. I do not know exactly; I have an idea they are less, but I cannot say anything positive about it.

Q. Are the nailers in St. John organized? A. They are not.

Q. Would it be to their advantage, so far as wages are concerned, if they were organized? A. I do not think so.

Q. How long would a boy be at the business before becoming expert in the position you occupy? A. It would take five or six years—may be more; I have seen them at it ten and twelve years and they cannot do it yet.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. That is according to the capacity of the boy? A. Yes; it depends upon the person at it, a good deal.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q. How long have you resided in St. John? A. Probably twenty or twenty-five years.

Q. Men placed in your position, either in your own or in any other industry—do you know if they can save money, or do you know of many men who own their own houses or are in possession of them, paying for them? A. I do not know of any but one who ever has done that, as I know of.

Q. Do you know if there are any men who are saving money and placing it in a position of safe keeping? A. Well, I cannot say I do.

HENRY MORAN, Machinist, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. At what branch are you employed? A. Machinist in a nail factory.

Q. Have you heard the testimony of the last witness? A. Very little.

Q. Can you corroborate it, so far as you heard it? A. Yes.

Q. About what wages will a machinist, employed as you are, earn? A. About \$2 a day.

Q. Is there much employment for such machinists? A. Well, no; not much.

Q. How frequently are you paid? A. Weekly.

Q. In full? A. In full.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. What kind of machinery are you making—repairing or renewing? A. Repairing and renewing, and building a little sometimes.

Q. Do many of the men in your shop make their own drafts for their machinery and design? A. Yes; most all of our nailors can do that.

Q. You learned that in the factory—you did not learn that in the schools? A. In the factory.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q. How many hours a-day do you work? A. Ten.
 Q. Constant employment? A. Yes; pretty constant.
 Q. All the year round? A. Generally all the year round.
 Q. Have the wages increased or decreased in the past few years? A. No; the wages have been at a stand for some years now.

ANDREW DAMERY, Stove-fitter, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. What are the wages of stove-fitters in St. John? A. Eight dollars and nine dollars.
 Q. Do they have constant work? A. In some shops they have.
 Q. Take the trade as a whole in the city—are they constantly employed? A. No.
 Q. What would be the average months in the year that you would receive work?
 A. About nine or ten months in the year.
 Q. Are there many working under \$7 a week? A. Not that I know of.
 Q. Are there any apprentices at that branch of the stove business? A. Yes.
 Q. What does a boy receive on going on first? A. About \$2 a week.
 Q. How old might he be at that time? A. Fifteen or sixteen.
 Q. Is the shop you work in well ventilated? A. Yes.
 Q. Do you know anything about stove-moulding? A. No; not much.
 Q. Are you paid weekly or fortnightly? A. Weekly.
 Q. And in cash? A. Yes.
 Q. On what day of the week are you paid? A. On Saturday.
 Q. Do you prefer Saturday for pay-day rather than any other day in the week?
 A. No; I am not particular as long as I get it.
 Q. Are there many stove-fitters in the city? A. No.
 Q. When a boy serves his time and becomes a journeyman does he remain in St. John? A. Some of them do; most of them go away.
 Q. Have you got a regulation for a certain number of boys to a certain number of men? A. No.
 Q. Are the stove-fitters and stove-moulders in St. John organized? A. Not that I know of.

MICHAEL KELLY, Secretary Ship-Laborers' Society, called and sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

- Q. How many members are there on your roll? A. About 420, I think.
 Q. How long has this union been in existence? A. About twenty-two or twenty-three years.
 Q. What are the wages called for by the union for ships last year? A. Two dollars and fifty cents.
 Q. How many hours' work? A. Nine hours.
 Q. And for steamers? A. Three dollars for the same hours.
 Q. For the same number of hours? A. Yes.
 Q. And in winter? A. Two dollars.
 Q. For ships? A. Yes.
 Q. And for steamers? A. The same rate.
 Q. Last year did the union fix the rate of wages themselves? A. We entered into an agreement with the merchants.

Q. Before that time? A. We fixed our rate at \$2 from the 1st May, and then we fixed it at \$2.50, according to agreement.

Q. Were there any strikes or misunderstandings between the union and the merchants when the union made the prices? A. Yes; there was a strike in the spring.

Q. I understand the merchants and the union now meet every spring and settle the wages for the coming summer and winter? A. The merchants and the men of the union?

Q. Yes—or the officers of the union? A. They have not done it till last year; that was the first agreement entered into.

Q. Do you find this arrangement most satisfactory to both parties? A. Yes.

Q. How? A. It is quite a benefit to all parties concerned—it keeps down strikes and demonstrations, and one thing and another.

Q. Then, you have made arrangements for the coming summer season? A. Yes; some of the same men signed the agreement last year.

Q. How many merchants have signed that agreement? I think there are six now.

Q. What will be the arrangements for the ensuing summer? A. Two dollars and fifty cents a day on sailing vessels up to the 1st November from 1st April, and \$3.60 on ocean steamers loading and discharging.

Q. And in winter? A. Two dollars a day on sailing vessels, and the summer rate on steamers for the year before the 1st of April.

Q. For the same number of hours? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Did I understand you to say it was the same rate on steamers all the year? A. Yes; this year.

Q. Do you ever have any night-work? A. Yes; on the steamers.

Q. You get extra for that? A. No.

Q. It is not the same basis as the day? A. Yes.

Q. Do you ever work at ships on Sunday? A. Very seldom—only in cases of necessity; if a ship were water-logged and the cargo in danger, or something like that, we would work to save the property.

Q. Does the union allow steamers to use their own winches in loading deals and other cargoes? A. Yes; that is part of the agreement.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. How long has that been? A. Last year, according to agreement. In 1886, I think, they used them most of the year.

Q. Would the same thing apply to sailing vessels if they had a donkey of their own? A. Yes; according to the agreement.

Q. Would they use steam winches for putting lumber into the hold? A. I suppose they would now, according to the agreement, but it is very dangerous in stowing lumber to use steam; we generally use winches worked by hand; it is the safest.

Q. Have any accidents occurred among the members of the union since the introduction of steam? A. Yes; several; two or three men have been killed.

Q. How did it occur? A. In one case the deals dropped out of the iron sling; one man was drowned off the lighter or scow; they generally use a chain in hoisting lumber aboard, and the chain swung and chucked him off the scow, and he was drowned, and another man was killed in the hold.

Q. How often are the men paid? A. Every Saturday evening.

Q. Do you ever have any trouble in receiving the money that you earn now? A. No; at present we have not; but sometimes there is a dispute between the stevedore on the extra time for work, but it is generally settled by the society.

THE Q. Do you believe the use of steam has shortened the hours on steamers, or are the hours shorter now on steamers using steam than formerly, when everything was worked by hand? A. It is according to what kind of boats you have to work at; some are handier to load than others; those with bow-ports are easiest; some are loaded handier with manual labor than by steam power.

Q. Vessels with side-ports or doors would be loaded quicker by hand? A. Yes.

Q. Do these men contract to unload the steamers? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think it would be an advantage to the owners to pay for the work actually done and pay for their own foreman, for the time, and so be the means of reducing the large amounts put down to labor? A. Certainly it would—it would be a benefit to ship-owners and merchants; of course, it would save the stevedore, and he has to get a certain amount of money out of the vessel, and sometimes more than the other men; it has occurred that way in several cases, and it would be a great saving if they employed a foreman and paid him by the day and employed the men themselves.

Q. Are there any particular numbers required in gangs? A. There is no particular number; they can put as many as they like; they employ sometimes as high as thirty-five or forty, just according to the size of the steamer and the time they have for putting her cargo in.

Q. Are the men working at stowing deals and the men handling them outside, and the men in the scows, all paid the same rate? A. They are all paid the same wages.

Q. How many men are in a gang when loading timber in sailing ships—I mean, what would constitute a gang to load a ship—is there any particular number fixed? A. From sixteen to twenty men on a ship of 1,000 or 1,200 tons.

Q. The swingers, the stagers and the winchers are all paid the same rates of wages? A. Yes; every member of the society receives the same rate of wages.

Q. Is it men or boys who are engaged as stagers, and is there more than one for each port? A. No; sometimes one man at two ports.

Q. How many swingers to each ship? A. Mostly two or three; they do not ship much pine at this port these past few years; it is mostly birch, and it does not require so many men outside as pine.

Q. How many men on each winch? A. On deck winches two and three men, and they have, sometimes at least, two men attending to the fore-winchers and four men attending the two aft-winchers.

Q. Are union and non-union men in the habit of working together on ships? A. No.

Q. Are no vessels in this port loaded by non-union men? A. They load a good many schooners—coasters—and sometimes a square-rigged vessel, a barque or a brig, or a barquentine, or vessels like that—that are consigned to the offices they are working in.

Q. Do the union men ever interfere with these men? A. Never.

Q. Did you ever work longer than nine hours a day—how many hours would be the longest a gang would work a ship by steam? A. Nine hours.

Q. Never more than that? A. No; if they want to work at night they must take a night-gang—they must take a separate gang from the day-gang.

Q. Is there a scarcity of men at any time of the year? A. No; not any, and there has not been. There has been no scarcity this last year.

Q. Is there a surplus of men here in winter? A. Yes.

Q. Is that the reason why wages are so low in winter? A. They make a reduction of wages in winter from slackness of work—that is the principal reason; and another reason is that the deck-load law comes into force then, and that makes that men have to be employed to clear and scrape decks &c—that kind of thing, and one thing and another like that; and then freights are low.

Q. You have been working on ships for some time? A. Yes.

Q. Do you not think that a ship-laborer earns his money harder in winter than he does in summer? A. I think he does—yes.

Q. The stevedore has the privilege of employing any class of union hands he chooses? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any antagonism in your union against capital? A. No.

Q. Do you know what wages stevedores receive for loading steamers sometimes? A. The rate for steamers last year was \$1.25 per standard.

Q. And on ships? A. They were paying them 85 cents.

Q. Have you ever known stevedores contracting with an office for steamers or ships at a certain figure, and on the completion of the job go back to the office and refund some of the money to the merchant? A. Yes; I have heard of representations of that character, but of course I do not know that of my own knowledge.

Q. Do you know what it costs to discharge ships per ton? A. Sometimes 20 or 21, or 18 cents, and so on.

Q. In summer? A. Yes.

Q. And in winter it would be in proportion? A. Well, the price of discharging in winter and summer do not vary much; in the discharging of coal they are pretty much the same rates all the year round.

Q. Do you know what it costs per ship for loading timber? A. Stevedores' rates at one time were something like 80 cents a ton or 85 cents a ton; I do not know what they have been getting this past year back.

Q. Is there much general cargo discharged at this port—dry-goods, or stuff like that? A. Not a great deal of it; the Furness Line brings dry-goods, tea, and things of that kind.

Q. You do not know what the stevedore receives for discharging that per ton? A. No; I think he gets a lump sum; I do not know exactly how they do it.

Q. Do you know or can you tell us how much a ship-laborer would receive here, in this port, working in the twelve months? A. There are some ship-laborers luckier than others and get a great deal more than others; some might get \$100; some might make \$150 and some \$200; but there were few last year that went up to \$300.

Q. Do you know any ship-laborers in this port who own their own houses? A. No; I do not know of any; there may be exceptions, but they are very few; I never saw one retiring from the business.

Q. And any of the stevedores? A. Yes.

Q. What percent. of stevedores own their own houses? A. I cannot say whether they own them or not; they say they do; perhaps there are two or three own them.

Q. In this contract that is made, or agreement rather, that is signed between the merchants on the one part and the union on the other, are rates struck off the stevedores or off the union? A. The merchants have fixed the rates for steamers since we entered.

Q. Can you tell us why they are so anxious to have rates fixed for the stevedores, none of the merchants being stevedores themselves? A. I do not know; I suppose just the reason why they fixed the rates is on account of making the agreement with the men, and I suppose they make the rate sufficient to pay the wages they pay the men; I suppose that is the principal reason for fixing the rates for stevedores last year.

Q. Would you have any objection to showing us or to giving us certain principles of that agreement between the merchants and the union—what are the principal points? A. I could read the agreement for you. (Agreement here handed to Commission.)

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Have they all signed it? A. Not all.

Q. Is it necessary for them to sign it to make it successful? A. We would like them to sign it, but they object. Mr. Schofield is one they want to enter the contract, but he wants to make a contract or agreement of their own; the men who signed this agreement here are the men who signed it last year.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. Do the men who work at loading ships in summer do other work in winter? A. No; there are very few of them ever do any other work; some have to leave here in winter and go elsewhere to do something; some go to the States and outside to work.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Why do you charge more for loading steamers than you do for loading sailing vessels? A. Simply because the steamers want to be done so much the quicker.

Q. Do the men work longer on steamers than on sailing vessels? A. No; they work nine hours on sailing vessels, too.

Q. Do the steamers make any less number of tons of freight shipped to or from St. John than if everything was sent by sailing vessel? A. I don't know that they do.

Q. They do not make less days' work? A. Yes; it makes less days' work.

Q. How is it—can you load more tons on to a steamer in a day than on a sailing vessel? A. Yes.

Q. In what way can you load more tons on a steamer in a day than on a sailing vessel? A. They generally employ more men than a sailing vessel.

Q. But the same number of men cannot load more on the steamer than on a sailing vessel? A. It is owing to the chances they get; if it is a steamer not too high out of the water it would be quicker loaded than a sailing vessel that did not use steam and was high out of water.

Q. But why can you load her quicker than a sailing vessel? A. Because there are more men on her.

Q. Not for any other reason? A. No; a sailing vessel is detained waiting for the lumber, and loses time, but steamers charter to have cargo along side for them.

Q. How long is it since the strike you spoke of a short while ago? A. We had a strike last spring.

Q. How was that settled—by compromise? A. Yes.

Q. The men and the merchants came together and talked the matter over? A. Yes; it was not for wages we struck; we struck because of the stevedores. They met in a body, drew up an agreement or document and brought it to the merchants to get the merchants to pay the men by the hour—to introduce the hour system and to pay 25 cents an hour; wages in spring were, only \$2 and we struck against the principle of the hour system.

Q. How was it settled? A. In this way, that we kind of compromised the matter with the merchants and agreed to take the pay I have stated before, and as shown by the agreement.

Q. Has a good feeling existed between you since the strike was over? A. Yes.

Q. Why do not union and non-union men work together on the same vessel? A. The society would not allow non-union men to work with union men.

Q. Are vessels belonging to the regular lines loaded and unloaded exactly on the same terms and under the same conditions as other vessels are loaded? A. They have been the last few years.

Q. The regular lines have no different arrangements from other vessels? A. No; there was no difference only there was a month's difference in the time of the regular liners last year—that is, the Furness Line.

Q. The only difference is that they require more haste? A. Yes.

Q. The stevedores who load the general vessels load the regular lines? A. Yes.

Q. And the work is given out in the same way? A. Yes; they all employ stevedores.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Does that steamship clause affect other merchants as well as those who have signed? A. Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. Who is it drives the steam winches on the vessel? A. Sometimes the sailors on the vessel, and sometimes they employ labor when they cannot get a sailor.

Q. Do you not think it is better to employ a man from the shore, if he is a capable man? A. Certainly, because it is safer to the men working; he would pay more attention to the men than a sailor would; but we never interfere with them, or with whoever they get to drive the winches; we leave that to their own option to hire who they like.

Q. I see there are two different prices for loading, and the proprietors can select their own men? A. The stevedores?

Q. Yes. And supposing one man is always working at steamers, and another at sailing vessels, has the society to select the men so as to regulate that? A. The stevedore can select his men from among those idle; he cannot select from men working.

Q. Then, if a man were selected ten times on a steamer and another the same on a sailing vessel, it would make a difference in the earnings of the men, for after all they cannot have the same chances? A. That does not make any difference.

Q. You divide that amongst yourselves, do you? A. No; if the men are lucky enough to get work on the steamers the better for them.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is the increase on steamers? A. Sixty cents.

Q. On sailing vessels? A. None.

Q. Why do you consider an increase necessary on steamers this year? A. We always had a higher rate on steamers than on sailing vessels.

Q. Is it worth any more to work on a steamer this year than last year? A. I think it would be.

Q. If it is worth more to work on a steamer why is it not worth more to work on a sailing vessel? A. In the agreement we wanted to get a higher rate on sailing vessels, too, but they would not sign it, and for the purpose of getting along peaceably with the work we agreed to that rate before we would strike or make any demonstration for a higher rate.

Q. Why did not the same principle apply to the steamers? A. Why, the other men were agreeable to pay \$3.60 for steamers and \$2.50 on the sailing vessels, and we accepted the proposition.

Q. How many of the signers are owners or agents of steamers? A. Scammell Bros., Thomson & Co. Troop is the agent for steamers, too, but I do not know whether he has any running now or not.

Q. How many firms are there owning steamers or are agents of steamers in St. John? A. Four, I think.

Q. And two of them have signed? A. Yes; two of them have signed.

Q. Do the other two refuse to sign, or have they simply neglected to sign, so far? A. They have neglected to sign, so far; they refuse to pay as high a rate.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are the men you have spoken of agents for steamships calling at St. John—that is, those who have signed? A. No; they are agents for steamers, but they do not call here; they are not regular liners to here.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How many steamers would Messrs. Thomson and the Scammells have into the port of St. John in a year? A. Sometimes more than others; some years Thomson would have thirty to thirty-five.

Q. How many did they have last year? A. I could not state.

Q. Thirty? A. No; I don't think it.

Q. Twenty? A. I could not say what number they had.

Q. Do you think he had ten? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think he had more than ten last year? A. Yes.

Q. How many did Scammell Bros. have last year? A. I do not know; I don't think they did much business in the steamship line last year.

Q. How many steamers of the Furness Line called here last year? A. One called every month.

Q. No more than that? A. That is all, I think.

Q. Is as much work done on all the other steamers put together as there is on the Furness Line boats? A. There is more work done on two or three of the other steamers than there is on the whole line for twelve months.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Are we to understand that when you commence in the morning at sailing ship or steamer, and there is not work enough for that day, that you charge a full day for it? A. No.

Q. When do you commence work in the morning? A. Seven.

Q. When do you finish? A. Five.

Q. Supposing you worked two hours, how much would you charge for that? A. A quarter of a day; and if three hours we only charge a quarter too.

Q. That is the way it is regulated? A. Yes.

Q. If you work four hours? A. That is half a day, and then sometimes a dispute about payment.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How long is it since your charged \$5 a day? A. In 1884–85, I think, and they struck for \$5 in the spring of 1886.

Q. What was the cause of the decrease? A. I suppose the men wanted a higher rate of wages; they could not live on the wages they were making.

Q. My question was, as to what caused the decrease from \$5 to \$3.60 and \$2.50? A. Because there was so much competition—so many idle men, and men now have not the opportunity to get the wages they did formerly.

Q. Did the merchants and the stevedores take advantage of the unemployed surplus? A. Yes; they have done it.

Q. The cause of the difficulty last spring was because you would not work for 25 cents an hour? A. Yes.

Q. Was that for every actual hour you worked? A. Yes.

Q. There is a great deal of broken time? A. Yes; a great deal.

Q. Have you ever known ship-laborers to be on a vessel for two weeks for the purpose of putting in five full days? A. Yes; more.

Q. That is one of the principal reasons why the men objected to work by the hour? A. Yes; they expected a man to be around the vessel waiting for the lumber, and then go to work when the lumber came.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you think it necessary for the welfare of the port of St. John that stevedores should be employed? A. I don't think it is; we can get along without the stevedores.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you ever known, in your time in this port, in the ship's disbursements that items were put down to labor that should not actually be there? A. It is my opinion that they do; I have never seen it.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. In what case do you know such a thing to have been done? You are accusing people of fraud—tell us the name of the man who committed the fraud? A. I heard of it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. You have heard of such a case?—(No answer).

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Would you be surprised to learn that in the city of Quebec an eminent lawyer got up and stated he knew of cases where this was done to his own knowledge? A. I am speaking of Quebec now.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you any knowledge of the port of Quebec? A. No.

COPY OF AGREEMENT.

AGREEMENT made 3rd March, 1888, between the Shippers of Lumber, Timber, and Ship-owners, Merchants and Brokers of the City of St. John, of the one part, and the Ship-laborers' Union, of the other part:—

1. The Ship-laborers' Union do hereby agree, jointly and individually, to fix their rate of wages on sailing vessels for loading and discharging at \$2.50 a day of nine hours, to go into effect 1st April next, and to remain in force up to 31st October inclusive, and from that date up to 3rd March, 1889, at \$2 per like day.

2. The union further agree, jointly and individually, to fix their rate of wages on ocean steamers loading and discharging at \$3.60 per day, to go into effect on 1st April next and to remain in force up to 31st March, 1889, inclusive.

3. All broken time is to be paid for on the basis of the above wages.

4. The union shall grant the merchants, ship-owners or stevedores the privilege of selecting their own gangs from among the members of the union.

5. There shall be no restriction or interference placed in the way, on the part of the union, in reference to the working of regular seamen in loading or discharging of cargoes.

6. There shall be no restriction or interference on the part of the union to the use of steam in loading or discharging vessels.

In consideration of the above, we the undersigned shippers, merchants, ship-owners and brokers, do hereby agree to employ none others but members of the Ship-laborers' Union to work on all vessels controlled by us and not to contract with any stevedore who does not employ members of the Ship-laborers' Union in discharging all general cargoes of timber, deals, ballast, &c.

We further agree that the members shall be paid the rates of wages respectively above mentioned, and we will use every legitimate means in our power for the purpose of inducing captains and owners of vessels, resident and non-resident, to employ or contract with stevedores who will employ members of the Ship-laborers' Union in loading and discharging their vessels.

(Signed)

WILLIAM THOMPSON & Co.,
SCAMMELL BROS.,
DONALD CARMICHAEL,
WILLIAM MALCOLM MCKAY,
TROOP & SONS,
CHAS. McLAUGHLIN & SONS.

PATRICK WALSH, Blacksmith's Helper, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. What kind of blacksmithing are you employed at? A. Machine forging.
Q. How many hours do the blacksmiths at that business work per day? A. Ten.
Q. Do they ever work over-time? A. No; not where I am working now.
Q. What are the wages given to a blacksmith's helper? A. They are paid \$1.10—that is what I am getting; I cannot say of others.
Q. Is that the standard wages? A. That is the standard pay to our men the year round.
Q. Are there any blacksmith's helpers receiving under \$1.10? A. There are in other shops.
Q. Is the work laborious? A. Well, it is pretty hard—the general run of it is.
Q. Is the shop well ventilated in summer time? A. Well, it is very well in summer time, but in winter time it is closed up and, of course, it is very smoky and sulphury, and being a frame, in heavy rains, sometimes, water will come through, and the snow will work in in drifts.
Q. Have the wages increased in that business during the past few years? A. They have not; they were more in times past; now we have less.

Q. Are there many blacksmith's helpers in St. John who own their own houses? A. No; I only know of one, and I do not think he made it out of helper's work—not at that wages.

Q. How long have you been in St. John? A. I was born here.

Q. Can a man support his family, living comfortably, economically at the same time, on \$1.10 a day? A. No; he cannot.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. Are you married? A. No. No man can live as he ought to live and save money on \$1 a day; they say they can, but I have not learned any of those rules yet.

Q. Do you know the wages of a machine blacksmith? A. No; I do not; I could not say anything about that.

Q. Are there many apprentices going to that branch of the industry? A. Not in our department.

WILLIAM McCARTHY, Carpenter, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. You are a journeyman carpenter? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you worked in St. John as a journeyman carpenter? A. One and a-half years.

Q. Are carpenters constantly employed throughout the year? A. Well no; not as a rule.

Q. What are the average wages for first-class hands? A. They range from \$7 to \$9—\$9 is the exception; in summer \$9, and in winter it is a rarity.

Q. Does a benches, in the shop, earn more wages than a man outside? A. Not at all times—not in summer, nor in winter either, for that. If they work all the year round they get less than a man that takes his chances; they get less in the winter than in summer.

Q. What is the cause of that? A. Work is not so plenty and employers take advantage of it.

Q. A carpenter can do as good work in winter as in summer? A. Yes; as a rule. Of course, there is outside work he cannot do.

Q. How long does an apprentice serve at the business? A. There is no stated time; I served four years.

Q. In your experience, would you consider that long enough for a boy with an aptitude for the business? A. I should imagine so.

Q. What does a boy generally receive the first year? A. Two dollars, as a rule; of course, there is nothing fixed.

Q. Is it increased year by year? A. Yes.

Q. How much each year? A. I got a dollar, and the last year two dollars.

Q. Does an apprentice receive any quantity of tools from his boss when out of his time? A. No; they have, but not in my time; I got nothing.

Q. In the shop, is a carpenter allowed to sharpen and fix his own tools during the ten hours? A. Yes.

Q. Or do they do that on their own time? A. Always in the bosses' time.

Q. Are they all allowed a certain time for doing it in? A. No.

Q. Is the business of carpenters in St. John steady? A. I cannot say that it is; of course, my knowledge is not very extensive in it; there is not work enough for the number of carpenters, and the carpenters are greatly interfered with by a certain class of men who call themselves carpenters, but who really are farmers, and they come in here between ploughing and planting times and keep a good man out of a job; especially that is the way in Harris & Co.'s.

Q. They manufacture mouldings, sashes, blinds, &c., there? A. Yes; they do all that over there.

Q. Did you say that the working hours were the same in winter as in summer? A. Yes; outside carpenters work nine hours; inside they work ten, winter and summer; I guess they are an exceptional firm over there.

WILLIAM MASON, Rafter, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you employed here at Indiantown? A. Yes; with Messrs. Holly & McLellan.

Q. How many hours a day do you work, one day with another? A. Well, I suppose Mr. Bagnall told you that—about ten or eleven hours; sometimes twelve hours.

Q. Did you hear the whole of his testimony? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think his testimony was about correct all the way through? A. As near as I can tell—yes. He has been my boss for several years.

Q. Have you anything to tell us in addition that would bear upon the question of raftsmen's wages or condition? A. No; nothing whatever.

Q. How frequently are you paid? A. Every Saturday night.

Q. In full? A. In full—yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Were you a member of the rafters' society when it was in existence? A. Yes.

Q. Did you receive more wages then on account of the formation of the society than now? A. Wages were \$2.50 then.

Q. Was that on account of the existence of that society? A. Yes.

THOMAS GLEN, Cigar-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How long have you worked in St. John? A. I have been working here lately—the first for fourteen years—though I learned my trade here some eighteen years ago, and I worked here five years.

Q. What do cigar-makers receive per week on an average? A. It is piece-work, and it varies considerably—what we would call an ordinary journeyman cigar-maker; there is mould-work and hand-work.

Q. I mean in hand-work? A. A practical journeyman, in my estimation, would make an average of about \$9 a week.

Q. What is the price per thousand on the cigars the men are most commonly employed on in St. John? A. In moulding work I should say—I am afraid to say, because I do not know exactly now—I think it is \$5.

Q. Have you ever worked in Montreal? A. Yes; for a short while.

Q. Are there any cigars manufactured here that cost \$8 a thousand for making? A. Yes.

Q. What would that cigar cost for making in Montreal? A. Well, there are some here, what they get \$8 for, and I have heard that in some shops in Montreal they pay as high as \$11 for making them in Montreal.

Q. In Montreal? A. Yes; that is some years ago.

Q. How many years ago? A. About five years ago; I cannot vouch for the truth of that statement, as it was only hearsay.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. We were told in Montreal that they only got half the wages there that is obtained in other places, and now you say it is not so? A. It was only with reference to one or two shops in Montreal I heard of—it is only what I heard other cigar-makers saying. I received \$8 myself when in Montreal, but it was for a different cigar to what is made here.

Q. How many cigar-makers are employed here constantly during the year?
A. There are two shops here in St. John, and I should judge there would be—have you reference now to girls?

Q. I mean journeymen? A. I should judge there are about twenty or twenty-five journeymen—that is, judging from the time I have been here lately.

Q. Are there many men working on the moulds in St. John? A. At present most of the journeymen are on hand-work.

Q. Is it a general thing that women are employed on the moulds? A. As a general thing.

Q. Have you known men to be employed on moulds? A. Yes.

Q. Can a woman, by moulding, make as good a cigar as a journeyman? A. They are not considered to make as good a cigar as a man, either by moulds or hand-work.

Q. Then they do not receive the same wages per thousand? A. No; in some places they do and some they do not; in some places in the States they do and in others they do not.

Q. How long do apprentices serve in St. John? A. Three years; that is the stated time.

Q. What might his age be when commencing work? A. Well, I cannot state what is bage would be—they go to work at fourteen, but I have not been here lately—but I should judge from the apprentices I have seen here they would be thirteen or fourteen years old.

Q. Do you, as a matter of fact, know what the wages of women are in St. John? A. Yes.

Q. What would an ordinary woman earn per week by moulding? A. The way they are paid here—speaking of average earnings—I should judge about \$3.50 a week.

Q. From your experience, do you consider that low wages? A. I do.

Q. Have you ever worked in any other place in the Dominion except St. John and Montreal? A. No.

Q. Have you ever worked in the United States? A. Yes.

Q. In what part? A. I have worked in Boston, New York, Connecticut, Ohio and Illinois.

Q. Considering the rate of living in St. John, and the wages—compare them with the wages and rate of living in other cities on the other side—on which side do you think the advantage would lay? A. With the States.

Q. For a married man with a family? A. Yes; either a man with a family or a single man; the advantage would be with the States.

Q. Do you know the prices paid cigar-makers in Ontario? A. No; I do not.

Q. Have you got any further information that would be of benefit to the Commission in reference to cigar-making? A. Nothing that I know of.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Do you know if tobacco is at times used that will injure the health of the smoker? A. In most factories there is not; in some manufactories there is inferior tobacco, but a man who thoroughly understands his business I do not think would do it, as he knows it would not pay in the long run to put inferior tobacco in it; some put mouldings and middlings in.

Q. Do you know as to the smoking and chewing tobacco? A. I cannot state anything decided as to that. I know that years ago they put copperas in chewing tobacco, and I judge that is injurious to health. I do not know much of the manufacture of tobacco.

Q. You told us there was an advantage for men living in the States in your business. Tell us the reason why you give us the pleasure and honor of staying with us on lower wages? A. My folks have lived here mostly all their lives. I came down principally on a visit, but will stay here possibly for a year, but would not stay, because it is not an advantage to me to stay here. I can make a great deal more money in the States than I can here.

Q. Do you think that would apply to the rest of the people—that other people would have as good a chance on the other side as you would? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Are young men and women working on the same floor? A. Yes.

Q. Are there separate conveniences for both sexes? A. No; I do not think there are. There is another convenience in another part, but it belongs to another firm on the floor. I think they use that; I would not say for sure.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q. Are there any fines imposed by your employers in your factory? A. No.

Q. When the cigars are taken away from you are any thrown out on account of inferior workmanship? A. No; a man is supposed to understand his business.

GEORGE H. TRUEMAN, Conductor, Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a conductor on the Intercolonial Railway.

Q. Do conductors on the Intercolonial Railway work by the day, or do they have so many miles of a run to make to constitute a day's work? A. I can only speak for myself, as far as I am concerned. I am on a regular train and I am paid by the day.

Q. Do you know how the conductors on the irregular trains are paid? A. I do not know.

Q. How many hours do you work in a day? A. Our average is about six or seven hours a day.

Q. What is the length of your run? A. One hundred and thirty-eight miles.

Q. When you have finished that run do you consider your day's work at an end? A. We consider it done; but I might add that we do two day's work in one on the division I am in. This we do by running the 138 miles, and returning three times a week; I leave here in the morning and return at 7:30 p.m.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. What number of miles do you run in that time? A. I make 276 miles while I am out; then I may lay off a day. The train crosses at Amherst, where we change and come back to St. John. That brings a man in home every night.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Then the work which you do makes you run 136 miles a day? A. Yes.

Q. Do the brakemen on your train make the same runs as you do? A. They do.

Q. Do the engineers and firemen make the same runs? A. No.

Q. What pay do the conductors receive? A. The oldest conductors, like I am, get \$2.50 a day, and at the end of the month \$10 extra besides.

Q. What is the extra \$10 a month given for? A. There are about seven or eight of the oldest conductors that get the \$10. We were formerly paid by the month, and we were allowed two weeks' holidays; now we are not allowed that, so I think the \$10 is given in lieu of the holidays.

Q. That is a special grant given under special circumstances? A. I think so; only seven or eight of the conductors get it.

Q. In the winter time are you ever detained very long on your regular train? A. Not on the division I am in; we are very seldom detained beyond our regular time.

Q. Then you have suffered no hardships, to speak of, in consequence of detention? A. Not any.

Q. Have you ever been any great number of hours on the road in the active discharge of your duty? A. Not of late years.

Q. Can you give us the wages of brakemen on your train? A. I think they get \$1.35 a day; I think that is their pay.

Q. Do the conductors and brakemen on the Interecolonial Railway, as a rule, make more or less than their full time, as indicated by you? A. They make their full time, and very seldom any more. Of course, there are times in the summer when they can make a little extra time, but it is very unusual.

Q. When a man makes a double trip in one day he is very seldom called upon to go out again? A. Very seldom; we do not do it if we can avoid it.

Q. It would not be in the interest of the road when men are exhausted to work them, and the men themselves would not desire it? A. I should think so; I know I would not desire it.

Q. Do you think that a conductor having a family to maintain and receiving about the wages paid on this road can save money and buy a house for himself? A. It would take him a good deal of time to do it.

Q. Do you think any of the conductors can save money? A. I think they do.

Q. Are they gradually accumulating a little surplus? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any fines for any cause whatever imposed on your road? A. I can only speak for myself, and I know I have never been fined, although I have heard it reported that some conductors have been fined.

Q. Are the conductors on your road frequently dismissed from service? A. Very rarely.

Q. If a conductor were dismissed for any cause, not involving a serious offence, would he have any difficulty in getting employment on another road? A. That is a question I could scarcely answer. If he was discharged he would not be able to get a recommendation, and if he had no recommendation it would be difficult to get a position on another road.

Q. Do you think a conductor would be discharged, except for some grave offence? A. I think not.

Q. And if he were discharged for a grave offence he would not get a recommendation? A. He would not.

Q. And without that recommendation he would be unable to find employment on another road? A. I think it would be difficult for him to do so.

Q. Suppose a man were to leave the road with a good character for honesty and attention to business, but with the reputation of being a leader or agitator in any labor organization, do you think he would have difficulty in finding employment with another company? A. I should think he would; I should think that would be an objection.

Q. Have you ever been a conductor on a freight train? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think that any coupling with which you are acquainted could be applied to freight trains which would be an improvement on the link and pin? A. That would be a hard question to answer. It has been some years since I have had any experience on freight trains, and I have seen so many couplers used that it is pretty hard to say anything about it.

Q. Have you seen any coupler in actual use that was an improvement on the link and pin? A. I cannot say I have; I have seen one that I thought was an improvement, but I have never seen it in actual use.

Q. What was the coupler you saw that you thought might be made satisfactory? A. It was a coupler made by a man named Richards, of Carleton, and to my mind it was the best coupler I have ever seen.

Q. Do you think that a railing might be successfully placed along the sides of the top of the freight trains to save men from falling who should slip off? A. A railing, to be of any use, I should say would have to be 2 or 3 feet high above the car, and I do not know whether that would not interfere with the bridges and stations.

Q. If a railing alongside of the car were put as high as the brake-rod would it not save the men? A. I should think it would save the brakeman of a car from falling off.

Q. Do you think there could be any objection to such a railing, except the cost? A. I do not see any, except the cost.

Q. Do you think that the running boards as applied to the Intercolonial Railway freight cars, are sufficiently wide? A. I think so.

Q. What is the crew of an ordinary freight train on the Intercolonial Railway? A. I should think two or three brakemen; it depends upon the length of the train—ordinarily, two or three would do it.

Q. What is the ordinary length of a loaded train? A. A train of gondolas would be, I suppose, about twelve cars. These cars are 30 to 35 feet long, so that a train would be from 360 to somewhere about 400 feet long.

Q. Are two brakemen in the cab and one on the locomotive? A. I do not know; I think one is generally in the cab.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. How wide are the running-boards on the freight cars on the Intercolonial Railway? A. I do not know; I should think from 12 to 15 inches; I never measured them; I only judge of them from seeing them.

Q. Do you think that is wide enough on a windy or stormy night to prevent a man from blowing off? A. Of a stormy night a man would go off, perhaps, of a 22 inch board and probably some off a 24 inch board.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there many covered bridges on the Intercolonial Railway? A. There are.

Q. Are there any covered bridges so low that they will not allow a brakeman to stand on top of the cars while passing under them? A. None that I know of. All the bridges I know of are raised; I do not know of any bridges on the road that will not clear a brakeman.

Q. Do you know if it is a fact that one railway has correspondence with another in connection with employes that may be discharged? A. I have never heard it.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you think that the air-brake can be successfully applied to the freight trains? A. I think so.

Q. Are they adopted on the Intercolonial Railway? A. I think so; I think all the new cars have the Westinghouse brake.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have any of these been brought into actual use? A. I think they are using them as fast as they can get them on all the engines; I know all the freight cars are supplied with them.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you know how many cars they are on? A. I am on a passenger train, and I cannot speak of freight trains.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are the salaries on the Intercolonial Railway as large as on other roads? A. I think probably, taking into consideration the expense of living, it is fair average pay for conductors.

Q. Are the trips longer, on an average? A. I do not know that they are; I think 120 or 130 miles is about the average run.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Has your work increased any since the New Brunswick Railway ran into the new depot? A. No; it makes no difference with us conductors.

JOHN LOWELL, Cigar-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. You heard the testimony of a previous witness? A. Yes.

Q. Do you approve of it entirely? A. Yes.

Q. Do you work in the same shop? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything to add to it? A. No.

Q. Have you anything to say in regard to cigar-making that would be of information to the Commission? A. No; nothing more than my friend said.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. How is it that you remain here when you can make so much more money on the other side? A. I have worked in the States—New York and Brooklyn.

— Q. Yes; but why do you remain here when you say—and you say you agree with all the other witness said—that you could make much more money away? A. I was born here and brought up here, and would just as leave be here for a while.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Your parents and friends are here? A. No; my parents are dead.

JOHN STEWART, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a locomotive engineer.

Q. Are you engaged on the Intercolonial Railway? A. Yes.

Q. What is the length of your run? A. Ninety miles.

Q. How frequently do you make that run in the week? A. We double the road every second day, the same as the conductors do; but we go to Moncton and back, while they go to Amherst and return.

Q. Then you make 540 miles in a week? A. Yes.

Q. What is the average pay of a locomotive engineer on the Intercolonial Railway? A. A man that runs six years gets \$2.75 a day, and below that they are paid according to the length of time they have served. The first year they do not get hardly \$2, and then it rises until they get \$2.75. That is the highest wages paid to an engineer.

Q. After they have served six years there is no further increase in their pay? A. No further increase.

Q. Can an engineer keep up his vigor and his attention to his work to the end of two trips of 90 miles over the road? A. Yes.

Q. You are not so fatigued at the end of your day's work but that you can give full attention to your work that is necessary for safety? A. No; besides that we have four hours' rest at the end of 90 miles before we turn back again.

Q. Would you consider that a man who makes a double run of 138 miles would be able to give full attention to his work to the end of the trip? A. He might if it was good weather and nothing detained him; if there was no storm or snow, and everything was going all right, he might do so.

Q. Is the work of a locomotive engineer such that he needs his whole faculties about him all the time? A. Yes.

Q. In order to avoid accidents? A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell what are the average wages of firemen? A. One dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q. How much are the engineers who run on locomotives on freight trains paid? A. They are paid just the same as we are, and if they are running six years they get just the same pay.

Q. What is the pay of the firemen on freight trains? A. Just the same as the firemen on passenger trains.

Q. Are changes among locomotive engineers frequent on your road? A. No; very seldom.

Q. Do the men think they are better off to remain here than to make changes? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know whether many of the locomotive engineers have accumulated property? A. There are a few, but not very many.

Q. Do many of them own houses? A. There are a few, that have not large families, who have accumulated some property.

Q. Do you know whether any firemen have purchased houses for themselves or accumulated any property? A. No; I do not.

Q. Do you know of any brakemen who have bought houses? A. There are a few that have a little money, but there are none buying property; if they have money it is because they have other means of making it.

Q. You think if they buy property it would be because they have other means of making money, and that they would rather keep their money in some other form? A. They could not have much means to buy property from their salary.

Q. What is the greatest number of hours you have been on duty at one continuous time? A. I have been on duty as engineer, without getting away from the engine, for thirty-six hours. I would not be running all that time, for I would be either laying on the engine or somewhere around, stuck in a snow storm, so that I could not get out.

Q. Would you be able to get any sleep then? A. I could sleep for an hour or two on the engine, but it would be hard to do so.

Q. In such cases, would not the engineer have to remain on the engine to watch his locomotive? A. Yes.

Q. And in that case could the fireman, in his turn, get a little sleep? A. He could.

Q. But this would be under very extraordinary circumstances? A. It is very seldom that it takes place.

Q. If you had been detained for thirty-six hours could you find any point at which you could be relieved before you got to the end of the run? A. I have been placed so that I could not; but now it is very seldom that it happens. It is years ago since I have been a long while out on the road.

Q. How frequently are you paid? A. Monthly.

Q. At what day in the month are you paid for the previous month? A. We are generally paid from the 5th to the 10th of the month; there is no particular day set for paying.

Q. Are you always paid early in the month? A. Yes; always early in the month.

Q. Is there any system of insurance among the employes of the Intercolonial Railway? A. Yes; there is an insurance system.

Q. Do the men pay premiums, or does the company contribute anything towards it? A. The men pay the premiums themselves, but the company may pay towards it, for all I know.

Q. Are the men compelled to insure themselves? A. No.

Q. Is the matter wholly voluntary? A. Yes.

Q. If a man is disabled while in the discharge of his duty does his pay go on? A. I do not know of any that are paid, unless it is monthly hands; but the men paid by the day I do not think are allowed that.

Q. If you were injured, would you expect your pay to go on? A. I would not.

Q. Have you known men who were injured and whose pay did not go on? A. I have.

Q. Does the company pay the doctor's bill? A. Yes; the railway pay the doctor's bill, and then we get some pay from an accident fund; we get \$3 to \$5 a week. Some persons get \$3, and some like me get \$5. It is an accident insurance fund, and we pay so much for it.

Q. Do you pay the whole premium into the accident fund? A. Yes; so far as I know.

Q. Does the Government contribute nothing towards the fund? A. Not that I know of.

Q. If a man is killed while in the discharge of his duty do his relatives get anything? A. Nothing but the insurance, whatever that is.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is a color test required on the Intercolonial Railway? A. It is.

Q. Is it a severe test? A. It is a pretty hard one; I know there are quite a number who do not pass it.

Q. But it is absolutely necessary to pass the color test in order to get employment on the road? A. It is.

Q. While running, is the fireman continually beside the engineer? A. He is in the cab all the time, or between the cab and the tender, putting in fuel.

Q. Are there many engineers on the Intercolonial Railway who are not members of the Locomotive Brotherhood? A. Quite a number.

Q. Do the Government recognize the existence of the Brotherhood on the Intercolonial Railway? A. They do.

Q. When an accident happens does the Brotherhood provide sick benefits? A. Yes; although I cannot say for certain, for I do not belong to it, and can only speak from hearsay.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is there any examination of engineers for competency on the Intercolonial Railway? A. There is.

Q. Then an engineer is not given an engine unless he has his certificate? A. Unless he can answer the questions put to him by the examiners, he cannot get the certificate.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Where does your company get its coal? A. We get it from all over; we get from Spring Hill, Pictou and the Joggins.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. I suppose you get it wherever it is most convenient? A. Yes; and sometimes we have to get it at different places in order to get enough.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. But you use all Canadian coal? A. All Nova Scotia coal.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are there any wood-burning locomotives used on the Intercolonial Railway? A. No; we have none on the Intercolonial Railway.

CHARLES BROWN, Cigar-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. You heard the testimony the two cigar makers previously examined? A. Yes.

Q. Do you approve of it? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything to add to it? A. No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Then, will you tell us, since you approve of it all, how is it that you remain here, when you say that you can earn so much more away from us? A. My parents are here, and they would sooner see me stay here than be away from home.

JOHN W. RUSK, Clerk Freight Department Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are you in the employ of the Intercolonial Railway? A. Yes.

Q. In what capacity? A. In the freight department.

Q. Are many men employed in the freight department? A. In the busy season we have as many as twenty-six porters.

Q. Do the salaries of clerks vary very materially in the freight department? A. I am not prepared to give the salaries of the clerks, except special clerks in the office, because they come under the charge of the station-master.

Q. What pay does a checker receive? A. He receives from \$500 to \$600 a year.

Q. What wages do the porters receive? A. There are three grades of porters; a few of the oldest receive \$1.25 a day; then there are a few that receive \$1.20; and lastly come those on temporary work, who get \$1.10.

Q. Is \$1.10 the lowest wages paid to freight hands? A. Yes.

Q. How many hours a day do they work? A. They work ten hours a day—from seven, local time, to six in the evening.

Q. Are they ever required to work extra hours? A. Yes.

Q. In that case, do they get paid at the same rate as in the day time, or do they get an extra rate? A. They get the same rate.

Q. Do they get any extra allowance of time for night work? A. They get just whatever hours they work.

Q. Are the checkers allowed any holidays? A. Yes.

Q. Does their pay go on? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Are you able to check all the goods that come into the station? A. No.

Q. Are the checkers able to do that? A. They are.

Q. Are any laboring men required to do that work at times? A. Yes; some of the oldest employés.

Q. Who is responsible for their work—they or the checkers? A. They are responsible, in a certain degree, to the parties who are checking.

Q. If a car-load of flour should come in, and it was a barrel short, who pays for that barrel—the laboring man or the checker—who is responsible? A. If a man is checking out a load of flour he sends word to the station if he finds it short, and he calls their attention to it before making out his report. If a man signs a bill of lading for 100 barrels of flour and only receives 99 he will report the matter to the station-master of where it is from, and they will say who is to be held responsible.

Q. Is it possible to count the car after it is unloaded? A. It would not do; it is right to count it as it is being unloaded. Some slovens will take ten barrels of flour and some double ones twenty.

Q. Is your work any greater since the New Brunswick Railway came into the new station? A. Yes; it has increased very materially.

Q. In what way? A. In the first place, I have to supervise the work of the New Brunswick Railway, by giving instruction to the porters and the checkers, hunting up freight, answering questions from their superintendent and freight agents, and corresponding with their freight agents. If any freight goes astray, I have to trace it up.

Q. Are your hours of work any longer on account of the New Brunswick Railway? A. They are.

Q. Do you receive any greater salary than before? A. Not one cent more; just the same as before.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Has any extra help been employed in connection with the increased work? A. We have the extra help of some porters, one checker and one billing-clerk.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. If you receive a case of goods or a car of goods, and some of it is short or in bad order, or part of the goods taken from them, how is the matter settled? A. If we receive a case of goods in apparent good order we deliver it to the parties in the same order, and they make objections while some of the goods are still in the shed, and in our care, or if we notice that the parcel has been tampered with, we have the car checked with its contents and compared by his invoice, and then we make a report of the matter.

Q. How is the matter generally settled; by the Government? A. If a man presents his claim and shows that the goods were received in apparent good order at the station, and also can show that the parcel has been tampered with before reaching St. John, the man gets his claim.

Q. Has the party to write to Ottawa about the matter, or do you settle it in your office? A. All the business is done between our office and the general freight office in Moncton.

Q. Is it very often that goods are found to be short? A. Not very often.

J. R. HUMPHREY, Night-watchman, Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am night watchman in the car shed of the Intercolonial Railway.

Q. Is any body else employed there except yourself? A. There is one man there besides me.

Q. What are the wages paid to a night-watchman? A. One dollar and ten cents a day.

Q. What hours do you work? A. About twelve hours.

Q. Have you anything to do except watch around the car shed? A. We have to keep the harness clean, wash and oil the cars; clean the horses and feed them with hay and oats, and give them water in the morning.

Q. Do you work on Sunday as well as other days? A. Yes.

Q. Do you receive any holidays? A. No.

Q. If you lose a day is your pay deducted? A. No; I have never lost but one day, and my pay went on then.

Q. Are you kept pretty busy all night? A. Pretty busy.

Q. Are you kept comfortably warm? A. As good as we could wish for.

Q. How many meals are you compelled to take with you? A. We generally take two.

Q. Are you allowed plenty of time to eat these meals? A. Any amount of time.

Q. As long as you do the work of harness-cleaning, and the other work required of you, it does not make much difference whether you are busy all the time or not? A. No; it does not make any difference.

FRED. TAPLEY, Head Clerk, Freight Office, Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What is your employment? I am chief clerk of the freight department, Intercolonial Railway, in St. John.

Q. What does a clerk in the freight department receive when he enters upon this service? A. If he was a pretty young man when first entering the service, he would get about \$30 or \$35 a month.

Q. Is his pay increased according to any system of regularity? A. We have no system of advance in our department; it is more in the man; as he becomes more useful and of more value his pay will be increased.

Q. What would be the pay of a good clerk just employed at the ordinary work of the freight department? A. About \$45 a month. We have three or four good men who are getting \$45.80 or \$45.83.

Q. Then, unless he can secure a more responsible position he will not get any increase in his pay? A. He will probably remain at that work for some time.

Q. How many clerks are there in the freight office? A. There are seven besides myself.

Q. Are any holidays given to them? A. There are twelve holidays allowed to each clerk; he can take that time out as he likes. If he happens to be sick two or three days that time is deducted from his holidays; he can use up his twelve days as he likes, either by being sick or in holidays.

Q. What are the hours of service in the freight office? A. The office is open from seven in the morning till six in the evening.

Q. Are the clerks kept busy the whole of this time? A. All the clerks are kept very busy.

Q. Has the work of your office been increased by the New Brunswick Railway? A. Yes; the work of the office has greatly increased, but we have some increase of help. We have two clerks more than we had before they came into the station.

Q. Does that increase correspond with the increase of work? A. There is an increase of work that falls upon the four regular hands that were there previous to that time.

Q. Has the work increased your pay any? A. No.

Q. The New Brunswick Railway has increased your work? A. Yes; in consequence of the New Brunswick Railway we have had a great deal of extra work to do—night-work and Sunday-work.

Q. Are you paid extra for night-work? A. I never got \$1 extra pay for that since I have been on the road.

Q. Not for Sundays? A. No.

Q. Are the clerks in your office required to work at night? A. That is all regulated by the running of the trains.

Q. Do the clerks get more pay when they work at night? A. No; not on regular trains.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do many of the hands on the road leave their situations here to get situations elsewhere? A. I have known several lately to get employment on the western roads.

Q. At increased pay? A. Yes.

W. J. KELLY, Baggage-master, Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am baggage-master at the Intercolonial Railway station.

Q. What is the salary of baggage-masters? A. I get \$40 a month, and my senior gets \$50.

Q. Are many men employed in your department? A. Myself and my senior.

Q. What hours do you work? A. We go to work at 5:30 in the summer time and work till 10:50 at night.

Q. Are you kept busy all these hours? A. Kept busy most all the time in the summer.

Q. How much time are you allowed for meals? A. In the morning we get about forty-five to fifty minutes for breakfast, lots of time for dinner and about an hour for tea.

Q. Do you have to work on Sunday? A. We have to.

Q. What hours do you work on Sunday? A. Every second Sunday I go to work at 5:30 in the afternoon and work till 7:30. Last Sunday I had to get back to

work from 12:30 to 1:30, standard time; and then, again, I had to go back in the evening and work from 5:30 till 7 at delivering the mails. I was kept busy till 8 o'clock, standard.

Q. Does your pay correspond with all these services? A. It does not.

Q. Do you get anything extra for Sunday work? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are the wages in your department on the Intercolonial Railway as high as they are on any other railroad? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever acted as baggage-master in connection with any other road? A. No.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Do you not think there are lots of baggage which should pay freight that goes through as baggage? A. Very seldom from our station.

Q. Can you tell, if from other stations, a man comes to this station with five or ten trunks—can you tell if he has paid anything on them? A. If he has not paid extra we collect here.

Q. Is there a book kept for that purpose? A. There is an excess baggage ticket, and all excess baggage is supposed to have this on it, and if a passenger with excess baggage has not got this ticket we make him get one here.

Q. If a man is allowed 250 pounds could he get through 1,500 if the checker's ticket was not on it? A. No.

Q. You think he could not do that on the Intercolonial Railway? A. I do not think so.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have your duties been seriously increased since the New Brunswick Railway came into the new station? A. Yes; they have been doubled; we have had to handle all their mails.

Q. Do you get any increased pay for that work? A. No.

Q. Have your duties been increased on Sunday? A. On Sundays we have to go there in the morning for the Intercolonial Railway train and at night for the New Brunswick train. The Intercolonial Railway trains do not run Sunday night.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Then, under these circumstances, you believe you are not receiving sufficient salary for your services? A. I think the railway should pay us for our extra hours, and they should pay us also for the handling of the mail.

WILLIAM JONES, Clerk, Freight Department, Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a clerk in the Intercolonial Railway freight office, St. John.

Q. Have you heard the testimony given by the chief clerk of your department? A. Yes.

Q. Do you approve, substantially, of the testimony given by him? A. I do.

Q. Have you anything to add to the statements made by him? A. I do not know as I have.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. What means have you got to find out if a passenger carries more baggage than he should—by what way can you check it? A. We do not have anything to do with the baggage in our department; that is done in the baggage office.

JAMES GORHAM, Checker, Freight Department, Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you employed on the Intercolonial Railway? A. Yes.

Q. What position do you occupy? A. Checker.

Q. Did you hear the testimony given as to the pay of checkers? A. I did.

Q. And as to their duties? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think that those statements were substantially correct? A. Yes; I think the statements were.

Q. Have you anything to add to it? A. Yes; I am the one who receives \$500, while the rest of the checkers get \$600.

Q. How long have you been employed on the Intercolonial Railway? A. Nearly seven years.

Q. Do you do the same service as the other checkers? A. No; I am on flour and sugar altogether.

Q. Is the work as hard to perform as that done by the other checkers? A. I think so.

Q. Are your hours of duty as long? A. I am on duty from seven in the morning till six at night.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. And the other checkers are on the same time? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you ever made any application for an increase of pay? A. Yes; several times.

Q. And you have not got it? A. No; I have not.

CATHARINE MARTIN, Librarian, Free Public Library, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you public librarian for St. John? A. I am the free public librarian.

Q. How long has the free public library been established in St. John? A. It is now five years in existence. It was started in June, 1883, I think.

Q. How many volumes does the library contain? A. About 6,000.

Q. During how many hours a day is it open to the public? A. Six hours, but not every day.

Q. During what days is it open six hours? A. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Q. What hours is it open on those days? A. From two to six in the afternoon and from seven to nine at night.

A. Is there a reading-room in connection with the library? A. Yes; it is all one room, but the lower part of it is partitioned off for a reading-room.

Q. By whom is the library maintained? A. By the city council.

Q. Is all the money needed for the library appropriated by the city council? A. Yes.

Q. Have all the books in the library been paid for by the city council, or have there been any bequests made towards its support? A. There have been several donations made, both of books and money.

Q. Have these donations been of any large extent? A. We have a donation now, but it is not at hand yet, of \$6,000 in money—the interest of it.

Q. Do many persons visit the reading-rooms? A. Yes; a great number. I cannot give you the exact figures as to the numbers that visit the reading-room, but almost any night the reading-room is very well filled.

Q. Would you be able to judge whether the people who visit the reading-room habitually are working people, unskilled laborers and mechanics, or those who are better off? A. I would say that there were people from all stations of life. All

people are equal, except as regards money, but I think all classes of life are well represented in our reading-room.

Q. Do you think that the mechanics and working people are as well represented by the visitors to your reading-room as the other classes of the community? A. The poorer people in St. John have no other amusement that they can get for nothing.

Q. Is there a limit in respect to the number of books given to the working classes? A. We have a limit to which we give a person a book, and for several good reasons. The first six months that the library was opened we issued books very liberally, and we found that some of the books were destroyed, and depreciated in value. Since then we have issued or given one book a week to any one who comes for them. We find this rule to work very well and that the books are well circulated, because the majority of people in St. John are working people, and they do not have time to read more than one book a week.

Q. Do you notice that many sewing women borrow books from the library or attend the reading room? A. I think they take out more books to their homes than they go to the reading-room to read.

Q. Do you find that works of history, science, biography, travels, and the like, are very largely read, or are novels more largely taken from the library? A. I cannot say that history is largely read, in comparison to novels and light literature. If St. John were a university town we would expect the higher literature to be more extensively patronized; but this is a commercial town, and as the work people read for relaxation and amusement they patronize something lighter.

Q. When a man takes out a book is he required to bring the name of a property owner, or what security have you that he will return the book? A. The security is that we issue a registry board with the name and address of the receiver on it. The rules are printed on one side, and on the reverse side he is recommended by the mayor and aldermen of the common council, or a commissioner of the library. The person recommending an applicant signs the card on that side.

Q. And you, as librarian, I suppose, do not issue a book to any person unless his card has got this authority on it? A. No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you require any deposit when giving out books? A. No; but we should have one. We allow people to enter the library and take out books when they pay taxes in the city. Any resident of Portland who pays taxes in the city can take books out of our library.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you lost any books as yet? A. No; we have not as yet. Sometimes we have had a long search for them, but we have always found them at last.

Q. Do your readers, as a rule, take good care of the books, and do they return them in good condition? A. If I was to say to a person that they brought back a book and that it was not in as good condition as when they got it they would very likely say they thought it was. Most of the books are returned in fairly good condition. Of course, some books will wear out quicker than others. I think it is a good criterion to judge by to see a book very well worn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Then, on the whole, you do not complain about the treatment of your books? A. No; I do not complain.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. If the working classes had shorter hours of labor, and Saturday afternoon half-holiday, would it make more patrons to the free public library, or would it have a tendency in that direction? A. I think that it would increase the patronage in the winter, but not in the summer and not on fine days in winter. I think that the working people take out-door exercise in the summer and in-doors in the winter. We have a long winter in St. John and the poor people have not any great opportunity for amusement.

JAMES HARGREAVES, Superintendent New Brunswick Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. About how many hands are employed in the cotton mill? A. About 300.

Q. How many of these are females and how many males? A. About evenly divided.

Q. Of the females, how many are grown up women and how many are what may be termed children? A. I think the children might be about one-fourth of the girls.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest girl now employed in the mill? A. Twelve is the youngest we have.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest child you have known to be employed in the mill since you have been there? A. I do not know that we have had any under twelve.

Q. Have you had any regulation fixing the lowest age that you will permit them to work? A. We have no particular regulation, but we reckon not to go below twelve; if we could avoid it we would not take then under thirteen.

Q. Those under twelve, or the youngest that you have employed, are they put to work which will require constant attention during the whole of the day? A. No.

Q. How many hours do you work in the mill? A. Sixty hours per week.

Q. Are the hours the same on every day of the week? A. No; we work eleven hours on five days and five and a-half on the other.

Q. How many of the male operatives are grown up boys and how many comparatively young boys? A. Well, I think three-fourths of them are grown up.

Q. About what would be the age of the youngest boy employed? A. The youngest boy would be about thirteen.

Q. What wages will a girl of twelve or thirteen receive on entering the mill? A. On entering the mill we have given \$1 to \$1.20.

Q. Do they work by the week or by the piece? A. By the week.

Q. How long would they be continued at that wage before receiving an advance? A. Some two or three weeks.

Q. Then they are able to earn more? A. Yes; we give them according to how they push themselves along.

Q. How long would they be in the mill before being put on piece-work? A. There are some we put to piece-work when they are three or four weeks, but of course those are grown up girls.

Q. What would be the average wages of a woman weaver? A. A woman weaver—the average wage would be about \$5.

Q. When a woman is able to earn \$5 how many looms would she attend? A. Three looms.

Q. Are there any who attend to more than three looms? Are there many who earn more than \$5 in the weaving room? A. Well, some of the older hands earn as high as between \$6 and \$7 a week.

Q. About what would be the lowest wages earned by a woman attending three looms? A. About \$4.

Q. Are there any fines imposed for imperfect work in the weaving room? A. No.

Q. Are there any fines imposed for being late in the morning? A. We do impose a fine occasionally for being late in the morning, but it is only counted for time that is lost and that ought to be devoted to their work; if they lose time we take a little for it.

Q. Do you take for the actual time lost or do you make the time deducted more than that actually lost by the operative? A. I think they lose more time than the money we actually take off.

Q. Can an operative attend properly to more than three looms? A. We do not wish them to attend at more than three looms at the class of work we have; ours is fancy shirtings, and not common goods.

- Q. It requires greater attention than inferior goods would require. A. Yes.
- Q. Are women mostly employed in the spinning room? A. Yes.
- Q. What would an expert spinner be able to earn, on an average? A. They earn about \$4 a week.
- Q. They work by the piece? A. No; not those.
- Q. Is that the uniform rate paid good hands? A. Yes.
- Q. When they begin working in the spinning room about how much are they able to earn? A. They generally begin as small girls in the spinning room—some twelve, some fourteen years of age then, when we give them, as I said before, from \$1 to \$1.20 for a start.
- Q. How long will they work before they become sufficiently expert, if they enter at fourteen, to earn \$4? A. It would take some two or three years.
- Q. And their wages would gradually increase? A. Yes.
- Q. At what work are the young girls, for the most part, employed—girls, say of twelve or fourteen? A. They are generally employed in what we call doffing on trostle frames.
- Q. Does that work require constant attention? A. No; it does not take much over two-thirds of their time.
- Q. If inattentive are they fined? A. No.
- Q. Are you frequently compelled to dismiss those children for inattention, or for any other cause? A. Very seldom.
- Q. Are you frequently required to reprove them? A. Well, we have once in a while to do so, but it is not what may be considered out of the way for young people.
- Q. Are they ever punished? A. No.
- Q. Do you know of a case at all, during your time, of corporal punishment? A. No.
- Q. Would you know of if it occurred? A. I think I would.
- Q. If you heard of a case where corporal punishment was inflicted would you approve of it—would you permit it? A. No.
- Q. At what work are the small boys mostly employed? A. On helping to doff on the trostle frames.
- Q. If they do the same work as the girls, do they get the same rate of pay? A. Just about the same rate of pay.
- Q. At what are the men mostly employed? A. In what we call mule-spinning and in the dye-house.
- Q. What does a mule spinner earn? A. From \$8 to \$9.
- Q. In the dye-house what do they earn? A. Eight dollars.
- Q. Have you any male weavers? A. No.
- Q. Where men and women, or where boys and girls are employed at the same work, do they receive the same rate of pay? A. For the same work.
- Q. Throughout the mill? A. Yes; throughout the mill.
- Q. Have you separate conveniences—separate water-closets for male and female operatives throughout the mill? A. Not throughout the mill; but the principal part of the men, they have separate water-closets—but there are rooms in which the males and females use one water-closet.
- Q. Do you not think that is a matter that ought to be rectified? A. We have never had any trouble.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q. But you may have had trouble and not know anything of it? A. There are too many people working there in the same room.
- Q. It has happened elsewhere? A. I have been there seventeen years and there has been no complaint.
- Q. You know that where there are factory laws these things are not permitted? A. I have stated the facts of the case, and these things have never happened. I have worked in mills in England where they had only one water-closet with a greater number of hands, and I think the morality here is as good as it is there and as good there as it is here.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Is there any reason why those water-closets should not have been built separately? A. This place of ours has been built at different times, just as trade would warrant it, and it would be a little puzzling to put separate conveniences in some of the places; but wherever we can do it, we have done so.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you train your skilled hands here in St. John, or do you import skilled hands from other parts of Canada or from abroad? A. We import skilled hands from abroad, but such as we can possibly, we push them along—that is, natives of this place.

Q. Do you make contracts with them before they come to New Brunswick? A. Most of them come from England, of our skilled hands. We make contracts with those we so employ, so far as time and wages are concerned.

Q. They come here under some form of agreement, knowing that they are going to work in the mill and about what pay they are to receive? A. Yes.

Q. Are the wages paid here such that operatives in England consider that they will be bettered by coming here to work for the wages you pay? A. Those that we get out are better, to a certain extent.

Q. Can you tell the Commission how wages compare with wages in England? A. I think they are rather better than they are in England.

Q. Are you able to state how wages compare with wages in Massachusetts, let us say? A. Well, probably the wages would be rather less here than in Massachusetts.

Q. Do you know that, or is it only a matter of opinion with you? A. That is only a matter of opinion.

Q. Is it a number of years since you worked in England? A. Nineteen years.

Q. Are you able to speak positively with regard to the rate of wages prevailing there now? A. Not positively, but we have men there who came out recently, and I have spoken with them, and there does not seem to be much difference, as far as the general rate is concerned.

Q. Are you able to speak as to the persons who come here and get accustomed to the country whether they wish to return or remain here? A. As a general rule, they remain here.

Q. They consider themselves better off here than at home? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Does that apply to young and old? A. Yes; so far as I know.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do any of your hands work at night? A. No; only the night-watchman.

Q. What is done with the fines taken from the employés? A. It is returned to the office.

Q. It remains with the company? A. Yes.

Q. When you engage this foreign labor by contract do you fix the rate of wages you will give them before they come over? A. Yes; as a general rule.

Q. Do they pay their own passage? A. They have in most cases; in some they have not.

Q. Who has paid, in the cases they have not paid their own? A. The firm.

Q. After they came here did the firm deduct the passage money out of the wages? A. They have in some cases.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. I suppose that depends upon the agreement?—

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. You say that the age of the youngest girl is twelve—what means do you take for ascertaining their ages? A. We have no means, except asking them, and they, I presume, tell the truth.

Q. It is only guess work? A. Yes; so far as we are concerned.

Q. What do you pay women weavers who work two looms? A. That is just what they can do; some can do more than others.

Q. You gave what a young woman could earn at three; now, what can a young woman make with two looms? A. We have one, I think, who is between \$2 and \$3, but you must remember that a woman with two looms is not a practical hand; she has only grown up in the work, so as to perform work that far.

Q. Have you any in the weaving room who would be under \$2? A. We have one weaver on one loom.

Q. How much do you pay her? A. Just what she can earn.

Q. Give an average of the wages? A. Well, generally about \$1 and \$1.50.

Q. What do you pay women who work as twisters in the twisting room? A. We have not any; you mean twisting yarn—they would make \$4 a week.

Q. What pay do you give women in the reeling room? A. From \$3 up to \$6 and \$7.

Q. Do many of these young women bring their dinner with them? A. Yes; many of them.

Q. Is there a separate room for them to eat their dinners in to that in which they work? A. They work and eat in one room.

Q. Is the machinery stopped during the time in which they are at work? A. Yes.

Q. Is drinking water close at hand? A. Yes.

Q. On what flat do the women work? A. On two flats.

Q. How high is your factory? A. It is between 40 and 50 feet.

Q. Are there any fire-escapes attached to the factory? A. There are two fire-escapes on every flat. The place is built in a kind of square, and there is one at two ends of the square.

Q. Do the doors attached to them open outwards or inwards? A. They open outwards.

Q. Are the doors fastened at a certain hour in the morning? A. No.

Q. Always open? A. Yes.

Q. Do many of the young women pay their own board? A. I suppose they do.

Q. Do many of them live with their parents? A. Yes; a good many of them live with their parents.

Q. What would a young woman pay, or what does she pay, for good, respectable board in St. John? A. Well, I think, it is about \$2.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. You spoke a little while ago about not hearing any complaints as to the water-closets—do you think a young lady would tell you about any grievance she might have as regards them? A. I do not know whether she would or not, but in case there had been any grievance she would very soon complain, and I think any one else would, because if they feel badly used that way they would complain.

Q. But do you think she would come and complain to you? A. I think she would come and complain to me.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is it a matter of impossibility that two distinct water-closets could not be erected? A. I do not know as to impossibility, but we don't see our way to do it.

Q. It is a matter of great expense, is it? A. It is a matter of great expense.

Q. Do you not think it would be more seemly for young persons just getting into womanhood to have closets for themselves? A. It would be more seemly, but I do not see any more chance for immorality than there exists in a private family.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You have confidence in your operatives? A. Certainly, or we could not work with them.

NEAL MAHONEY, Employé of Street Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. What do drivers receive ? A. One dollar and twenty-five cents a day.
 Q. Do you get constant employment the year round ? A. Yes.
 Q. How many hours a day do you work ? A. About twelve or thirteen.
 Q. Are you able to sit down during any part of the day ? A. A few minutes while on the line.
 Q. Are you permitted to have any seat on the car ? A. No.
 Q. Are any comforts, in the way of hot coffee, or such as that, prepared for you on very cold nights or days in winter ? A. Not for the drivers on the cars that I have seen, though there has been for parties out all night when snow-ploughing, and that sort of thing.
 Q. Have you anything to do with the horses before or after you start on the trips ? A. No.
 Q. Not when you change horses during the day ? A. The horses are ready for us just to hook on when we come in with our car.

GEORGE MOORE, Driver Street Cars, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. Did you hear the testimony of the last witness ? A. Yes.
 Q. Do you approve of it ? A. I do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q. Are the drivers allowed to sit down at any time ? A. No.
 Q. Do you not think it would be a benefit to a man to have a rest in that respect ? A. I do, but I do not see there is much chance for a rest. We are not allowed to sit down; the only chance is at the end of the drive, when we are allowed six minutes to lay off—that is at each end.
 Q. Did the men ever ask it for themselves ? A. Not to my knowledge.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

- Q. Do you collect the fare yourself. A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q. When not in time in the morning do they put on a substitute ? A. I have never been in that position yet.
 Q. Is that the rule ? A. I think it is.
 Q. How many minutes grace is given to the employés ? I guess if you are not on time there is not much grace given.
 Q. Does he lose that day's pay ? A. Well, no; I have known cases where you just lose the one trip, but you go on the next.
 Q. Is the cost of that one trip deducted out of your wages ? A. It is.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

- Q. If a man were not there to start the trip does it disarrange everything ? A. Yes ; puts the whole business out of shape.
 Q. Do you get any extra pay for Sunday labor ? A. Nothing more than a day's pay—\$1.25.
 Q. Do you work the same on Sunday as on other days ? A. Yes.
 Q. Do you start as early in the morning ? A. I start as early on my trip, but I do not think the first trip starts as early as on week days.
 Q. What is the last car at night ? A. At the same hour as on week days—10:33 it leaves Indiantown.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there scales of wages—different grades of wages? A. No; we all receive the same amount.

Q. Are the men compelled to make change themselves out of their own money? A. We are provided with change; we buy it when we go on to work; it is all done up in packages, and when used we replace it with the change instead.

Q. That change is your own money? A. Yes; that is our own money.

Q. Is that according to the rules of the company, that you have to have your own change? A. Yes.

Q. Is any amount specified? A. Yes; \$5.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Do you not get a Sunday off occasionally to go to church? A. We do if we want one; but we don't always go to church when we get one off; that is the worst of it.

Q. Is there any arrangement so that the drivers could have a regular Sunday, occasionally? A. No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. So, if you want to go to church you have to get permission to go? A. Yes; you have to ask on the Saturday night before.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. If you get off work a day is that day's pay stopped? A. Yes; it is.

Q. Supposing a man gets injured in the service, does his wages go on? A. That I could not answer; I do not know.

Q. Supposing a man got sick through fatigue, cold or long hours, would his wages go on? A. I do not know.

Q. If a horse gets sick do they send him to the doctor? A. Yes.

Dr. HUTCHISON, Doctor of Medicine, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You desire to give testimony respecting education in St. John? A. I do.

Q. You can make your statement.

(Witness is about to enter into a private matter, and is overruled by the Chair.)

With reference to the books I have read the evidence in the press which was given here by Mr. Carter, the inspector of schools. I quite agree with that statement, that all the books should be published in New Brunswick, that we are quite competent to produce books of a quality equal to those at present used. The present Government have certainly carried out some of the promises which the members made on the hustings, and bye-and-bye we may have the whole of the books published in New Brunswick, which would be a great benefit to the city of St. John and probably to Fredericton. I again think that compulsory education is requisite. In the large cities a certain amount of elasticity is required in such cases. In this it would be a great benefit to the city of St. John to have the University of New Brunswick placed here, instead of miles away, in a small town, for the purpose of educating young men, lawyers, clerks, &c. The university is now situated at Fredericton, a town some eighty miles from St. John. The placing of it here would excite a greater desire for higher education. Our secondary education, Mr. Carter says, is not equal to that in Ontario. The reasons for that I shall give through the public press.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Can you tell us the percentage of the children of the laboring classes attaining a higher education than that obtainable at the ordinary public schools? A. I cannot tell you; I can tell you nothing more than appears by the reports issued by the trustees. From my knowledge of St. John and my general knowledge of the educated

classes here, I think that there are very few who allow their children to go to the grammar school to obtain a higher education. I think it would be a good thing for St. John were the higher education, as at present conducted, abolished, for that course would enable men from Oxford and Cambridge to come here and enter into competition with anything that might be established here, any way.

Q. Do you know about the percentage of the children of the working classes who go to the higher branches in your public schools here? A. I think that is pretty much the same question as in regard to the previous matter of the higher schools. I, of course, have a general idea, but I could not make the statement. I dare say all those things are contained in the office of the secretary, who will be examined, I understand, in such matters.

(In the above, all personal matters have been omitted.—REPORTER.)

PAUL KINGSTON, Employé Street Cars, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your position? A. I am foreman over the men for keeping the street railway in repair.

Q. Are any other men employed in the same capacity? A. Not in the same capacity as I am.

Q. How much would the men receive who are working under you? A. One dollar and ten cents a day.

Q. How much can you earn? A. I have received from \$10.50 to \$11 a week, but I do not get so much as that at the present time, but will, I hope, shortly again.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. My hours are very uncertain.

Q. The other men—how many hours do they work? A. Their time is ten hours, but if any unforeseen danger occurs on the line they have to work longer.

Q. Do they receive any pay for such over-work? A. They pay for over-time.

Q. Do they receive the same pay as the men receive for day work? A. Yes.

ALBERT SUTCLIFFE, Overseer Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How many hands are employed in the spinning room? A. Forty-five to fifty.

Q. In the New Brunswick Mill? A. Yes.

Q. How many would you class as skilled hands and how many as learners?

A. About thirty or thirty-five of the former and fifteen or twenty of the latter.

Q. What would be their average earnings? A. Four dollars a week.

Q. What would be the lowest rate of wages paid in that room? A. One dollar and fifty cents.

Q. I suppose they range all the way from \$1.50 to \$4? A. Yes; and up to \$6.

Q. What is the age of the youngest child employed in the room? A. Twelve.

Q. Would you be willing to take a child under twelve? A. No.

Q. Have you any instructions not to take very young children? A. Yes; I am instructed not to take them under twelve.

Q. Is there a desire on the part of some people to crowd in children under twelve? A. Sometimes; in a few cases.

Q. Do you judge wholly by their statement as to age, or do you judge from your own idea, sometimes? A. If I think they are too young I do not take them.

Q. Are there more applicants for work than you have work to give? A. Yes.

Q. Do children go themselves to seek employment, or do their parents bring them? A. Sometimes the parents come, and at times the children come themselves.

Q. When the parents come with young children seeking to get them into the mill do they look as if they were poor, or as if they were in comfortable circumstances? A. They do not look so bad; they look pretty fair.

Q. Do they look as if they needed the earnings of the children? A. Some look as if they needed it and others do not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you know if the youngsters are able to read and write? A. Some can write and some cannot; they can all read, I think.

Q. Read print or manuscript? A. Read printing.

Q. Do you know if they go to night-school after work is over? A. No.

Q. Are there any public night-schools in St. John? A. Not that I know of.

J. W. CUDLIP, Second Hand in Mule-room, Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. About how many hands are employed in the mule-room? A. I think we have twenty.

Q. How many adults? A. Seven or eight.

Q. What are the earnings of the skilled hands? A. They are all skilled hands.

Q. All who are in the room? A. All, except the very small hands; we have learners occasionally, but of course they are not much use until they have been with us some time.

Q. Are all hands employed by the week? A. Yes.

Q. And all receive the same rate of wages? A. No.

Q. Who judges of their capacity? A. The overseer and the manager together; they decide all questions of wages.

Q. At what are the young children employed? A. What we call a back-boy—that is, putting in bobbins and sweeping and clearing things away—keeping the place clean. They also do part of the oiling.

Q. Are they kept at work requiring constant attention? A. The very youngest are not; the older ones have to be at work nearly all the time; it depends a great deal on how the work is running.

Q. Is their work such that their attention is always actively directed upon the work? A. No.

Q. About what are the ages of the youngest children employed? A. I think we have one little boy about thirteen—either twelve or thirteen.

Q. None younger than that? A. No; from that up to forty and fifty.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do the youngest children oil and clean machinery? A. Yes; part of it.

Q. The part that they do clean up and oil, is the machinery going at the time? A. Yes; they brush up part of the mule when running—that is, the back part; they do it with a brush.

Q. Is it not dangerous? A. Not at all; they are prohibited strictly from going where they would be caught in any way.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q. Are there many accidents? A. We had one accident just before Christmas.

Q. How did that occur? A. The mule was stopped to wipe down, and then the mule was set in motion, while he was in there, by the operator, and it caught him. I was there at the time and I spoke to him about stopping it, but he did not know the boy was in there and set it going. The mule is quite a long one; the room is about 90 feet long.

Q. What was the nature of the accident he sustained? A. He had a couple of ribs broken; he was in to work in a couple of weeks after and he is working for us still.

Q. Was it the negligence of the man or of the boy? A. Not the boy; the piecer had set the mule on, not thinking the boy was there; I had called the boy in to wipe off, and had stopped the mule to let him do it.

Q. Did the company pay him for his time? A. I could not say.

Q. For his medical attendance? A. I could not say.

THOMAS WHALEN, Mule-Spinner, Cotton Factory, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. Mule-spinner in the New Brunswick Cotton Mill.

Q. How long have you been working there? A. Eighteen months.

Q. Where were you employed before that? A. In the Gibson mill.

Q. Have you ever worked in any other country in a cotton mill? A. Yes; in England.

Q. Were you a skilled hand in England? A. Yes.

Q. How do the wages compare here with the wages you earned in England?

A. The last job I had in England was about the same as I am getting here—that is, 37 and 38 shillings sterling a week.

Q. Do you consider that money will go further in supporting a family in England or in New Brunswick—that is for rent, food, fuel, clothes, and all the ordinary necessities of life? A. I think with the same pay, upon the average, that you can live better here.

Q. Would you rather remain here or return to your former position and condition of life in England? A. I would rather remain in this country.

Q. Is food cheaper or dearer here than in England? A. Well, beef is cheaper; sugar and other articles are about the same.

Q. Clothing would be dearer here? A. Yes.

Q. How would rents be? A. From 3 to 4 shillings a week for the working classes in England.

Q. How many rooms would you have for 4 shillings a week? A. Five and six, up-stairs and down.

Q. What would be the size of those rooms? A. I could not say exactly what their size would be.

Q. Would that accommodation be better than you get here in St. John for the same money? A. About the same.

Q. At all events you think your position here with the same wages, is about the same as there? A. It has been, so far.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you get more constant employment here than you did at home in the old country? A. I had constant employment there until my mill was burned down. I have been here now since 1883.

Q. There, when you left a mill was it difficult to get into another position? A. Yes; although there are a great many more mills there.

Q. Do you experience the same difficulty here? A. Yes; you have to travel further to get it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Did you come under contract to this country? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know of others who are overseers who came out in the same way? A. No.

CHARLES H. DOIG, Dyer, Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How many are employed at that occupation in the mill? A. There are twenty-five at present in the dye-house.

Q. Do they all receive the same rate of wages? A. No; they vary.

Q. According to the time they have been employed or according to their capacity? A. Well, according to their capabilities and time, I presume, to a certain extent.

Q. What will a fairly good skilled, hand receive? A. From \$7 to \$9.

Q. Do you get constant employment all the year round? A. Sometimes.

Q. Not always? A. Not constant, though we do not lose much time.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. About how much time would you lose? A. I have been there thirteen years, and looking back over that time I could hardly tell you.

Q. I mean in a year—on account of the mill? A. Some years we lose a good deal and others none, hardly; this last year we ran steadily.

Q. Would you lose three months? A. No.

Q. Six weeks? A. No.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are boys taken into the dye-house to learn the business? A. Well, young lads.

Q. You get your skilled hands by training them up in the mill? A. Yes.

Q. You do not require to send abroad for the skilled hands? A. No; they generally have an overseer or foreman from abroad.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Is the business of dyeing unhealthy? A. I do not find it so; I do not find it unhealthy.

Q. Is it dangerous to handle the dyes with a cut—say on the hand? A. I never found anything serious to come from it.

Q. Did you come from England? A. No; I came from Scotland.

Q. Did you come out here under contract? A. No.

WILLIAM COX, Warper, Parks' Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are there many hands employed in that department? A. Only two, as a general thing; if we are pushed the foreman lends a hand.

Q. What are your earnings? A. A while back we were on piece, and for a short time made from \$8 to \$10 a week, but since the change of work if we went on piece-work now we could not make \$8 on a general run.

Q. Do you get constant employment the year round? A. Last summer we had quite a lot of loafing, but loafing is not a general thing.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are you long in this country? A. I have been out five years.

Q. Did you come out on contract? A. No; I came out on speculation.

JOHN GARSIDE, Beamer, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are many hands employed at this in the mill? A. Four of us, and two boys.

Q. What would be their earnings? A. Three of us get \$10 each, one \$6 and another \$4, and the lowest I guess about \$1.50 or \$2.

Q. The boys are learning, so that in course of time they are skilled hands at it? A. Yes; one of them is learning.

Q. Do you get constant employment the year round? A. We shut about down about three times in the year for cleaning.

Q. How long since you worked in the old country? A. Six and a-half years—we came out in 1881.

Q. Do you consider the circumstances of a cotton mill operator in Canada as good, or better or worse, than they are in England? A. Well, I do not suppose in my business it is very much better here.

Q. You consider it to be somewhat better? A. Well, I like, the climate better though I got as much wages at home as here.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. As far as the comfort of the factory is concerned, is it just as good here as it is in England? A. Some mills are rather better in England—some not quite as good; but taking the average, they are.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Did you come to Canada under contract or by your own motion? A. Mr. Parks applied over there for a hand, and I applied for it and got it.

Q. You made a contract in the old country? A. He stated the price and I accepted it.

Q. Did you pay your fare to this country? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Was the advertisement inserted in an old country paper? A. No; Mr. Parks wrote to his agent there.

Q. And the agent advertised? A. No; he did not advertise, but he sent a party a note to inquire for a hand.

Q. And there were negotiations pending the bargain before you employed yourself? A. I made my bargain with the agent.

JOHN GARRETT, Second Hand in Carding-room, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. How many men are employed in the carding-room? A. From fifty to sixty altogether.

Q. How many adults and how many children? A. There are, I suppose, three small children of about thirteen or fourteen years of age.

Q. And the rest are all grown up? A. Yes.

Q. How many males and how many females? A. About forty females and the remainder males.

Q. What can a skilled male operative earn? A. From \$3 to \$5.50; sometimes \$6.

Q. What can a skilled female operative earn? A. Well, they generally pay them by the week; the wages run from \$3.50 to \$10.50.

Q. Do females get less than the men? A. Yes; and some small boys get less wages.

Q. Where men and women are employed at the same work do they receive the same rate of pay? A. Yes; there are very few that work like that in the carding-room.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are there many earning \$6? A. Not many; but sometimes when they have a good working week, and when they work sixty hours, and no stopping the machinery.

Q. If the machinery is stopped, and they have to shut down, is their wages stopped? A. No.

Q. Do they make it up if the machinery is stopped? A. Yes; all hands in the card-room work by the piece, except a few, and their time is kept by the hour, and if the mill is off an hour they lose the hour.

Q. You mean the piece-hands? A. It does not make any difference to them; it is their loss if the mill is shut down.

But the week hands—if there is anything stopped in the mill machinery they are required to make it up? A. If the mill don't make it up they lose it.

Q. But do not the employés work over-time when the mill works over-time? A. Yes; I suppose they do.

Q. That is, the loss they make up by over-time? A. Yes.

Q. Does the machinery go wrong through the interference of the employés? A. Sometimes it requires a little fixing.

Q. When the machinery goes wrong is it the fault of the employés? A. No.

RICHARD NAVES, Second Hand and General Helper, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. You would be the only hand employed at this particular work? A. Yes.
 Q. How much can you earn? A. Six dollars a week.
 Q. Do you work the same hours as the other employés? A. Yes.

PATRICK KENNEDY, Laborer, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. On what work are you employed? A. Sewerage and water department.
 Q. Do you work directly for the city? A. Yes.
 Q. What can you earn per day? A. One dollar and twenty cents.
 Q. How many days do you work in the course of the year? A. I suppose seven or eight months, but from the 1st of January to some time in April we may be required to work on being called out.
 Q. Do you get anything besides what you receive from the city? A. I used to work outside sometimes in the winter.
 Q. Have you a family to support? A. Five.
 Q. Can you support your family on those wages? A. Just maintain a family on it. Here is a statement of it. This shows :
 For a family on \$1.10 a day—seven in family—a man saves, besides the following, 6 cents a day :—

	Cts.
Five loaves bread.....	35
Quarter pound tea.....	10
Half peck potatoes.....	12
One quart molasses.....	12
A pint milk.....	3
Half pound butter.....	12
Four pounds fish, at 5 cents.....	20

The rent has to be paid and fuel has to be bought, and what will be done for wear and tear of house—will 6 cents meet all these demands? I just put that to show how a man can maintain a family on \$1.10 a day; that is a low figure; he has wear and tear of house and fuel to meet and everything else to find in the house; I am not allowing him any meat, only fish, and if he gets meat on Sunday he has to keep it from the grocery, which is not fair to the grocer.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q. Do you provide anything for clothes? A. No; nor even for boots, or oil, nor tobacco, nor sugar, nor anything like that.
 Q. And in case of sickness? A. You see it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

- Q. Do you require half a pound of tea? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Would none of the seven be earning anything besides the man himself? A. None of them are supposed to be earning; in some cases a girl or boy of fourteen may be bringing in \$1.50 or \$2, and that may help meet some of these demands.

Q. Is there any family of seven but that some would be earning? A. I have a family of seven and none earn anything for me, and just now only three out of nine are earning.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

- Q. How much rent do you pay? A. Nine pounds a year.
 Q. How much do you pay for taxes? A. Five dollars and eighty-five cents.

Q. Does that include every tax—water and all? A. Yes; the schools are all free schools here.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. You have to buy books? A. Yes.

Q. On corporation work how often are you paid? A. Once a week.

Q. Do you prefer that to fortnightly payment? A. Yes; it is more handy, especially where there is a family.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are your taxes kept out of your pay? A. No.

Q. Do you know of any man working for the city for less than \$1.10? A. On outside work they are working now for 60 cents, 80 cents and \$1, but that is not for the city; it is on contractor's work.

Q. In corporation work, such as unskilled labor does the board of works make it a special point to give work to residents in preference to strangers or immigrants if they come here? A. Yes; it is the case here. Now, for instance, where I am employed, well, I would get work before a stranger, because I understand the business.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Have you any statement to make before the Commission—would you like to suggest something? A. I do not know.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have your wages increased any during these past few years? A. No; that is about the standing wages here—6 shillings a day for laboring men.

J. C. WILSON, Printer at Barnes & Co., called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you work by the week or by the piece? A. By the week.

Q. What wages are paid journeymen printers? A. Ten dollars a week.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten.

Q. Sixty hours a week? A. Yes.

Q. How frequently are you paid? A. Weekly.

Q. In full? A. In full.

Q. All in cash? A. Yes.

Q. Do you get constant employment? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been working for Barnes & Co? A. Nine years.

Q. Did you serve your time there? A. Yes.

Q. How many years did you serve? A. Five.

Q. Were you indentured? A. No.

Q. Have you a comfortable room to work in? A. Yes; it is comfortable.

Q. Are you employed on book or job work? A. I work all around.

Q. When you work on book-work do you still work by the week? A. Yes; by the week.

Q. Are any of the hands working by the piece? A. Not at present.

Q. When they work piece-work on books what pay do they receive? A. Twenty-eight cents.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How many hands in your establishment? A. Seven in the printing office.

Q. How many are journeymen? A. Five.

Q. Have you any information to give the Commission which will be of interest to the Commission? A. Well, no; I do not think I have, outside of the school book question.

Q. Do you know anything about the school book question? A. All I know is, if the school books for New Brunswick were printed here it would be a great

advantage to all concerned in printing and book-binding; it would employ a great many more hands and would be the means of establishing electrotyping here, which is greatly needed.

Q. Were any of the books printed here on the type set up in St. John? A. I understand that there was a history printed here, in Messrs. J. & A. McMillan's office. I heard a man say he had worked on it setting up type and that the type was sent to Boston to be electrotyped there, and I see by the public prints it was set up in Boston, but further than that I do not know. I do not know where the man who set it up is now.

WILLIAM JARVIS, Insurance Agent, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a barrister-at-law; also insurance agent for the Maritime Provinces for the London, Liverpool and Globe Insurance Company, and president of the board of fire underwriters.

Q. What are the rates of fire insurance prevalent in New Brunswick? A. They are very much according to the character of the property insured.

Q. What would be the assessed rate for the best mercantile buildings? A. Do you mean wholesale or retail?

Q. Wholesale? A. The building would be about 50 to 60 cents, if well constructed.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you mean per annum? A. Per annum.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What would be the rate in the retail business? A. Sixty to sixty-five cents; the stock would be higher than the wholesale.

Q. What would the rate be upon brick or stone buildings, and the better classes of residences, towards the centre of the city? A. The lowest rate on first-class buildings would be 35 cents.

Q. What would be the average rate on the class of tenements occupied by the working people—say, a brick building? A. There are hardly any brick buildings occupied by working people in this city.

Q. Is the rate higher where more than one family occupy a house? A. In forming our tariff the general rule is to add 5 cents for each additional family, and this is done because we consider that the risk is increased.

Q. Do you think that, as a rule, the class of tenements occupied by working people are charged higher rates than the residences of the more wealthy? A. They are certainly higher.

Q. Is that due altogether to the class of buildings occupied by them? A. Certainly it is.

Q. Has your experience taught you that there are greater dangers from fire in the houses of the poor than in the houses of the wealthy? A. The building is more liable to be burned and the percentage of fires is greater.

Q. Have you given any study to the problems involving the cost of living? A. I certainly have thought over it very seriously.

Q. Have you read any of the figures given before this Commission by a witness named Kennedy? A. I did see some of his figures in the papers.

Q. Are you able to form an opinion as to whether those figures fairly represent the cost of feeding a family of seven persons? A. At the time I read it, it struck me that his figures were entirely exaggerated. In the first place, if I recollect correctly, he spoke of the expense of feeding his family, and said that he purchased five loaves of bread per diem. That would be equal to twenty-two barrels of flour in a year. Each barrel would contain about 200 lbs. of flour, and I do not know whether a family could use so much flour as that in a year. I am at a loss to know

how they could consume so much flour. I know that I purchase for my own family six or seven barrels in a year, but of course we consume more or less meat. In vegetables, Mr. Kennedy speaks of potatoes, and his quantity is half a peck per diem; that would be seven half-pecks per week, and that would be equal to forty-seven bushels a year, which would amount to something over twenty barrels a year. Then, that coupled with the quantity of flour, I do not see what could become of it. Then there is another thing to be said about purchasing bread by the loaf and not making it in the house, which is a very expensive way of living. There is no doubt that household economy is too little taught in our public schools, and consequently very many of the girls become housekeepers without knowing how to make a loaf of bread, upon which so much depends; consequently, their husbands are obliged to purchase the bread, instead of buying a 200-lb barrel of flour. Purchasing a loaf of bread at 7 cents, when you consider that a 200-lb barrel of flour will make nearly double the quantity of bread that a baker makes out of it, increases the cost of living very much.

Q. Is 7 cents the ordinary price of a 2-lb loaf of bread in this town? A. It is.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. What is the ordinary price of potatoes? A. I have a place 20 miles outside of St. John where I raise my own vegetables and the potatoes that I raised there last fall I sold at \$1.50. We call a barrel of potatoes two bushels and a-half. Since that potatoes have risen in price because the season has advanced.

Q. What is the average price of potatoes in St. John? A. One dollar and twenty-five cents to one dollar and fifty cents per barrel.

Q. Do you not think that a man engaged at hard work requires more food when he is working outdoors than one who works inside doors? A. Certainly he does.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. And the fact of the man using no meat in his family, they would eat more bread and vegetables than they otherwise would? A. Certainly; it is a mere matter of taste; if they choose to purchase vegetables instead of meat they can do so.

Q. If they can buy bread at $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound is it not more economical than buying meat at the current market rate? A. I am not a scientist in the matter, but I know that Dr. Pevy says and those who claim to speak scientifically on the subject claim to think that human beings require meat food, and that if people do not use meat their system deteriorates, and that meat is better and more substantial than potatoes.

Q. What is the price of good family flour in St. John to day? A. I should say for such flour as Goldies Star, \$5 a barrel.

Q. Would that be a fraction more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound? A. A barrel is supposed to contain 200 lbs. or thereabouts.

Q. If flour can be bought at $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound is it economy for those who study economy to buy bread at $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound? A. No.

Q. Can you give any good reason why bread is worth $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound in St. John and only $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents in Hamilton? A. I do not know why.

Q. Do you think that a quarter of a pound of tea would be a reasonable allowance for a family of five or seven persons, of which the children would be so young as to be unable to work? A. I think that would be a full allowance, but there is so much difference in people's tastes in that respect that I would not like to venture an opinion.

Q. Are you able to tell us what allowance is given by the United States to its soldiers during the war? A. I have never seen the allowance.

Q. Do you think that a quart of molasses was a reasonable allowance for such a family to use? A. In my family I should think it a very excessive allowance and such an allowance as to compel me not to allow them to partake of sweets.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you not think that it might make a difference in this man's family? A. It is a very large amount.

Q. Have you reflected upon the fact that in his statement Mr. Kennedy made no allowance for sugar? A. Yes; that is a matter of taste.

Q. Is it your opinion that with the same amount of money that more palatable and more nutritious food could be bought for a family than named in Mr. Kennedy's bill of fare? A. There must be waste somewhere, and very serious waste.

Q. Have you ever thought of the prospects of giving instruction, not only in cooking, but in domestic economy, for the families of the comparative poor? A. I have thought over the matter very seriously.

Q. How would you have such schools of instruction maintained? A. I have not been able to formulate any fixed idea as to how to carry on these schools.

Q. Do you imagine that classes in cooking could be connected with the public schools? A. I believe it is done in connection with the board of schools in London. I think it would be difficult to have them connected with all the schools, but I think such classes could be established in the larger cities.

Q. Even there would it not be better to have the evening classes, or classes distinct from the ordinary schools? A. That would be my impression.

Q. Do you think that the working classes would resent the establishment of such schools, as infringing upon what might be called pauper treatment? A. Not at all. There is a very friendly feeling between all classes of people in this community.

Q. Are you not aware of the fact that people do resent any action which classes them with paupers? A. It is very marked in this community, but still, if such a school were established there would be no fear of such a thing taking place.

Q. Do you think their proper and reasonable independence would not take alarm at the idea? A. No; we have a branch of the girls' friendly society, originated by some of the ladies in connection with the Church of England, which works very well. I have not attended any of the meetings myself, but I know that they have been very successful and that a large number of servants have been benefited by them. That shows that the poor would not resent such interference.

Q. Do not all classes of females require to learn something of domestic economy and cooking? A. A great deal; we had a cooking school here some years ago.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. How does the rate of insurance in St. John compare with other places? A. At present it compares favorably. It is all based on the experience of fires. The insurance premium of New Brunswick last year for the whole Province is about \$390,000. The total fire loss for the Province was \$420,000, and of that amount about \$220,000 was insured and paid for by the companies. When you come to consider that it costs about 25 per cent. to run the business, you have a profit left for the company of something like \$80,000 to divide among twenty or thirty companies. I make it out to be 30 per cent. better in St. John than in many parts of Canada, and that is a very good showing for St. John, when you consider that Canada is looked upon as a very unfavorable field for insurance by the English companies.

Q. On the same class of building, how does the rate of insurance in St. John compare with the rates previous to 1877? A. I should say that the rates were very much the same. Prior to the great fire of 1877 there had been a period of six years during which the companies made little or nothing whatever in the city of St. John or in the Province. In the year of the great fire outside of that fire, the companies lost two or three times their premiums. Then an increase of rates was made, not generally but scientifically made, the higher rate being put upon the blocks. The fire occurring made this necessary, and the consequence was that those persons who owned these blocks became their own insurers; but since the great fire business has been fairly prosperous all over the city and the Province, especially so in St. John,

where the rates have come down to those of Halifax, while they were a great deal higher before the fire. This has been caused by a large number of people insuring themselves, and therefore becoming more careful of their property.

Q. Was that rate applied to the city proper? A. A specific rate was applied all over the city and Province. It was done by sending inspectors all over the province for the purpose of rating each building and finding out what was the hazard to be run.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Did you look over the different items that this workingman presented to the Commission last night? A. Not very particularly, but they caught my attention in the papers.

Q. Did you see the amount he laid by for fish? A. I did.

Q. Would that be for one or three meals for his family? A. I could not say, but I will select, as an example, what a workingman told me, when I asked him about the cost of living. With regard to my fish, he said, I watch the season, and when the gaspereaux are in season I purchase them for a mere song—50 cents to \$1 a hundred. When I want herring I also wait till the season for herring comes, when I get them very cheap, and in consequence of a little economy one can live on a small amount of money. I had to learn these matters for myself, because when my children came from school, not having a wife to educate them, I had to look after them myself, and inquire into the cost of living.

Q. Did you take notice that there were no items in Mr. Kennedy's paper for boots and shoes, clothing and house rent? A. I did, and it puzzled me how the man could live.

Q. Would you want the workingman to live without boots and shoes? A. I would not.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. As a rule, do the children of the working classes run about the streets of this city without boots and shoes? A. They do not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you think that the workingman should have meat once a day? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think that a man could live comfortably on \$1.10 a day, buy all the boots and shoes for his family, feed and support them and give them all the necessaries they need? A. I believe a workingman could live comfortably on that sum, but he could not get good joints of roast beef. I have a family working in St. John for me, and he has a little place for himself, and he is gradually accumulating a surplus; his income is not more than \$300, and he appears to live comfortably. He keeps his five or six barrels of flour on hand, and so can make the difference between the wholesale and the retail price. It is this difference between the retail and the wholesale price, that is ruinous to the poor man. In regard to fish, I would say that they are purchased by the poor very largely, but in small quantities, and the difference between the wholesale and retail price is very large. I think that our middlemen, as they are called in our community, or those who stand between the laborer and the farmer, are generally pretty well off.

Q. Do you think a man could live on $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cent a meal? A. Not in this climate.

Q. What would you think of a professional gentleman that would give evidence to that effect? A. I would say it was a very poor opinion to go by.

Q. Do you think that a man could live comfortably and pay expenses on \$1.10 a day? A. He could, according to his position. It would not be comfortable for you and me, for we would want a house that would cost more money.

Q. Does he not have to buy school books for his children? A. The cost for them would be a mere trifle. They are generally published by the Government, but if the children go to the advanced branches then the cost for books would be higher.

Q. Do you know if there are many children belonging to the working classes of people that attend the higher schools? A. I think a fair proportion of them do, and

I think it is the ambition of most of their parents to train their children to become school teachers. I have known of many of them starving themselves in order to give their children a chance to learn, so as to become a first or second-class licensed teacher.

Q. Have you given any thought to the age of the young boys who are taken from school and put to work at business or in a factory? A. I do not think that, as a rule, the children are taken away from school very young. Of course, it would depend very much upon the district; in some districts they might take them away at the age of thirteen or fourteen, but I think that in the city they are allowed to remain longer at school. I cannot speak definitely upon this subject, but that is my impression. I do not think there are any young boys at work in our factories, though there may be for all I know. I know I have to inspect the saw-mills, and I know that I never saw many boys there. There may be cases where there are boys at work in our mills and factories, and these boys may be of a very young age, but I would not be very positive about it.

ROBERT REED, President Owens Art Institution, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Have you a statement with reference to the Owens Art Institution which you want to lay before this Commission? A. Yes.

Q. Have you it with you? A. I have.

Mr. Reed then testified as follows:—I say that I am president of the Owens Art Institution, and that it was incorporated in 1884, and created out of bequests left by the late John Owens. The gallery has a large collection of paintings, consisting of examples from the brush of Royal Academicians and other eminent artists of the past and present. The school has a very complete outfit in casts from the antique and other suitable models. The institution is considered to be at least one of the best art educational establishments in the Dominion, and so far has not received any public gifts. Its funds have all been spent with the view of making the institution attractive, in order to create a more lively and extended interest in the fine arts, the accomplishment of which, in some measure, is instanced by stating that on the occasion of the first exhibition out of over 1,000 complimentary tickets issued but 206 were presented for admittance during the two weeks it was open. In contrast, an exhibition of school work last spring drew more than 2,000 visitors during the first three days it was open. Several special exhibitions have been held. On the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee an exhibit of provincial talent, comprising more than 500 examples by professional and amateur artists, was held and continued for a month. The income is now solely derived from the school fees, which are very moderate, and the current charge for admission to the gallery is 10 and 25 cents. The receipts so far have not been sufficient to meet the ordinary expenses. The public have, on several occasions, been admitted free. On one occasion more than 4,000 Sunday school children and others entered free. The following year all the Sunday schools were invited, and from the first all conventions and other large gatherings wherein strangers participated have had invitations. Free days command the greatest patronage. The school is in its third term. Commencing with twenty pupils the list has since run up to 157. In this number are many from the outlying districts in this Province, besides representatives from Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Ontario and the States of Maine and Massachusetts. The course of education is based upon the system in use in the best art schools of Europe. So far the trustees have no practical evidence that education in mechanical drawing is much desired. At the outset a night class was formed having that end in view, but although the fee was little more than nominal, the effort failed to draw a sufficient number to pay for the gas, and after a two months' trial the class was discontinued. A life class from the draped model lately introduced now numbers nearly forty. The school is under the direction of Mr. John Hammond, a professional artist of many year standing. His artistic abilities have been endorsed by the highest art tribunals in Europe, and his works hung with honor in the exhibit of the Royal Academy and Paris Salon.

A. C. SMITH, Chairman Water and Sewerage Commission, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What position do you hold? A. I am chairman of the sewerage and water commission for the cities of St. John and Portland.

Q. Throughout how large a part of the city of St. John is the water supply carried? A. Through almost the whole of it.

Q. Are the owners or occupants of houses compelled to use the city water, or may they get supplies from other sources if they desire to do so? A. They are compelled to pay for the city water whether they use it or not.

Q. On what is the water rate based? A. We charge a rate on the value of property, stocks in warehouses and stores, merchandise, furniture and personal property—one and one fifth of one per cent. on the value.

Q. Is that the whole assessment you make? A. Besides that there are specific charges—so much for a family, so much for water baths, so much for houses, water-closets, &c.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you make a specific charge for hotels? A. Hotels are generally supplied by meter at the rate of 1 cent per 100 gallons.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Is that calculated to supply the cost of the water and the interest on the investment? A. Yes; maintenance and entrance.

Q. Do you make an extra charge for those who use hose for watering their lawns? A. We have not as yet, but we have it under consideration to do so.

Q. Are any classes of the citizens exempted from the payment of water rates? A. Not that I know of.

Q. Where there is but a single service to a tenement, what is the rate charged? A. Five dollars for the first family and \$1 for each additional family.

Q. Do the poorest families living in one tenement pay \$5 a year? A. Yes; that is a family living in a self-contained tenement. In all those cases I do not know of any where the tenant pays the rate, for the assessment is all made against the landlord; we make no charge against the tenant.

Q. Where there are two or more families in one house do you divide the water rates equally among them? A. We collect from the landlord.

Q. Are there any tenants who pay the water rates directly? A. There are, where they make leases to the effect that they shall pay the consumption rate; in such cases the landlord will often pay the property rate and call upon us to collect the consumption from the tenant, but in no case do we make an assessment against the tenant.

Q. Where the tenants are comparatively poor people, occupying small properties, do you ever have any difficulty in collecting from them? A. No; we collect better from the poor than from the rich—a great deal better.

Q. Are you ever compelled to distrain or to take legal proceedings for the collection of water rates from comparatively poor people? A. Yes; we often have to do that.

Q. Do you sell their goods? A. No; I have never done so, and I have been five years in office.

Q. If you were compelled to take legal proceedings for the collection of water rates what would be the cost for collecting one year's rate of \$5? A. One dollar.

Q. What is the method of procedure? A. By distraint.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Issued from the city treasurer? A. No; from the chairman of the board of water commissioners.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Then you just issue the execution? A. We issue a distraint warrant, or we can issue an execution to take the body.

Q. Have you frequently to go so far? A. We probably issue in St. John and Portland about from 400 to 500 executions a year.

Q. Are you frequently compelled to proceed to sell the effects, or does the issuance of the execution bring the money? A. We have never been compelled to sell once, within my recollection.

Q. Are most of the houses in St. John connected with the sewers? A. A very large proportion of them, as far as we know of, are; the sewerage system has only been in the hands of the water commission since 1867, while the water has been in their hands since 1853. That would make some fourteen years after the water was introduced before the sewerage system came under charge of the same commission. Previous to that there were a great number of sewers in the city, but we have no record of them; we know how a great many houses are drained, although we have no special record of the drainage; but I am safe in saying that a very large proportion of the houses in St. John to-day are draining into the public sewers.

Q. Are iron and earthen pipes used in entering into the sewers? A. In new sewers iron pipes are used, but nothing is allowed to be used in some cases but terracotta.

Q. Are these pipes trapped? A. Yes.

Q. Outside the house? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any inspectors or other officials who inspect the plumbing of houses? A. No.

Q. Have you any knowledge as to whether the plumbing is properly trapped in the houses? A. From my personal knowledge I could not say whether, in the houses of the laboring classes, they are or not. I know that in these houses they have very little connection with the sewers and that they must have their water-closets or privy outside of the houses altogether.

Q. In the houses to which you are now referring are the water-closets connected with the sewer, or do they have the old-fashioned vault? A. They have the old-fashioned vault or barrel.

Q. Are there any city regulations for the cleaning out of these privies? A. I think there is—twice a year.

Q. Are there any regulations providing the distance from the house at which they should be situated? A. I do not think there are. There is a new board of health coming into power in the Province of New Brunswick, now, and their regulations have just come out, but I have not yet been able to study them.

Q. Do you know whether they require any sewer connection to carry the foul air above the roof? A. I think the new regulations do, but the better class of new houses built since the fire of 1877 have water-closets.

Q. Are you frequently troubled with contagious diseases in St. John? A. I think I can say we are very free from them, except in one or two localities down about Erin or St. Patrick streets, where there was considerable typhoid fever last year.

Q. Are you able to form an opinion as to what was the cause of typhoid fever in those localities? A. I think it was caused there by stagnant water and an improper drainage system.

Q. Would it be improper drainage of rainfall rather than of water used on the premises? A. Improper drainage of surface water. We laid a new sewer there last year and have got all the houses entered into it. (Witness here presented to the Board copies of the report of the water commissioners and secretary for the last year; also a map showing all the water-pipes, sewers and stop-cocks connected with the water and sewerage commission in the cities of St. John and Portland).

WILLIAM LEWIS, Blacksmith, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. What is your business? A. I am a blacksmith.
- Q. Do you employ many hands? A. On an average, about ten.
- Q. How many hours do they do blacksmith's work in St. John? A. Ten hours, excepting Saturday, when they work nine.
- Q. What do you think a fair average journeyman blacksmith can earn each day that he is employed in St. John? A. Do you mean for himself or employer?
- Q. For himself? A. Blacksmiths will average from about \$1 to \$2; I pay \$1 along the line, but \$2 is about the highest I pay.
- Q. Are you able to say what the average pay would be? A. They would average about \$1.50 a day. That is the lowest we pay, or have paid, for an ordinary blacksmith for fifteen or twenty years.
- Q. What class of men do you get for \$1 a day? A. They are of little good; there is nothing in them. Although we employ them we get nothing from them.
- Q. Are they blacksmiths or mere helpers? A. Helpers.
- Q. How constantly can blacksmiths obtain work if they desire to work in St. John? If they desire to work they can find employment every day in the year.
- Q. Is that the case in St. John to-day? A. Yes; and all over this Dominion as well as all over the United States.
- Q. Is there a lack of blacksmiths? A. Of the high tone—the \$2 men; there are not many on that upper shelf.
- Q. When you require men do you have much difficulty in getting them? A. We find a good deal of difficulty in getting the right men; we can get plenty of poor men.
- Q. Do many men of that kind apply for work? A. Yes; they often apply for work, and I tell them to get out.
- Q. If you do not desire to have the services of a poor man why do you employ any of them? A. Because they can strike with a sledge.
- Q. Do you employ your men the year round? A. Yes; we keep them winter and summer, bad weather and good, and we do not reduce their wages.
- Q. Do you know of any of your men who own houses for themselves? A. I do not.
- Q. Do you know any who have invested money? A. The investment of their money is in the savings bank, and that is a perfect secret. I think that some of my men ought to have invested money there, for they are at work all the time. I know if I was at work at \$2 a day steady I would have money; I had it when I was working at \$10 a week, but I do not think a man can save money who works at \$1 a day.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q. How many blacksmiths have you constantly in your employ? A. Generally we have about ten, all told, in the shop. My two sons are working with me; one is a machinist and the other is a blacksmith. We would have four of the best blacksmiths always in the shop.
- Q. Do you take on any apprentices? A. Sometimes we do when we get the right kind; we have not any at present.
- Q. How long does a boy serve before he becomes a good journeyman? A. Four years is the time allowed.
- Q. Do you generally retain your apprentices as journeymen after they serve their time with you? A. I have had some of them stay with me; one was fourteen years with me. He is one of the best workmen in Mr. Marrison's employ at the present time.
- Q. Would it be hard to get first-class men if they were offered \$2 a day? A. I think it would; I do not think there is a first-class man in St. John that is not employed

General D. B. WARNER, Lumber and Lime Manufacturer, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am interested in the manufacture of lumber and lime.

Q. Would you be kind enough to give this Commission some information in reference to the treaty rights and privileges enjoyed by the American people on the river St. John? A. The privileges that the treaty gives the Americans are simply the free right of navigating the river and the free entry to and exit from the port of St. John; that is all the treaty privileges we have.

Q. Does the lumber cut on American soil and floated down the St. John River, under this treaty, enter the United States free of duty? A. The treaty does not enable us to do that.

Q. What does? A. A law of Congress.

Q. How long is it since that law was passed? A. In 1866—in June or July of that year; it may have been March.

Q. Does that cover all kinds of lumber? A. All kinds of lumber that is simply sawed; if it is touched by anything except a saw it becomes dutiable.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you mean, if the lumber is sawed in Canada it does not pay duty? A. The law of Congress says it must be American lumber cut and sawed only; if the lumber is manufactured in whole or part it becomes dutiable.

By Mr. FREED .—

Q. But this lumber must be manufactured from logs imported from the State of Maine? A. Yes.

Q. May any person take those logs from New Brunswick and float them into the United States? A. Any citizen of the United States.

Q. But not a New Brunswick citizen? A. No.

Q. Is this business a large industry in this Province? A. Quite a large one.

Q. Why is it more advantageous to cut the lumber and float it down the river than to manufacture it where it is first obtained? A. The manufacture of lumber on the upper St. John was tried, and proved to be impracticable; because floating it down the river when manufactured deteriorated its value. It was tried in early years, but it was found to be an unprofitable business.

Q. Then, you float the logs down from Maine, as near to the mouth of the river as possible, saw them, and take them into the United States? A. We do.

Q. Do any New Brunswick logs get mixed up with your Maine logs? A. They must get mixed up with them as they come down the river, but they are supposed to be marked so distinctly that when they come into the hands of what is called the Fredericton Boom Company that they are easily separated.

Q. But do not the marks sometimes become obliterated? A. They sell no marked logs at Fredericton. The logs that become obliterated, so that their marks cannot be distinguished, are sold for the benefit of all parties, and those logs become the same as Province logs. Any lumber made from those logs must pay duty if sent into the United States.

Q. Is lumber made from those logs all sent to the United States, or does some of it go to other markets? A. That depends upon the market. If the price of deals in Liverpool or any place abroad will pay better for the cutting and selling in that market, of course the manufacturers of that lumber here have the advantage of these markets.

Q. Are you permitted to sell this lumber in this market in competition with lumber made from logs cut in New Brunswick? A. Yes. That is not a general custom. The fact is, that provincial logs and lumber are bought here from the persons consuming them.

Q. Then you think they do not need any protection from Maine logs? A. I do not.

Q. What do you pay to the raftsmen who bring these logs down the river?
 A. The operation is begun away up in the upper waters of the St. John river, and they pass into the hands of parties driving their logs down. There is a law which provides for the driving of all logs on the river, and the men are paid so much a thousand superficial feet, from the border to the Grand Falls and from there to the Fredericton Boom Company. I do not remember what the terms of the law are, but the privilege of the exclusive driving of all logs coming down the St. John river is sold every spring at Fredericton to responsible parties, who will guarantee to drive them at the lowest price.

Q. Are not the logs rafted at Fredericton? A. They are driven to Fredericton and rafted there.

Q. Do you not employ the raftsmen or drivers directly? A. No; that is done by law.

Q. Are these logs from the State of Maine driven indiscriminately by citizens of Maine and New Brunswick? A. We make no distinction in the people we employ.

Q. And the law of New Brunswick makes no distinction? A. No.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What amount of American lumber is manufactured and shipped from St. John? A. I think that the council reported last year that the shipments amounted to about 130,000,000.

Q. What would that represent in money? A. I think that the invoice value of that number of logs would be about \$9 a thousand.

Q. How much money is expended in the manufacture of this lumber? A. I have not gone into the figures.

Q. Could you not give any idea? A. The value of American logs in this market for the last few years would be about from \$9 to \$10.50 per 1,000 superficial feet. I think that would cover the range of price of American logs in this market.

Q. Are you engaged in the lime industry? A. Yes; I embarked in that venture this spring.

Q. Can you give us any information about that business? A. I can give you very little information about that, for my experience in the lime business extends only a month or six weeks.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Does the law require those parties who cut timber in Maine and float it down the river St. John to be American manufacturers of lumber, or must they become American citizens in order to do so? A. The lumber must not pass out of the ownership of American citizens from the time it is cut in the stump till it goes into the United States market.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. That is, to take advantage of the market? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do those parties who cut the lumber generally live in this Province? A. I think the operators in the woods are principally provincial people, though I cannot say to what extent.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You mean that the workingmen are New Brunswick citizens? A. Yes; the operators in the woods.

Q. But the owners of the limits are American citizens? A. I do not know if any law in the State of Maine or the United States requires that these timber limits should be owned by American citizens.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. But practically they are? A. I think they are, as a rule. I know that at one time Robert Rankin & Co. owned quite a large tract of land where these logs were cut, and my impression is that there is nothing to prevent them from holding these lands.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Outside of the laboring men that cut the timber, do any of the owners of the timber live in the Province? A. They are most all of them American manufacturers of lumber residing in this Province.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. After the timber has been cut can it change ownership? A. Yes; it can change hands between American citizens.

Rev. R. MATHERS, Principal of the Wiggins Orphan Asylum, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What position do you occupy? A. I am Principal of the Wiggins Orphan Asylum.

Q. Is that a provincial or a private asylum? A. Private.

Q. From what classes of children is this asylum supplied? A. The asylum was founded by the late Stephen Wiggins, a resident of St. John, who left a sum of money, principally to endow this institution, which money was principally in bank stock, and it had to remain there till it accumulated to the extent of \$80,000. Then a building was put up, and after it was erected it was completed and opened in July, 1876. The charter under which the institution was formed gave the directors liberty to admit children from the city and county of St. John. The children, in order to enter the institution, must be orphans—fatherless; and if the mother is living she must be destitute; the boys must be between the ages of four and ten, and free from any cutaneous disease. Those are the only conditions which are required to be filled in order to enter the institution.

Q. Is the asylum wholly maintained by the revenue received from the endowment? A. Wholly maintained by the endowment. At the time of the great fire we lost \$20,000 by re-building.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. What do you mean? A. We had to take that out of the building funds.

Q. Did you have no insurance on the building? A. Yes; but not to the full value. We had a fine building, but it had a wooden tower on top, and although the building was of stone the fire caught on the wooden tower and burned down through the building.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Have you had any assistance from any other quarter than the endowment?

A. We had one benefaction from Mr. Charles Merrit of \$7,000. It was nominally \$7,000, but we sold this for \$5,000, as it was mostly some investments in Western stock.

Q. Do you make any charge for taking care of the children in your institution?

A. No.

Q. Are you able to maintain and take in all the children who offer? A. Yes; and more. So far, we are unable to obtain any children but those in our immediate neighborhood, for if they live just outside the county, or are born there, they are not eligible for admission to our institution.

Q. Do you not admit children to your institution unless they are born in the city of St. John? A. The charter says that they must be born in the city and county of St. John.

Q. How many directors are there to your institution? A. There are nine.

Q. How are they appointed? A. The first was Frederick Wiggins, son of the founder, and associated with him was the late Rev. Canon Scovil and Charles Merrit. They were the three original executors and trustees, and they had the liberty conferred upon them of electing six others to co-operate with them. Then, on their

death or resignation, or in a case of one of them leaving the Province, the remaining executors chose one to fill up the number.

Q. Are there any restrictions placed upon the choice of the directors or trustees?
A. None at all.

Q. Can they choose whom they like to fill a vacancy in their number? A. They must be neither Roman Catholic nor Unitarian.

Q. Must they be residents of New Brunswick, or British subjects? A. It does not specify in the charter. As a matter of fact, both Canon Scovil and Mr. Frederick Wiggins lived abroad for several years and still remained executors.

Q. What instruction do you give to the orphans? A. Anything they are capable of taking; with exception of the classics, they are taught most anything. We do not teach the classics, because we generally do not get our boys from that class. A few of them do come from that class.

Q. Do you give them any mechanical instruction? A. To those who have a taste for it we do. We have a telegraphic instrument in the building, and one of the boys is very good at that.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You teach the orphans whatever you think is best for them? A. We teach them anything they have a taste for; you cannot force a boy in this country.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you tools and mechanical appliances to teach? A. We have carpenters' and machinists' tools.

Q. How long do you keep the boys? A. By the original charter we were allowed to keep them on till they are fifteen years of age, but it was found that when a boy would be sent out at that age to work he was not able to earn his own bread; so we applied to the Legislature to extend the time, and they did so. Now we can keep a boy till he is seventeen years old. The object of doing so was that we might send him during those two years as an apprentice to a trade, and while he was learning his trade he could board in the institution, for no boy who is learning a trade gets more than \$1.50 a week. After they have served their full time in the institution a suit of clothing is given them, enclosed in a box, and when they leave the institution, if their behavior has been good, a certain amount of pocket money is given them. The amount of the pocket money varies, and in some cases goes up as high as \$25.

Q. If they go to work to learn a trade and remain in the institution do the boys receive the whole of their wages or does it go to the institution? A. We have never had a case where the boys have received their wages; that is a matter which would depend upon what the directors said. If they felt that the funds of the institution really needed the money they might feel justified in taking it; but, on the other hand if the funds would allow of it being done they would be only too glad to give it to the boy.

Q. Are your boys generally placed where they learn trades? A. As a rule, they are. We have only had two boys who have gone into the country to farm.

Q. As a rule, do the boys prefer to learn trades? A. Their friends do. As a rule, the boys prefer to have a good time and not do anything. We have a great deal of difficulty in placing boys out in suitable places, because their friends are so ambitious for them to become good tradesmen.

Q. Do the boys have any choice in the matter? A. Yes; you cannot do anything unless the boy is willing. There is one question which you asked Mr. Jarvis which I think I could answer, and that was: whether a man could live on $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cent a meal; and I can tell you of a fact where a man lived on less than that and saved money; he lived to be seventy years of age, and was in good health all that time.

Q. How much did his food cost him? A. His food did not cost him hardly anything; every Sunday he made a big pot of pea soup, and he had pea soup twenty-one times a week. In the winter he used to freeze it solid, and he would turn it out

in a lump and melt it in a pot. He lived in this way for several years, but he was an old bachelor. Pea soup is the best food there is to be found, and if there were more of it used by our working classes they would be able to save money where they now lose it; the average cost of this pea soup is very low, and the Quebec French use it very largely. The average standard for flour in a family is a barrel a head—that is, for the ordinary working classes.

Q. Then a barrel a head per year is what you mean? A. Yes; and if that family of six or eight use twenty-two barrels of flour they must have been pretty good eaters. I have kept records of what it cost in our establishment to feed the boys, and I find we can feed them on 70 cents a week. I find that a little depends upon the boy, and upon his physical health and constitution; I find that a boy from twelve to sixteen will use more food than before or after that time.

Q. Do you give the boys full meat rations? A. Yes.

Q. How often do you give them meat? A. Once a day; then we do not use tea, and that is a great advantage. The boys would not be half as fat and well if they used tea, for tea is a very injurious beverage.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What would you substitute for tea? A. Milk and water; I bring my own family up on that.

Q. Do you give the boys butter three times a day? A. We give them butter twice a day; not at dinner. They have plenty of potatoes, sugar and other vegetables; sometimes we give them a pudding.

Q. How often do you have pea soup in your institution? A. Twice a week; sometimes we have rye soup or vegetable soup. We give them plenty of Indian meal with milk, sugar and molasses, alternately. What we want in this country is better inspection laws, so that we may get better stuff in our markets.

Q. In what quantities do you buy the meat? A. That all depends on circumstances. In summer time we usually buy in large quantities, but last summer we were unfortunate with our ice.

Q. Are you able to buy beef by the quarter in summer? A. Not always. We should have done so, but we lost all our ice last summer. We generally go up in the country in summer, which helps the boys to eat and makes our bills larger.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Have you a farm there? A. No; we have only a little island there.

Q. Do you find work for the boys there? A. No; they merely play there—do bathing and lots of boating.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. From your experience, do you think that an average family can be maintained in health and strength, and do ordinary manual work, at 10 cents per head a day? A. That depends upon the number of the family and also upon the habits of the people. You take old country people, and let them come out here, retaining their old country habits, and you will find that they will save money; but they generally fall into the habits of the people of this country.

Q. With meat once a day, would you give them wheat bread? A. They could not buy bread but they would have to make bread. There is a great deal of difference in the bread we buy, and there is very little substance in it. In our institution we do not buy over 100 loaves of bread in the course of a year.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is not bean soup as nutritious as pea soup? A. Quite so; but it is not so palatable to a good many. Pork and beans are about the best food a person can use. It is as easy to feed ten persons for \$1 as three for 30 cents and, in fact, easier; the same fire will cook for fifty that will cook for ten. Fuel is a very important item in the dwelling houses of the poor, and it is one of the things which goes very much against them. Rent is also very high here, so that I do not think that on less than \$1 a day a man can live respectably, and even then, it would be hard scratching.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. Do you teach cooking in your institution? A. When we go into the country in summer we do a good deal of cooking, and some of them have got to be real good cooks.

Q. Do you know where the reputation comes from of the French ladies making better cooking with less money than any other ladies? A. It comes from the abstemious habits of the people.

Q. Do you think it is a true reputation? A. I am perfectly satisfied that it is true; I have lived among them for several years and studied their habits.

Q. Do you know that they are accused of living too well and of doing too much eating? A. You will find that every where in the small holdings of France that the French live upon much less than we do.

Q. If that matter of teaching could be righted, and if you were to teach cooking in your establishment, would you recommend the English, French, Irish or Canadian system of cooking? A. I would pick out the best.

Q. Which would you think was the best? A. I think the French cookery is the most economical, except you take the Irish, where they live on corn-beef and potatoes; that is a very good and wholesome diet; I have had a taste of that. At the same time, the French, with their pea soup, make things very palatable and good. After all, the most important thing is not the quantity of food you use but the use you make of it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Did you ever know of a man living on a cheaper diet than pea soup? A. I believe that is about the cheapest diet I know of. I know that in London charity schools they feed pea soup, and that the poor people go out in that city, and in the cook-shops they buy a penny's worth of soup, for which they get a pretty large bowl. There is 68 per cent. of nutriment in pea soup, and it is better than some of the roast beef.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you know anything about the diet of vegetarians? A. A great deal depends upon the vegetables in that case.

Q. Do they not live very cheap? A. Yes; they live very cheap, much cheaper than other people, but in this country people will have meat. I have often been surprised to see the joints of roast meat that the workingmen will carry home out of the market on Saturday night, and other days. When I have seen them taking that meat home I have heard them say that they could not live on \$1 a day, and I do not wonder at it. After all, the cost of a man's living depends upon the woman of the house; unless she knows how to prepare food in a palatable as well as an economical manner it is useless to talk of living on any small sum. You will find two women who will prepare food from the same material in an altogether different manner; one will make it palatable by the way she dishes it up, while the food prepared by the other cannot even be partaken of. If a man's wife is economical, he can save money; if not, he is not making money, but spending it. There is where the trouble lies. With regard to the boys in the asylum, I would say that of nineteen who have left us twelve of them are learning or have learned trades, one is an insurance agent, one is a telegraph operator and two of them are on farms.

LEVY H. YOUNG, Manager Nut and Bolt Works, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a bolt manufacturer.

Q. Do you do business in St. John? A. Yes.

Q. What classes of bolts do you make? A. We make all classes of mechanical bolts, and railway bolts of every description.

Q. What iron do you use for these bolts? A. We use a large quantity from three places: Mr. Harris', Mr. Burpee's, and from Londonderry, N.S.

Q. Do you use Canadian iron wholly? A. Yes; we use some rivet steel, which comes from New Glasgow, N.S.

Q. Do you buy the rods altogether? A. Yes.

Q. You do not roll them for yourselves? A. No.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. As a rule, we have from thirty to forty. We have not quite so many just now, on account of a little change we are making in the business.

Q. When you have your full force on how many of them are skilled hands? A. There are about twelve skilled mechanics, I think.

Q. What wages do they receive? A. Ten dollars to twelve dollars a week.

Q. What pay do unskilled hands receive? A. There are skilled workmen among those who work piece-work.

Q. What do those piece-hands earn? A. Some of them earn \$3 a day.

Q. Would \$3 a day be the average pay of piece-hands? A. No; some of them would earn that.

Q. And some would earn less? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the lowest wages earned by piece-hands? A. Some of the boys earn about \$1 a day.

Q. How old are those boys? A. Fifteen to seventeen years old.

Q. Have you any limit as to the age at which you will admit boys into your factory? A. We have no particular limit.

Q. Will you take very small boys? A. We generally take boys about fourteen years old, I think, and they bring a recommendation with them when they come.

Q. When the boys do not work by the piece, what do you give them when they first begin work? A. One dollar and fifty cents a week.

Q. How long will they work before they get an increase of pay? A. That all depends upon the boy and how he does his work.

Q. Is it usual to give them an increase before the end of the first year? A. Yes; in our business it is different from any thing else.

Q. Do you ever fine the boys? A. We hardly ever do so; I have fines mentioned in my rules, but it is very seldom that I ever enforce them. The boys sometimes throw bolts around at the men, and sometimes they are careless, and then we have to impose fines upon them; but it is very rarely we do so.

Q. How many boys have you employed? A. We have about nine.

Q. Will all those boys become skilled workmen? A. They will, no doubt, in time. I might say that all the men in my employ have served their time with me. I have some men that have been with me seventeen years; then I have had boys that have grown up and learned their trade with me to stay ten or twelve years.

Q. As a rule, when a boy finishes his trade does he remain with you? A. He does.

Q. How many years will a boy work before you consider him to be a skilled workman? A. He should work five years.

Q. Do many of the boys leave you before the expiration of that time? A. Not those who come to learn the trade. Of course, we take boys on trial sometimes, and they stay two or three months, and at the end of that time we can tell what they will be worth.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Our regulation hours are ten, but this year we have averaged about twelve.

Q. When you work over time, how late at night do you work? A. That is all at the option of the men; sometimes—like to-night—we work till eleven o'clock.

Q. Can these men who work till eleven o'clock at night be fresh and ready for their work to-morrow? A. They will not be so fresh to-morrow as to-day, but whenever we get through our rush we give them days off.

Q. When you work your men at night do you give them any extra or increased rate of pay? A. The same rate of pay as in the day time.

Q. Is it always optional with the men whether they shall work at night? A. It is.

Q. If they do not feel like working is there any evil consequences falling to the men? A. No; when I am going to work at night I go around and ask them if they will come back to work, but there is no force used. The only evil consequence is, that if a man does not come back to work it prevents you from getting any body else.

Q. Is your work all done by machinery? A. Yes.

Q. How many of those machines will a boy learn the use of if he stays with you five years? A. He can learn the use of probably half the machines.

Q. Then he would not be able to do everything that is done in the factory? A. He can change from one to the other if he likes, and so gain a general knowledge of the business.

Q. Where do you sell your goods mostly? A. The rivets that we make are mostly sold in Montreal.

Q. Are they steel or iron? A. Both.

Q. Where do you sell your bolts? A. We have sold a great many bolts there but the bolts are sold mostly in the Maritime Provinces.

Q. Can you manufacture these goods for export to foreign countries? A. Yes; we can do that if we had the required capital.

Q. Could you compete with the English, German or French goods? A. That would be pretty hard, but there are places that we could export our goods to. We might send them to South America.

Q. Do you know what your rods cost you, in comparison with rods of equal quality in England? A. Before the last increase of duty on iron we used to import a great deal of iron, because it was not made in sufficient quantities here, but now we use iron made here, and I think probably there would be a difference of \$2 a ton.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you think that it would be possible to do away with night work in your business and to employ the men during the day time only? A. It would be possible to do away with night-work, provided all the men came regularly to work in the day time. We have had a great deal of difficulty with our men in that way.

Q. Is it on account of their own unsteady habits that you have to do night work? A. It is not so much that they are unsteady, but that those who make good wages want to stay away at times.

Q. What wages do those who stay away earn per week? A. Some of the machinists who do so make \$10 or \$12 a week by piece-work.

Q. All the year round? A. Not all the year round; probably they would go \$10 a week all the year round.

Q. Is the absence of the men from day work the only cause for night work? A. Sometimes it is the cause, and sometimes we have large quantities of orders on hand, which have to be filled as quick as possible.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Do you meet with any competition in the Dominion? A. We do.

Q. Where from? A. Toronto and Montreal.

Q. Are you able to compete with them? A. Yes.

Q. Is your work increasing? A. Yes.

Q. And has it been steadily increasing? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you meet with any competition from prison-made goods? A. We never have in our business; I do not think there is any of our goods made in prison; I never heard of them being made.

SAMUEL SCOFIELD, Ship-broker, re-called and sworn.

When giving my testimony the day before yesterday I was asked about the cost of loading deals in St. John and the charges made by our stevedores, when I stated that the laborers' wages here were \$2 in winter and \$3 in summer. I also stated that the charges made by our stevedores were about 80 cents a standard and \$1.20 in summer, which I thought was a right enough price, and one out of which the stevedores would not make any very large amount of profit for themselves. I remember that one of the gentlemen that day asked me what were the stevedores' charges in Quebec, and I said I did not know, when, I think, he stated that the charge was \$1, and so he asked me to explain how it was that that kind of work was done for that price in Quebec and so much higher in St. John. I could not answer him, and as it places the stevedores of St. John in an unfavorable light I thought I would look over the matter. Since then, in looking over my correspondence, I found a letter which I had received from C.—Ruth & Co., Quebec, in which they say: "Labor is \$3 a day, and stowage of deals costs \$1.25 per St. Petersburg standard." That is exactly the price that I stated our stevedores are working for, and that is the best evidence I can give you of the charges in Quebec.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. That is simply a letter you received from this Quebec firm? A. Yes.

Q. When did you receive that letter? A. August 16, 1886.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Are those charges quoted for steam or sailing vessels? A. Steam.

Q. Do they use steam in loading in Quebec, the same as they do here? A. There is some trouble with the laborers' society in Quebec, and I do not know whether they are using it or not.

Q. Would it make any difference whether they were put in by steam or hand? A. Some of our labor society people say that they can put them aboard as cheaply without steam as with. I have never tested the matter, and do not know whether that statement is correct or not.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Is the employment of stevedores absolutely necessary in the loading of vessels with deals? A. You can load with a foreman; but as a ship-owner I would employ a stevedore, because when men know they are working by the day they are very apt to work in a more easy way than they would under a stevedore.

Q. Then, the great benefit of getting a stevedore to load is that he gets the work done at the lowest rate? A. Yes; but that is not the only question. The deals have got to be put into the hold of a vessel so as to get the largest quantity in. We all want to have a man loading whom we can rely upon, and in the case of a stevedore we know he has his reputation at stake and that if the cargo is not rightly stowed the blame will fall upon him.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Your experience is that you would not do without stevedores? A. Yes; I feel that I would rather pay something more than do without one.

Q. If you pay a stevedore to load, you do it by contract? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you think that a stevedore would not work as hard by the day as by the job? A. He will work harder if he works by the job, and will see that the men will attend to their work better.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. Is it not the rule that a stevedore has a dozen ships on hand at a time? A. It is not the case in our port.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. If he had a number of ships on hand the stevedore would have a representative at each vessel? A. He would have a foreman. There was also another question

I was asked—whether the stevedores of St. John owned their own houses; and in that connection it was stated that none of the laboring men owned their. At that time I did not have any information about the stevedores' property, but since then I have inquired, and found out that out of nine of the leading stevedores in this port six do not own their own houses and three do. I did not go into the question of incumbrances on these houses, but simply give you the facts that I have stated.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. From your experience of the ship-laborers in this port, do you think that a foreman, when employed by a merchant to load a ship, will not put in an honest day's work? A. I would not like to say that, but there are great difficulties with regard to our system of labor, for all the men are paid alike, no matter whether they are capable men or not.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. But there is nothing hindering the stevedore from getting the best men? A. No. I was also asked if I thought that \$300 a year would be a fair or proper remuneration for a man to earn during the year. I would like to say here that ship laborers are not paid according to their merit, the poor men, under the present system receiving as much as the good and able bodied. I do know that men do now live respectably on \$250 to \$300 a year. In fact, no later than to-day one of the leading members of the union told me that he would be glad to accept \$300 a year; so that when I say that \$300 is a fair price for a laboring man to earn I am, but re-echoing his statements.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you not consider that \$300 is a low average for a ship laborer to earn? A. I have nothing to base my statements on except what they themselves have told me, and from them I should think that they did not average over \$300 a year. Of course, at \$5 they would only have to work sixty days to earn that sum, but our summer season here lasts six or seven months.

Q. Are the men employed steady all that time, or do they make broken time? A. There is a great deal of broken time.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. How many men do your stevedores employ in loading steamers? A. I have known as many as forty or fifty to be employed on one steamer.

Q. Would you be willing to take these fifty men and give them \$300 a year each? A. I am inclined to think that I would be inclined to take them on at \$300 and work them all the year round, and I am seriously considering the question now.

Q. Do you know what are the average yearly wages of a laboring man in Portland, Maine? A. I do not.

Q. Nor in the State of Massachusetts? A. I could not say. The only information I have about the matter is that it costs 35 cents an hour on steamers in Portland, Maine, at the same time that it costs \$5 a day here.

Q. Have you the figures to show what the laborers of Portland, Maine, charge for loading lumber on steamers? A. I have had a vessel loaded there and I think the whole cost was 55 or 60 cents a thousand.

Q. Do you know what wages the men got per day? A. I do not; that was a sailing vessel.

DONALD McLEAN, Printer, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are you a practical printer? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever work in the United States? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever work in Boston? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever work at type-setting in Boston on a school book intended for this Province? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know the name of the book? A. It was a history of the Dominion of Canada.

Q. Was it Archer's History? A. I do not know the title of the book; all I know about it is that it was a history of Canada.

Q. Would you know the book if you saw it? A. I would know it by the style of print.

Q. Would that be the book (producing book)? A. (Looking at book) That is the book.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Please read the title? A. (Witness, reading title page): "Short History of the Dominion of Canada, by Andrew Archer."

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Was the type for that book set in Boston? A. Yes; and also electroplated there. These books were published in Boston.

Q. Was the binding done there? A. I do not know; all I know is that I set some of the type on it, and that the electroplating work was done in the same establishment.

RUPERT J. HALEY (Haley Bros. & Co., Sash and Door Makers), called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What is your business? A. Door and sash factory.

Q. Do you employ many men? A. We employ from twenty-five to thirty men, according to the season.

Q. Are these men skilled, or partially unskilled men? A. The large majority of our workmen are skilled hands.

Q. What does a skilled workman receive? A. Our machine men get from \$10 to \$12 a week and our bench carpenters from \$9 to \$10.

Q. Do you employ any unskilled men? A. We have ordinarily employed from three to five boys and unskilled workmen.

Q. What do you pay to an adult unskilled workman? A. One dollar a day—that is, for the men who do the general carrying for us. We have now in our mill three boys who are learning the business.

Q. How many years will they serve? A. They do not serve at all; they simply stay with us, and we pay them in accordance with the amount of skilled labor they are able to do, and we advance their pay as rapidly as they learn the business. We make no arrangement whatever with them, neither as regards the limitation of time nor the rate of wages. Their wages are altogether governed by the rapidity with which they do their work.

Q. How many hours a day do you work in your mill? A. Ten hours a day and nine on Saturday—fifty-nine hours a week.

Q. Do you give your men pretty constant employment all the year round? A. Pretty constant employment.

Q. Do you know if any of your men own the houses in which they live? A. I only know one man who owns the house in which he lives.

Q. Do you know if any of your men have money invested? A. I could not say as to that; I know our men are generally in comfortable circumstances.

Q. Are your machines as well protected as it is possible to have them? A. I think so; it is impossible to protect the machines to any great extent in our business.

Q. Does the shafting come from above or below the belt? A. The shafting is above.

Q. Are the beams protected where they come through the floor? A. Yes; wherever it is possible to do so.

Q. Have you any sand-papering machine? A. We have.

Q. What disposition is made of the dust coming from it? A. Our sand-papering machine is in the third story, and although we have no fan connected with it there is a door adjoining it, and usually when the machine is in use we have this door opened.

Q. Have you had any accident of late years in your factory? A. We have never had any serious accident in our factory that I can remember of. In one or two cases we have had a man lose his finger or the joints, but nothing more serious than that.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. We pay them every Saturday.

Q. In full? A. Yes.

Q. For the week then ending? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay them in cash? A. In cash entirely.

THOMAS BRUNDAGE, Sail-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. There is my card.

Q. What is the name of your firm? A. Brundage & Jackson, sail-makers.

Q. Do you employ many hands? A. We employ four or five people.

Q. What would a good sail-maker earn? A. He would get \$2 a day—that is, a good journeyman.

Q. Can they earn that the year round? A. They do not work the year round; whenever they work they get \$2 a day.

Q. About how many days in the year do they get employment? A. At the present time, when ship-building is at a standstill, we do not give men over half a year's work.

Q. Do any men get employment at any other business when sail-making is dull? A. Some do and some do not.

Q. Have you any boys learning this business? A. We have one with us learning the business at the present time. Sail-making is not very brisk in St. John just now.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten hours, except Saturday, when we work nine.

Q. How often do you pay your hands? A. Every Saturday.

Q. In full? A. Yes.

Q. In cash? A. Certainly.

Q. Where do you get your sail cloths from? A. From Nova Scotia, mostly. It used to come from the United States, but since the tariff has been altered on it we get it from Yarmouth, where it is 3 cents a yard cheaper.

Q. Is it as good? A. It is as good as some of the American. We have made three or four ships' suits out of Canadian cotton and we have heard no complaint.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is all the rope you use Canadian make? A. Some of it is made in Halifax and some of it we get from the United States.

Q. Do you think that the United States article is as good as the rope made here? A. Some of the United States rope, is as good as that made here, but some of our people prefer United States rope because they have been in the habit of using it for a long time. Then, another reason for using it is, there is no depot for the Halifax rope in St. John; if there was a depot here it would be sold more than it is. We can make sails in St. John a little cheaper than they can in the United States.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What class of vessels do you make sails for? A. Ships, schooners, and all kinds of vessels.

Q. Do you do as much business as you did some years ago? A. We do not do as much business as we did five or six years ago.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. I suppose steamers come here mostly now? A. Yes; all steamers. The last ship's suit we made was about a year ago, and it was made for Taylor Bros. There are no ships on the stocks here now, and I do not think there will be many more built here.

JOHN BROPHY, Foreman Harris & Co's. Machine Shop, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. In whose employ are you? A. James Harris & Co.

Q. How many men and boys are employed there altogether? A. I could not answer that, outside of my own department.

Q. What department are you in? A. I am foreman of the machine shop.

Q. How many hands are employed in the machine shop? A. Seventeen.

Q. How many of these are men? A. They are all men; there are no boys.

Q. How many of them are skilled mechanics? A. Twelve.

Q. Are the others unskilled laborers? A. Yes.

Q. What are the highest wages paid to mechanics in your department? A. About \$11, and the lowest gets \$7.

Q. What do unskilled men receive? A. One dollar to one dollar and twenty-five cents a day.

Q. How many hours do you work? A. Ten hours.

Q. Do you work sixty hours a week? A. Yes.

Q. How often are you paid? A. Every fortnight.

Q. Are you paid in full up to pay-day? A. Always in full.

Q. And in cash? A. Yes.

Q. Do the most of the hands in your department get constant employment the year round? A. They generally do.

Q. Do you know if any of the men working in your department own the houses in which they live? A. There is one man that does, but I may say that the money was not made by his wages, for it was made by his wife, who kept a little shop.

Q. Do you know of any of the men who have invested money in the savings bank, or in any other way? A. No; I do not.

Q. Do you think that, as a rule, they spend all the money they earn? A. I cannot exactly say that, but they get rid of it in some way or other.

Q. Do you think that they do not save it? A. I do not think they save much.

Q. Is the shop in which you work kept comfortably warm in the winter? A. Very comfortable; we have steam pipes all through it.

Q. Is it cool in summer? A. It is.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. How long have you been working in Mr. Harris'? A. Eight years.

Q. And have you had always the same salary? A. I have.

Q. And your salary is \$11? A. My salary is more than that; it is \$16; I am foreman of the machine shop.

Q. Have you got an idea of how much money is needed to support a family of about five in St. John? A. I should think that to live comfortably, pay house rent, coal, clothing, and all the other necessaries, it would take from \$500 to \$600 a year. They could not do on less than that.

Q. Have you got an idea of how those who only receive \$7 a week can manage to live and support their families? A. I do not; I do not know how one-half of them can live; it is not living that one-half of them do; it is only staying.

HOLLEY CHISHOLM, Ostler, City Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. You heard the testimony of two witnesses connected with the City Railway ?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it correct, from your point of view ? A. I am only an ostler inside.

Q. How many days do the stable-men work ? A. Seven a week.

Q. How many hours a day ? A. From twelve to fourteen.

Q. How much do you earn per week ? A. From \$6 to \$8.

Q. Is the work the same on all days ? A. Yes.

Q. Are you busy all those hours ? A. Yes ; pretty busy.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do any occasions arise when it is necessary to stay in the stable all night ?

A. No ; there are night-watchmen.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Are the cars owned by a company or by individuals ? A. By a company.

JAMES SMITH, Pattern-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are there many pattern-makers employed in your establishment ? A. No ; only one besides myself.

Q. Are there many employed in St. John ? A. Not a great many.

Q. What are fair wages for a good pattern-maker—what do you receive ?
A. Thirteen dollars.

Q. Do you think that would be a fair average ? A. I think it would.

Q. Are many boys taken to learn the trade ? A. No ; none at all in our part.

Q. One requires to be a skilled workman to be a good pattern-maker ? A. I think he should be.

Q. It requires excellence of work to have your pattern perfect ? A. Yes ; it takes a long while to be perfect at it ; I have been thirty years in the one employ.

Q. How long have you held your present position ? A. About twelve years, I think.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. Did you learn drawing before you began to make patterns ? A. Yes.

Q. You can make your own designs ? A. Yes.

Q. You just do that by practice ? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Only mechanical drawing is necessary for that ? A. Yes ; that would be necessary.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. Did you ever learn geometry, or do you go by your own taste ? A. Yes ; and practice.

JOHN H. POOL, Roll-turner in Rolling Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are many hands employed at your business here ? A. I am the only one in James Harris & Co.'s ; I have charge of the rolling mill besides.

Q. Are all the rolls used by the company made here ? A. No ; the chilled comes either from the States or England ; the grain rolls are cast by themselves.

Q. Is there a difficulty in casting or cutting chilled rolls here ? A. The difficulty is in the casting ; there is great skill required and large plant, and it would not pay to put it up for all the business done.

Q. They are chilled by driving a stream of water around the casting, or something like that? A. There is no sand connected with the casting; they are all done in the chill.

Q. What can real good turners earn in Canada? A. I know one young man in Nova Scotia getting \$4 a day now; he formerly got \$5; when I came here I received \$6, but now only \$5.

Q. It requires a very high order of mechanical ability? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know what such men are paid in the United States—say in Pennsylvania? A. I was with a firm in Nova Scotia who advertised for one, and they could get none under \$8 a day, while some asked \$10.

CHARLES DOHERTY, Blacksmith, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What do you consider good wages for a blacksmith in St. John? A. For men in steady employment, which can be had all the year round, \$1.10, and some times more—that is, laborers.

Q. How many men do you employ? A. At the present time about twenty-six or twenty-eight; that is the largest gang there at a time.

Q. What are about the highest wages paid? A. I think the highest is about \$10 or \$11.

Q. What would be the lowest? A. Some \$7 and others \$8, and in the winter time you can hire them for less; sometimes you can get one for \$5 a week.

Q. Those men who earn \$5 to \$7 a week, are they skilled men? A. No; laborers.

Q. What would be the lowest paid a skilled blacksmith? A. The lowest is \$7.

Q. Do you keep the majority all the year round? A. All who wish to stop and work the ten hours a day, and they are kept going all the time.

Q. Do you take apprentices? A. None at all.

Q. When you took them, how long had they to serve? A. I served five years, but I could not say at what Harris' would take them.

Q. You are paid just as frequently as other employés in the establishment? A. Yes; just the same.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Can a blacksmith live comfortably on the wages he receives here—that is, an average man? A. Yes; they can; of course, some can spend more than they can earn; others manage to live comfortably and economically, and save.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Do many blacksmiths own their own houses? A. I do not know any outside myself—can't say for certain.

Q. Did you save it from your wages? A. I did, and more besides—the price of two good houses like it.

Q. About what wages were you receiving when you saved the money to buy this house? A. I was not in Mr. Harris' employ. I worked twenty-two years as foreman in a ship-yard, when pay was \$9 and \$12 a week; I do fully as well now as then, but living was then cheaper. I have been working since I was ten years old, but at the same time I never spent my money unwisely.

Q. Would you pardon me for suggesting that you are a temperance man? A. No; never was, and never was a drunkard either; I never wasted my money on liquor; I wanted it for other and better purposes.

Q. How long would it take to save enough money out of your earnings to buy a house? A. I am now forty-eight years at the business, and thirty-five years possessor of the house and estate I live on, and the house cost me \$1,600, the ground \$400. I have also saved plenty besides that, and if all the old blacksmiths took as much care of their money as I did of mine they would all be as rich or richer than I am.

Q. Did you save your money before you were married? A. Since; I have had two good wives.

ENOCH B. COLWELL, Fish Dealer, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Can you give us any idea of the catch of fish here? A. Ten thousand barrels alewives; shad I cannot give an estimate of, some being shipped and others used locally; I can give an idea of the number of boats used in the fishery.

Q. What number of boats are employed? A. One hundred and twenty-five boats are engaged in the alewife fishery and between 200 and 250 men and boys, and the earnings for three months for that number of boats would be from \$250 to \$350 each boat. There are about fifty boats engaged in the shad fishery, which covers about three or four weeks; they would earn about \$250, or an average of \$200, say for that time. There are two men in each boat. In the salmon fishery, just outside the harbor, as also down the bay, there would be 125 boats engaged, with double that number of men, and they would earn from \$300 to \$400 in some seven or eight weeks.

Q. About what money interest is there in the alewife fishery? A. How do you mean that?

Q. What would be the amount of the fishery for the season—what would the fishery average in amount? You said there were 10,000 barrels. What would be the price per barrel? A. Some years \$3; some years \$4; and then again some years \$4.50—but perhaps a fair average would be \$4, and that would mean that they make \$45,000.

Q. What would the salmon amount to? A. Say 10,000 barrels, at \$15.50—that would be \$155,000.

Q. And the shad? A. Fifty boats, at \$200 each, would be \$10,000.

Q. How many does this give employment to? A. Well, each boat represents two men or boys; some boats have a boy and two men; it would be hard to say, that is, to give precisely, the large number employed; the average boat has two men, or a man and a boy.

Q. Then, are there other persons employed in the business outside of those in the boats? A. A large number—those who cure the fish, as in my establishment. We run six men fully for six months in the year, and for the whole year we have ten to twelve men.

Q. The people not engaged in the fisheries all the year through, how are they employed in the idle season? A. Some work in the mills. While the shipyards were going some found employment there, as they do now, sometimes, along the shore, and some repair ships, and such things, along the shore.

Q. Where are the fish exported to? A. Chiefly to the United States.

Q. Are any shipped to the West Indies? A. Some are—not any great quantity. Alewives go to the West Indies.

Q. Are you engaged in any winter fishery? A. Not to any great extent.

Q. Do you find any market in the upper provinces? A. I have not been able to get any satisfactory connections up there yet.

Q. What is the difficulty? A. It takes too long in transit, and Halifax has advantages over us in the matter of freights; here we have to pre-pay them—there they have not, and that is a decided disadvantage to St. John merchants.

Q. If the fish had good dispatch would they perish on the road? A. No; in summer, at times, we have refrigerator cars, but no considerable quantity is shipped in summer.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What is the fishing season here? A. It begins about the 20th March and ends 15th August, and the winter season at the 1st of March; it ceases then, the weather beginning to get broken. The winter time begins about the holiday season.

Q. Are the people engaged in the fishing business fairly comfortable? A. Most of them are.

Q. Do you know any of them who have accumulated money enough to buy their own houses? A. Yes; a good many do that.

Q. Do many get far enough along to get interested in fishing themselves? A. Yes; a great number are interested in what is called "weir fishing."

Q. How are those weirs purchased? A. From the city corporation.

Q. For how long a time? A. For one year.

Q. Is there any Sunday labor? A. There is not supposed to be, but sometimes it is necessary to do it to save fish.

Q. Are you allowed to catch on Sunday? A. No; there is a close season from Saturday night till Monday.

Q. Do the fishermen, as a rule, all use their own boats? A. As a rule, yes.

Q. And they catch fish and sell them on their own account to the dealers? A. Yes.

Q. What market regulates the price you pay for the fish? A. The markets we sell in in the United States.

Q. Are any St. John men interested in the deep water fisheries? A. No; not to any great extent.

Q. Where are herring mostly caught? A. About Grand Manan.

Q. Do many of them come here? A. In the fall of the year the major portion of them come here.

Q. Where do you ship the herring to? A. The herring is a thing I don't tamper very much with; it is consumed chiefly locally, but some find their way to the upper provinces.

Q. Do you send many to the United States for immediate consumption? A. Yes.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in having them entered—I mean, without making payment of duty? A. Not any; there is no duty on fresh fish.

Q. If you send fresh fish frozen do they take objection that they are frozen artificially? A. No; a year ago there was a little difficulty, but the department at Washington straightened it out.

Q. So that now there is no difficulty to complain of? A. None at all.

Q. Are many of the fishermen belonging to the St. John fisheries lost? A. No.

Q. If a storm arises can they easily find shelter? A. Yes; they can generally find shelter.

Q. I suppose it is pretty severe work in winter time? A. I should say that there was a great deal of exposure about it.

Q. Have you heard of men being frozen? A. It may occur.

Q. But you do not hear of lives being so lost? A. No; rarely.

Q. What would be the ages of the youngest boys who go out fishing? A. I suppose about fifteen or sixteen.

Q. Do they generally go with their fathers? A. Yes; as a rule.

Q. Do they develop into hardy, bold, daring seamen? A. Yes.

Q. Then the fishing industry forms a good school for the merchant marine? A. I should think it would.

Q. Do the boys, as a rule, prefer sticking to fishing or to go to sea? A. As a rule, they stick to fishing.

Q. They think that better than going to sea? A. I think so—yes.

By Mr. BORVIN:—

Q. What are the nationalities of the men you have to deal with? A. What we call Blue Noses—our own people, New Brunswickers, as a rule; some are Irish.

Q. And you think they are all saving people? A. As a rule, all economical people.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you know if many of them own their own houses? A. Quite a number.

Q. Do any of them own plots of land, and do agricultural work when not employed fishing? A. No; not around the city, but along the shore they do that.

Q. Do many of them live in the city? A. Yes; those in the harbor fishery do, but along the shore in Pisarinco, and so on, many of the people fish and farm together.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. About how much would their houses be worth? A. About \$300 or \$400.

Q. Are they comfortable? A. They are.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are there a great number of men employed, or is the number decreasing?
A. That depends upon circumstances; if there is not much work being done, why they will engage in the fisheries; there is no art about fishing, and most any body can do it.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. What is about the cost of their boats? A. The ordinary boat costs about \$20, \$25 or \$30, and the outfit—that is, nets, &c.,—would be in the vicinity of \$40.

Q. All that belongs to themselves? A. Yes.

FREDERICK BUCHANAN, Fisherman, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How long have you followed that calling? A. Since I was a boy fourteen year old.

Q. How many months can you work at fishing, taking one year with another?
A. I can fish the whole year round, and I do so.

Q. Do you own more than one boat? A. Yes; three or four.

Q. Do you employ hands to work for you? A. I own a vessel, and when I fish here I employ men.

Q. How far do you go with your vessel? A. As far as Grand Manan, Briar Island, but not outside the bay.

Q. What fishery do you engage in? A. Herring.

Q. Mostly altogether? A. Yes.

Q. Can you catch herring nearly the whole year round? A. Yes.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. Sometimes we go with three, others with four, and at times five; in summer three; in winter time we take five.

Q. How do you take the men you employ? A. On shares.

Q. Their pay depends wholly on the catch? A. Yes; that is the general way it is done; some work on other principles, but I own and find everything, and the vessel takes half—the crew the other.

Q. What would a vessel such as yours cost? A. About \$150.

Q. Yours is a small vessel? A. Yes.

Q. Are there many who fish in that manner? A. Yes; in the bay a great many.

Q. To make it profitable, what would have to be your yearly take? A. It would take \$1,000 to make it profitable.

Q. And half of that would be yours? A. Yes.

Q. Would that represent your total earnings? A. Yes; sometimes; of course it is more at times. Then we go out at others and do nothing, and at times only two or three weeks gone and get a good catch, and bring in \$200 or \$300 worth of fish. The earnings depend entirely upon the catch, and in winter time they may average about \$100 a man, and perhaps not over \$50.

Q. How do you pay your boys? A. We don't have boys when we go outside; they are generally all able fishermen.

Q. Is there any danger in the herring fishery? A. Yes; a good deal of danger.

Q. Have you known men to be lost? A. Yes.

Q. Frequently? A. No; not very frequently.

Q. What is the principal danger—going on shore or out in deep water? A. Out in the bay; with careful fishing there would be no danger.

Q. If a man gets into the water he soon chills and sinks? A. Yes; he soon chills in the winter time.

ROBERT BUTLER, Ornamental Stone-cutter, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What do men in your business earn per week? A. From \$10 to \$12.

Q. Do they get pretty constant employment the year round? A. Yes; for about eight months.

Q. Are they idle the other four? A. I am not, as I am foreman.

Q. Those who are employed for the eight months, are they idle the remaining four months? A. Yes.

Q. Are many boys taken to learn that branch of the business? A. There is only one in the shop I am in.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. Do you work at marble as well? A. Yes.

Q. Do you find American marble stand well in the cemetery? A. Italian is the best.

Q. Are they about the same price? A. American No. 1 is the dearest, but Italian marble you can do the best work on.

Q. What is the average age at which tomb-stones will break—say, from cold weather and such causes? A. American marble will generally break first.

Q. What is the thickness of the stones in the cemetery? A. We have 2 inch, 2 feet and 6 feet—all different thicknesses.

Q. Anything lighter than 2 inches? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you get it sawed outside? A. Yes.

Q. Where? A. Mostly all sawed in Boston or New York, and some is sawed in Italy.

Q. Could not the marble be imported here and the manufacturers saw it themselves with a profit? A. They could if they had capital enough.

Q. Is the machinery required to perform the sawing expensive? A. Yes; it is.

Q. What do you pay polishers? A. One dollar a day.

Q. Any under \$1 a day? A. No.

Q. Are any young women employed at that branch of the business? A. No.

Q. What is the average wages of a good marble cutter in St. John? A. Two dollars a day.

Q. Are there many marble-cutters in St. John? A. About seven.

Q. Do they all get \$2 a day? A. No; I do not think all do.

Q. Are they organized in a labor organization? A. No.

Q. Are any of the stone-cutters organized? A. Free-stone cutters are.

Q. There are distinct branches in stone-cutting? A. Yes.

Q. When is the busy season for marble-cutters? A. From the 1st of April till the last of November.

Q. Do you find business increasing in St. John during the past few years? A. No; I do not.

Q. Have you always worked in this city? A. Yes.

Q. You cannot speak of the business of any other place? A. No.

Q. Is it a healthy business? A. All stone-cutting is unhealthy.

Q. Is there not one stone in marble more severe than the other? A. I guess they are all alike.

Q. Is the freestone used generally imported, or is it Canadian? A. All Canadian stone.

Q. Is the demand for Canadian stone becoming greater than formerly? A. Yes; I think it is.

Q. Is it as easy to cut and handle as foreign stone? A. Yes.

Q. And as useful? A. Yes.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. Have you any machine to do the polishing and bevelling? A. No; we have not any machinery for that.

ALFRED HAINES, Carpenter and Car-builder, Harris & Co., called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What do carpenters receive in the car-works? A. From \$7 to \$9.

Q. Those who work for \$7, are they skilled journeymen carpenters? A. It would be beyond my power to say, as they must be there some time before they are known.

Q. If they are worth it, is their pay increased? A. It is according to how they are liked.

Q. Do any get over \$9 a week? A. The foremen.

Q. But the ordinary hands—none of them receive more than \$9? A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Do you get constant employment? A. I have only been there six months.

Q. Are there many skilled hands employed in your department? A. Not where I am.

Q. Any boys employed? A. Not in the portion of the car-works I am.

Q. You work the same hours as the other hands? A. Yes.

Q. And you are paid as frequently? A. Yes.

(Volunteers)—There is one grievance the men complain of, namely that of having to work ten hours on Saturday.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What allowance do you think you should have on Saturday? A. The same as other mechanics—nine hours on Saturday.

Q. That is pretty general in St. John? A. I believe there are only two places in St. John that have not those hours on Saturday.

DOUGLAS McARTHUR, Bookseller, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you sell any school books? A. Yes.

Q. Royal Readers? A. Yes.

Q. Where do you get them from? A. J. & A. McMillan, St. John.

Q. Are they sole agent for the Royal Readers? A. No.

Q. Do you get any from any other place? A. That is the only place I buy Royal Readers.

Q. Do you think that firm has a monopoly on the books? Is that (producing a Royal Reader No. 2) one of the books you get? A. I brought a sample of the books (produces the same). This is the New Brunswick series No. 2 and the one you handed to me is the Nova Scotia series, the difference being that this is stamped "pence" on the cover.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. What is the price of the other? A. We sell it at 15 cents—there is no price on it. Of the Royal Readers there are Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, and all that is the Nova Scotia series, and the New Brunswick series are the same reading matter in each number, with the exception of our Fifth Royal Reader and which has in it a supplement.

Q. And who is the publisher of the New Brunswick book? A. T. Nelson & Sons.

Q. And what is the name on the New Brunswick books? A. T. Nelson & Sons, London, Edinburgh and New York—they are both the same. (Several of the books are produced and examined by the Commissioners.)

Q. Do you consider there is a monopoly in the matter of these books? A. It appears to me to be a great one, in the matter of publishing.

Q. Do you wish to make any statement as to the books used here? Are any of the books published in St. John or New Brunswick that are used in the schools? A. I have prepared a statement which I could read :—

“ All school books used here printed abroad, except geography, History of Canada and elementary arithmetic. All school books should be printed here, as it would give employment to about 200 persons (that is merely an estimate) and would, if printed in the city, add very materially to its wealth. Under the present system we have to pay in duty and import nearly 25 per cent. on the cost of the books—the Government taxes 15 per cent and import is about 10 cents; this should be saved to all those interested in buying school books, and there can be no good reason for not having them printed here, as the work can be done just as well and as cheaply by our own people.”

Then I put the following question to myself :—

“ Is there not sufficient talent here to compile text-books ? And in answer, I say there is, and I believe we can compile text-books to suit our country better than those living in Scotland or in any other country.”

Q. And the other books which you said were printed here—who does that ? A. McMillan has the sole right; all the dealers here buy from them; it is said they are printed here, but formerly the History of Canada was printed by the Nelsons, though now bearing McMillan's imprint.

J. A. EDWARDS, Book-binder, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Have you been working in St. John at this business any length of time ? A. Sixteen or seventeen years.

Q. Are there many book-binders employed in St. John ? A. Not a great many; about twelve or fifteen, I should judge, between men and boys.

Q. Do they get constant work throughout the year ? A. Yes.

Q. What is the wage of a first-class book-binder ? A. About \$8 a week; that is the average.

Q. What is the nature of the books bound here ? Are they blank or reading matter ? A. Some of both, as also reports, &c., and sometimes books of other kinds are bound.

Q. How many hours a day do binders work ? A. Ten.

Q. Are there any apprentices at the business ? A. Yes; some; they have to serve five years before becoming expert journeymen.

Q. Do they remain with their employer after getting through their time ? A. Yes.

Q. As a practical man, how many more binders do you think it would employ to bind the school books if published here or in the Province ? A. Between 200 and 300, I should think.

Q. Would that number be constantly employed ? A. Yes; they would.

Q. Do you think the wages as large in proportion to the wages paid other branches of skilled industry here ? A. No.

Q. You don't think it as much ? A. I do not think so.

Q. Have you worked in any place outside of St. John ? A. No.

Q. Is it a healthy business to follow ? A. It is not unhealthy, except that it is indoor work, the same as in some other businesses.

Q. Do you know anything about the folding business ? A. Yes.

Q. Are there many women employed at that business ? A. Yes.

Q. What pay would a good folder receive per week ? A. That is according as to how they work; at piece-work they would probably make \$5 or \$6, but very little of that work is done here.

Q. What would be their wages if they work by the week ? A. I could not say exactly; I think from \$2 to \$4 would be an average.

Q. How long would it take a young girl going to the business to be expert at it? A. That depends upon the girl's capabilities; she would probably become an expert folder in six months; some, of course, take longer.

Q. Have you got any information that would be of benefit to the Commission in connection with book-binding in St. John? A. No.

Q. Are they laboring under any grievance? A. No; not that I know, except that we would like to have the school books printed and bound here.

VICTOR DYKEMAN, Pattern-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Where are you employed? A. In McAvity & Sons.

Q. On patterns—brass work? A. Yes.

Q. I suppose these patterns must be made with great care and precision? A. Yes.

Q. A very high class of labor is required on them? A. It is supposed to be so.

Q. What wages would a good workman in brass earn? A. A good one ought to get \$20 a week.

Q. Are there many receiving that in St. John? A. I think they are few.

Q. I suppose a first-class man is cheap at almost any price and a poor hand dear? A. Yes.

Q. Can you give us an idea of the number of pattern-makers employed in the city at all classes of pattern-making—brass and iron? A. I should imagine at least twenty, but it would not exceed twenty-five in iron and brass work.

Q. They do not all receive the same rate of wages—that is, the rate you indicated? A. A foreman would get \$20.

Q. Are many boys taken at the business to learn it? A. Not of late years; there is not much inducement, the pay is so small; it is smaller than any other mechanical business.

Q. What would be their average earnings? A. About \$9 for a fair man.

Q. You spoke of \$20—you meant a man in charge of a room? A. Yes; but I think any pattern-maker ought to get it, in justice to himself; a man takes \$15 to live comfortably, and he ought to make \$5 more than that a week.

Q. What hours do you work? A. Ten, and nine on Saturday.

Q. Are you paid weekly? A. Yes.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Any of that work done by the piece? A. No; all by the day.

JOHN NICHOLLS, Foreman Brass-finisher, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What wages can a brass-finisher earn in St. John? A. Ten dollars a week.

Q. Do they get pretty constant employment the year round? A. Yes.

Q. Do you consider the occupation an unhealthy one? A. I never found it so; I could not say it is.

Q. The fumes from the casting-room do not reach your rooms where the finishing is done? A. Not in our place.

Q. Are any of the machines dangerous? A. No; I cannot say they are.

Q. Have you known any serious accident to occur? A. Nothing very serious—a cut finger.

Q. Are many boys taken on to learn the trade? A. Quite a lot.

Q. How long do they generally serve? A. Five years.

Q. Can they become skilled mechanics in five years? A. They would not be skilled in five years in any kind or class of finishing.

Q. Those who do learn the trade, do they generally remain in St. John? A. No; not all of them.

Q. Do they go away just from love of change, or because they find it difficult to find employment in St. John? A. They go to better themselves.

Q. If they desired to stay here do you think they could find employment? A. They could find employment, but it would not suit their pockets.

JAMES ARKWRIGHT, Machinist and Tool-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Where are you employed? A. In McAvity & Sons.

Q. About what is the average a man in your business can earn? A. Journey-men \$10 per week; I get \$2 per day, or \$12 weekly.

Q. You occupy a superior position? A. I am an old hand; I have been there eight or nine years. I am not a foreman.

Q. Are many boys taken to learn the trade in the machine department? A. No; not one; that work requires a practical man.

Q. When you need new hands you get them from other machinery works? A. Yes.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. What is the average wages you have made in the past years—have you made \$300, \$400 or \$500 a year? A. Yes, and more; this last five to ten years I have made a matter of \$600 some years, but then for two years, I made nothing.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Is the room you work in comfortable? A. Yes; it is one of the best shops in town; I say that as a practical man, having been in hundreds of shops in Manchester and St. John.

Q. Is it pretty well ventilated? A. Moderately; but they are just the men to make improvements where needed.

JOHN KING, Pattern-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Where are you employed? A. At McAvity & Sons.

Q. You heard the testimony of the previous witness? A. Yes.

Q. Do you approve, substantially, of the testimony given by that gentleman? A. Yes; as a rule.

Q. All through? A. Yes; all through.

Q. Have you anything to add to it? A. No; I have nothing to add.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are pattern-makers employed as constantly as moulders? A. They are in that establishment.

Q. What would be the wages of a good pattern-maker? A. Nine dollars to ten dollars a week.

Q. What would be the average wages? A. Nine dollars a week.

Q. Do they work sixty hours a week? A. Fifty-nine.

Q. Have the wages increased or decreased during the past few years, or are they at a standstill? A. I think they have increased slightly.

Q. Is the business on the increase? A. It appears to be all the time.

Q. Do you get patterns to make for outside departments? A. A few.

Q. Are they for large pieces of machinery? A. Nothing very large; they are mostly small.

Q. How long does it take for an apprentice to serve before he becomes a good pattern-maker? A. Five years.

Q. Are there any patterns imported from the other side? A. I think not; there were some at the time of the fire, I believe, on account of not being able to get them made in time.

ROBERT NUGENT, Brass-finisher, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What wages do skilled finishers receive? A. Ten dollars a week.

Q. Are there any journeymen working for less? A. Yes.

Q. About what do you think would be a fair average for skilled hands? A. Ten dollars.

Q. Are there many men employed in that department? A. Quite a number.

Q. Are there many boys learning the trade? A. Yes; a good many.

Q. When they finish their time do they generally remain in the establishment? A. Some of them, and some go away.

Q. Do they go away because they are unable to find employment here, or for some other reason? A. They go generally because they can better themselves.

Q. Do you know if many of those who come back after a while decide that St. John is as good a place as any other? A. There has been one or two.

Q. Are any laborers employed in your department—unskilled hands? A. There are some.

Q. Do you know what they receive? A. No; I do not.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q. How much has a young man to pay for his board here? A. I do not board, and cannot tell you.

MONCTON, N.B., 13th April, 1888.

R. S. HOCKEN, Manager Moncton Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. What is your name and occupation? A. My name is Richard S. Hocken, and I am the manager of the cotton mill in Moncton.

Q. How many hands do you employ in the cotton mill? A. We employ about 170.

Q. How many of these would be females? A. Of our hands, there are about sixty women and thirty girls.

Q. Have you any boys in your employ? A. We employ thirty-five boys and forty-five men.

Q. What would be the ages of the youngest of the girls? A. The youngest girl would be about twelve years old.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest boy? A. I think the youngest of the boys would be about the same age.

Q. What hour do you commence work in the morning? A. Half-past six o'clock.

Q. And what hour do you continue to work to in the evening? A. Six o'clock; there is an hour at noon for dinner.

Q. Do you work your mill the same hours every day in the week? A. No; on Saturday we stop at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Five days in the week we work from 6:30 in the morning to 6 in the evening, and Saturdays we stop at 3 in the afternoon.

Q. Have you any fines, or any system of fines, which you impose upon your employés in the factory? A. Yes; we have.

Q. Can you explain the system of fines to us? A. The fines are imposed for imperfect work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. What is the amount of the fines you charge? A. The fines are imposed for imperfect work. We do not fine them the first time for imperfect work; we do not do so at once; we caution them at first, and then if they do it again we have a small fine that we impose.

Q. Please state everything in connection with those fines—what they are? A. Sometimes the fine may be 10 cents, 15 cents, 25 cents or 50 cents. I never knew of a case running over 25 cents; I don't think a fine ever exceeds 25 cents.

By Mr HEAKES :—

Q. Would those fines be for work principally done in the weaving room? A. Yes; the weaving room.

Q. Are any fines imposed on the children employed in your mill? A. No; nothing.

Q. Are any of those fines imposed for being late in the morning? A. No; none.

Q. They are simply imposed for imperfect work? A. Yes.

Q. Is it always the fault of the weavers when there is imperfect work? A. Not always; we always make inquiries in every case, and if we find that it is the result of carelessness on the part of our work people we fine them, but if it is from any other cause we do not.

Q. Can you tell us the amount of fines that have been collected in your mill during the past year from your employés? A. Yes; I should think they amounted to \$25 during the year.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. How much money do you pay out in the course of a year? A. We pay out about \$34,000 or \$35,000 a year.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do you have much bad work done in your factory? A. Not a great deal.

Q. Have you separate conveniences for the male and female employees in your factory? A. Yes.

Q. How are they separated? A. They have separate entrances, and they are partitioned right up between.

Q. Are the doors of those conveniences side by side? A. The entrance to the female one is from the inside part of the mill, and for the males it is outside.

Q. How many stories have you in your mill? A. Three.

Q. How many stairways are there leading to the top story? A. There is just one pair of stairs running right up.

Q. Are there any fire-escapes on the outside of your building? A. There are not.

Q. Does the stairway run straight down or are there any turns in it? A. There is one turn.

Q. Do the doors of the mill open inwards or outwards? A. They open out.

Q. Are they kept locked during any portion of the day? A. Yes; the main entrance is kept locked.

Q. During what portion of the day is it kept locked? A. During all the working hours.

Q. Supposing any accident were to happen in your mill how would the operatives get out with the door locked? A. The watchman is at the door and has the key.

Q. Is the watchman always at the door? A. He may not be always at the door, but he is generally around the mill close to the door.

Q. Can you tell us if any of the children in the mill have ever been illtreated by your foreman? A. No; not that I know of. I have never heard of anything of that kind taking place; there have been no complaints made to me about that kind of treatment.

Q. Can you tell us if the language that is used to the children and females in your mill is always such as it should be? A. It is so, far as I know of.

Q. Have you ever heard of any obscene language being used to any of the employés in your mill? A. None that I know of has ever been used.

Q. Have you ever had any complaints made to you as to the comfort of the mill?
A. We have never had any complaints of that kind made.

Q. Is your mill well ventilated? A. It is well ventilated.

Q. And is everything in good sanitary condition? A. It is.

Q. Have you ever had any accidents happen from the machinery? A. We have had one or two, but no very serious ones.

Q. Would those accidents be the result of carelessness among the operatives, or from your not having the machinery properly protected? A. An accident, such as has happened, would be the result of carelessness of the operative, but we have had no serious accident yet.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. Every fortnight.

Q. Is any portion of their wages that is earned kept back? A. Ten days kept back.

Q. In the event of an employé leaving before pay-day would he be obliged to give notice? A. Our employés are required to give two weeks' notice before leaving.

Q. If they fail to give the two weeks' notice, but leave, is any portion of their wages confiscated? A. No; if they want to go before the fortnight's notice is up we allow them to go, and give them the fortnight's wages.

Q. Have you any rules printed in the office? A. Yes.

Q. Are they posted in the mill? A. Yes.

Q. Are the causes of fines and their amounts placed in these rules? A. No; we have no tariff of them kept at all.

Q. When any of the employés are fined are they told of it at the time, or have they to wait till pay-day to find out? A. No; they are not paid for bad work; they are called up at once and shown it.

Q. In case they are fined have they any appeal against the fine—for instance, if the foreman fines an operative, could the operative appeal and have the matter investigated? A. Of course.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Does the foreman fine at his own option? A. Yes.

Q. Do the hands generally make appeal against the foreman's decision? A. They have never done so yet.

Q. You say that the operators have to give you a fortnight's notice before leaving the mill? A. They have.

Q. If hands are to be discharged do you give them a fortnight's notice before discharging them? A. Yes; unless they commit some misdemeanor or break some machinery wilfully, or something like that, they receive a fortnight's notice; but if they do so they are discharged at once.

Q. Are they paid up to the time they are discharged? A. Yes.

Q. What is your object in keeping the ten days' pay back from the hands? A. I do not know what the object is exactly, except that it is simply done so that the hands will remain with us. If we do not do something of that kind we find they are very apt to clear out.

Q. Have you ever heard any of the hands express a desire to be paid more frequently than once a fortnight? A. No; not that I am aware of. At one time we paid them monthly, but we abandoned that, and have since paid them by the fortnight.

Q. Do you think it would be better for the operators if they were paid weekly instead of fortnightly? A. I don't know, I am sure.

Q. Are you familiar with the various departments in the mill, such as the winding, twisting and weaving rooms? A. I am not with the machinery.

Q. But you are with the work? A. Yes.

Q. What would a first-class woman in the winding room receive in the course of a fortnight? A. She would get about \$6.50 a fortnight, if she were a real good winder.

Q. Would she be on piece-work to do that? A. No; that is day-work.

Q. How long would she have to work in that department before she would be able to earn that amount of money? A. Quite a while.

Q. Are the hands paid anything when they first go to work? A. We generally allow them 40 cents a day, or \$2.40 a week, when they first go on as learners.

Q. Are there any young girls working in the winding room? A. Yes.

Q. What might be the age of the youngest? A. She would be about nineteen or twenty, that would be if she were working on the winding machine.

Q. I mean, what would be the age of the youngest girl employed in that room? A. Twelve.

Q. What means do you take to ascertain their ages when you employ them?

A. We inquire and ask them about it.

Q. Do you ask them themselves? A. We do.

Q. Are the hands in your mill invariably asked what are their ages when they enter the mill? A. I think so; the foreman generally inquires about their age.

Q. What wages would the youngest girl in the mill receive when she starts work?

A. I think the youngest ones generally start when they are about twelve years old, and they get about \$1.50 a week.

Q. Have you ever known of any of your hands receiving less than \$1.50 a week?

A. No; I think that is the lowest we pay.

Q. Have you any women working on piece-work in the winding room? A. No.

Q. How much would a woman who runs four looms in the weaving room receive?

A. A woman that would be running four looms would make about 85 cents a day—that is, on piece-work.

Q. Do you mean on piece-work? A. Yes.

Q. Are the hands pretty constantly at work in the weaving room? A. Yes; so far as we are able, they are kept to work. They may be a little short of work sometimes, but we generally run all the time.

Q. How many months in the year would a woman work on piece-work in the weaving room? A. I suppose about ten months altogether—that is full time.

Q. How long would a woman have to be in the mill before she would receive four looms to work? A. Sometimes they are there but a very little time, for a great deal depends upon the women themselves—I mean, their ability to learn.

Q. Could you not tell about the average time? A. About a month—perhaps three; some of them may be longer than others, for we find that some women are more apt to learn than others.

Q. Can you tell the largest amount per fortnight that a woman would earn in running three looms? A. There are not many with us that are running three looms; most of them are running four.

Q. Do they all run four looms? A. As a rule, they do.

Q. Is there any twisting done in the weaving room by the youngest girls? A. Not in the weaving room, they are putting harness on the warps.

Q. What might be their ages? A. From twelve to seventeen years.

Q. What wages do the youngest girls in that room receive when going on first?

A. They get about \$1.50 a week, from that to \$2.25.

Q. If any of the work is soiled by the dripping of oil from the machinery is the weaver fined for that? A. No.

Q. Is there any particular person kept in the mill to watch and clean the machinery? A. No; we have a person, though, to keep the shafting in order and keep the oil off.

Q. Is the weaver fined when bad work is done from the effect of bad warps or bad webbing? A. No.

Q. Do you generally make it a point to find out what is the cause when bad work is done? A. Yes.

Q. How many hands have you engaged in connection with the carding room?

A. I suppose we have twenty.

Q. Have you any men at work in the carding room? A. Yes; we have some.

Q. What do you pay a first-class carder who works in the carding room? A. I suppose he would get about \$7 a week.

Q. What would be the wages of a first-class woman in the carding room? A. They get about \$4 a week.

Q. Do the men and women work on the same kind of work? A. No; they do not work on the same kind of work.

Q. What would be the wages of a good operative in the spinning room? A. She would earn about \$1.80 a day, and throstlers would get about \$3.60 a week.

Q. What would be the wages that the youngest girls would receive when entering upon work in that department? A. About \$1.25 or \$1.50 a week, I think.

Q. What would be their ages? A. About twelve.

Q. Are the little girls in the spinning room subject to fines? A. No; they have no fines.

Q. Is there much dust in the spinning room? A. Not a great deal.

Q. Is the room close and warm in the summer time? A. No; our room is well ventilated in the summer time.

Q. Are the hands allowed to have the windows down in the summer? A. They are.

Q. They are allowed to have them down when wanted? A. When wanted.

Q. When the windows are down in the spinning room is it liable to spoil the work? A. No; in some cases it might. A great deal depends on the state of the atmosphere outside.

Q. Do the hands go home to dinner? A. Most of them go home for dinner.

Q. Do any of them bring their dinners with them? A. Some few do.

Q. Are rooms set apart in the mill for them to eat in, or do they eat in the room in which they work? A. They generally eat in the same room in which they work.

Q. Is the machinery stopped all the time they are eating? A. Yes; the machinery is stopped all the time at noon hour.

Q. If any of the machinery breaks down, from no fault of the employés, do the employés have to work over-time to make it up? A. They do not.

Q. Do you have any over-time in the cotton mill? A. We do not.

Q. Are all the hands set at liberty at six o'clock? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever given any thought to allowing the women the privilege of leaving the mill half an hour before the men? A. I have not.

Q. What becomes of the fines that are imposed—do they go to the company? A. Yes; they go to the company.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you think that these fines that are imposed pay for the actual damage that is done through bad work? A. No; I do not think so.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. Do most of those children who get \$1.50 a week live at home with their parents? A. Yes.

Q. Are the men who get \$7 a week, as a rule, men of families, or young men? A. They are generally young men; I only know of one who has a family.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you know of any cotton mill in this Province that does not impose fines? A. No; I do not.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do your operatives have to sign any agreement when they first go to work? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles? A. Not any lately; we have not had any since I have been in charge of the mill.

Q. How long is that? A. I have been there two years.

W. E. DAY, Contractor and Builder, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your occupation? A. Carpenter, contractor and builder.

Q. Do you employ many men? A. I employ about fifteen men at the present time.

Q. Are they engaged in general building? A. Yes.

Q. Erecting stone, plastering, and wood-work? A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell us what are the wages of carpenters in Moncton? A. Do you mean a good man?

Q. I mean a good, skilled man—a bench man who is capable of finishing any kind of good work? A. They make about \$10 a week at the present time.

Q. Do you pay by the week or by the day? A. We pay them so much a day.

Q. How much a day? A. Some of them \$1.70 a day.

Q. That would be about 17 cents an hour? A. It would.

Q. What would be the highest wages paid? A. That would be about the highest that is paid on outside work; there may be some working on inside work that are paid higher.

Q. Would that be much above the average paid to average hands? A. Nine dollars a week is about the average paid to skilled hands.

Q. Then, you pay 15 cents an hour all round? A. We do.

Q. How many hours do they work? A. Ten hours a day.

Q. What wages do brick-layers earn in Moncton? A. I could not tell you about that, for I do not employ any.

Q. You do not use them here? A. No.

Q. What do plasterers earn? A. Plasterers' work in Moncton is paid by the yard, principally, and a good man gets 6 cents a yard.

Q. Do you ever take any apprentices on? A. We do.

Q. What would an apprentice working the first year get? A. I pay mine \$4 a week the first year.

Q. And how much do you increase their wages each year? A. Two dollars.

Q. How much do they earn the second year? A. Six dollars the second and eight dollars the third.

Q. How many years do they generally serve? A. Three years.

Q. Have you ever had any difficulty in keeping your apprentices after they have served their time out? A. I have never had any trouble.

Q. Do your apprentices generally turn out to be good, skilled workmen? A. Yes.

Q. Then, on the average they remain with you? A. I never had but one man to leave me, and he is a good mechanic.

Q. Do the apprentices generally find employment easily at their business in Moncton after their time is served out? A. I cannot answer that question, for I have been in Moncton only eight or nine years and have only had one to leave me. That one was my brother, and he went to the United States.

Q. Do you know if there is any difficulty in getting first-class workmen in Moncton? A. It is pretty hard to get first-class mechanics here.

Q. What proportion of joiners here are capable of taking a detail from the scale and getting their work out? A. Judging from what I have had to compete with I would not say there would be over 25 per cent. of them.

Q. Are there any facilities in Moncton for an apprentice to get a knowledge of the trade and architecture, as well as mechanical drawing, while serving his time? A. Not that I am aware of.

Q. They have to pick those things up as best they can? A. Yes.

Q. Do you not think that if they were afforded an opportunity to study architecture and mechanical drawing that it would improve the class of mechanics? A. I dare say it would.

Q. How many months in the year do mechanics obtain employment in the building line? A. Judging from my own business, which is chiefly outside work, I

would say they commence work about March and run through till December. I generally commence work in March and run through till the latter part of December. In some kinds of work I carry them on steady, and for the last two seasons I have been able to work all through the winter.

Q. But the average time, taking one year with another, would be about nine months in the year? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know if men can live comfortably and support a family on the earnings of nine months in the year? A. I should think an ordinary mechanic ought to be able to do so.

Q. About how much rent do they have to pay for a house suitable for a family of six? A. Well, I guess they could probably obtain rents from \$6 to \$9.

Q. Do you mean a month? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know if many of the workmen of Moncton own their own houses? A. There are quite a number of them who do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there many men in Moncton who call themselves carpenters working for \$7 and \$8 a week? A. There are a good many.

Q. Are they in the majority in the carpentering trade—that is, speaking of it as a trade? A. If I understand you, you ask if the majority who apply for work, those those who call themselves carpenters, work for those wages, and I say they do.

Q. Do those saw-and-hatchet men, as they are called, get much work to do? A. We are compelled to hire them sometimes.

Q. Are good carpenters scarce in Moncton? A. They are; there is no difficulty for a first-class mechanic to get \$10 a week here, and a real good skilled man can do better than that.

Q. Can you tell us the wages per day or hour that stone-masons get? A. I could not tell you that, for I do not employ any to any great extent.

Q. Do you employ any lathers? A. Yes.

Q. Are they paid by the thousand? A. Yes.

Q. How much are they paid by the thousand? A. One dollar a thousand.

Q. Is there much work for plasterers here in the fall of the year? A. There is.

Q. Do you use any heaters during the winter time? A. Do you mean for plastering purpose.

Q. Yes? A. Yes.

Q. Who pays the expense of the heaters—the men or the boss? A. The boss has to furnish them, unless the party having the work done supplies the heaters.

Q. Are the contractors of Moncton formed into a combination? A. Not that I am aware of; if there is such a thing I am out of it personally.

Q. Do you employ any machine hands in the carpentering trade as wood-workers? A. Not in my business; it is all outside work.

Q. Can you speak definitely in connection with that branch of your work in Moncton? A. I do not know that I can, but there is a man coming after me that can speak on that subject.

Q. What do you pay plasterers' laborers—the men that carry the hod, and mix the mortar and putty? A. One dollar and twenty-five cents a day.

Q. How many hours would constitute a day's work? A. Ten hours a day.

Q. Do you bind your apprentices—I mean, do you indenture them? A. No; not at all.

Q. Do your apprentices generally remain with you till they have served their time out? A. Yes.

Q. Do many of them remain with you after they have served their time? A. I have never had any to leave, except this one, and he went away to the States when his time was out.

Q. Is there much competition between the contractors of Moncton in tendering for work? A. Not a great deal.

Q. Are their wages arranged on the coming on of the busy season, at the beginning

of the year? Is there an understanding then arrived at between the contractors and the men? A. There never has been, that I am aware of.

Q. Have you experienced any labor trouble? A. I have not.

Q. You have had none during your time? A. No.

Q. How are the men paid—fortnightly or weekly? A. Weekly.

Q. In cash? A. Yes.

Q. And in full. A. Yes.

Q. Is it the general custom here with the trades in the building line to pay weekly? A. At the present time it is.

Q. What day do you pay your men? A. Saturday.

Q. Do the men prefer Saturday as a pay-day to any other day in the week?

A. We have always been accustomed to pay on Saturday, and I have never heard the men express any opinion against it; consequently I do not know what their views are.

Q. Have you ever thought of paying on Friday, so as to afford the mechanics' wives a chance to go to market on Saturday morning? A. I have never thought of it.

Q. Is a plasterer's laborer paid the same amount per day as a builder's laborer—I mean, the man that carries the brick and mortar to the mason? A. They range about the same.

Q. Is there no difference between them? A. There is no difference between them.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. Is \$1.25 about the average wages? A. They earn about \$1.25 a day, all that I have ever had any experience with.

JOSHUA PETERS, Manager of Record's Foundry, called and sworn,

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your name and occupation? A. My name is Joshua Peters, and I am manager of the Record Foundry.

Q. What class of moulding do you principally do in your foundry? A. Stoves principally.

Q. Any machinery moulding? A. Some.

Q. And how many hands do you employ in the stove department? A. About nine.

Q. Do they work piece-work? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the average wages per week of stove-moulders? A. The average of the whole shop in stove-moulders, I think, would be about \$12 a week.

Q. What would be the average wages of the moulders on plate-work—for the week, I mean? A. I think about \$12 a week; that would be the average of a good stove-plate moulder.

Q. Do you know if many of the moulders in your shop can make the whole stove throughout? A. All of our men can make a stove.

Q. Do you take any apprentices on? A. Yes.

Q. And do they take in the whole stove during their time? A. They take in the whole stove.

Q. What would be the average earnings of a machine-moulder? A. I should think about \$1.75.

Q. Do you mean a day? A. Yes.

Q. How many months in a year does your stove department run? A. This last year we ran eleven months.

Q. And do the men find constant employment during the eleven months? A. They did.

Q. Is your shop comfortable to work in? A. Yes; I think so.

Q. Is it too cold to work in in the winter? A. No; I do not think it is.

- Q. What would be the wages of a furnace-man? A. About \$1.40 a day.
- Q. And what are the wages of the laboring men about the furnace? A. The laboring men earn about \$1 a day.
- Q. Have you had any labor troubles with your men? A. No; I have not. I have never had any.
- Q. Are your men contented? A. I have never had any trouble with them on that score; I do not know about that.
- Q. Have you ever had any difficulty in getting good, skilled moulders? A. I never had any.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. Are the moulders generally paid by the piece? A. They are.
- Q. In making a new stove for the first time—I mean, a new pattern—do the moulders have any say in arranging for the price that they will work on it for on piece-work? A. We put down a price and it is generally accepted.
- Q. Do you say it is generally accepted? A. Yes; it always has been, so far.
- Q. You say that you work steady eleven months in the year? A. Last year we ran our shop eleven months steady; the year before we ran the whole year through, and this year we will run the whole year if we live.
- Q. Have you any apprentices working at stove-plate moulding? A. We have.
- Q. How long have they got to serve? A. Four years.
- Q. How long do you think a man ought to be at the business before he should be placed at outside work? A. We like to get learners about sixteen years old, for a boy is not worth much to us till that age; he should at least be fourteen.
- Q. Is there any understanding between your men in the shops? A. Not that I am aware of.
- Q. Do your men belong to any labor organization? A. No; I know of none.
- Q. Would you have any objection to employing men if they belonged to labor organizations? A. No; if they were able to do the work I would not; that is all I require.
- Q. Is there any shop in Moncton engaged in plough-making? A. Three of our men can make a plough.
- Q. Do you import any of the patterns? A. Yes.
- Q. Where do they come from? A. The patterns I have imported come from Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Q. Are they principally patterns of stoves? Do you have any pattern-makers in your establishment? A. We have.
- Q. What do you pay them? A. We pay them \$1.40 a day.
- Q. Have you any fitters in your employ? A. We have.
- Q. Is that a distinct branch of the trade here? A. It is.
- Q. How much does a fitter receive? A. From \$1 to \$1.50 a day.
- Q. Have you a milling-room in connection with your foundry? A. Yes.
- Q. Is it well ventilated? A. Pretty well ventilated.
- Q. Do your men complain of the dust? A. No; our men do not complain of anything of that kind.
- Q. Is there a fanner in it? A. No; we have a box which we set the type up in, and when we open the mill we shut her tight in the box.
- Q. Are the conveniences for the men in good order? A. We have a water-closet in connection with the shop.
- Q. Is it inside or outside? A. Outside.
- Q. Do you use any stoves in the mill-room? A. We do.
- Q. How often are the men paid? A. Every Saturday night.
- Q. In full and in cash? A. In full and in cash.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

- Q. Do you employ any machinists? A. No; we have not any.
- Q. Are the stove-mounters considered to be laborers? A. Not in our shop.
- Q. Do you employ any stove-mounters? A. We have about six.

Q. What wages do they receive? A. From \$1 to \$1.50 a day.

Q. Where do you find a market for the sale of your stoves? A. From Gaspé to Cape North and Cape Breton. We have to ship all over the country, from one end to the other.

Q. Do you make any other kind of agricultural implements besides ploughs? A. No; not of any account.

Q. I suppose the ploughs go in the same direction as the stoves? A. They do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you find much competition from the other Provinces? A. Yes; considerable.

Q. What Province do you find the most competition from—Quebec? A. No; Ontario is the biggest competitor. They make a lot of bad articles and come down here and slaughter them.

By Mr. MCLEAN:—

Q. Do any of your employes own their own houses? A. I could not tell you that, I am sure; some of them do, I believe, but I do not know.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What would a workingman get respectably boarded for in Moncton? A. I really could not tell you, as all I know about that is only from hear say.

PAUL LEA, Door and Sash Factory, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I keep a door and sash factory and planing mill.

Q. Did you hear the evidence of the last witness on the building trade? A. Yes.

Q. Did you hear what he said with regard to his experience in the trade? A. Yes.

Q. Do you agree with his statements? A. Partly, but his scale seems to be a little different from mine. My best bench hand will average about the same as his, but to some of my very best bench hands I pay as high as \$2 a day.

Q. What would be the outside that outside hands would get? A. I do not do any outside work at all.

Q. Do you do general machine work? A. I do.

Q. What would be the wages of a first-class wood-working machinist? A. About \$2 a day.

Q. What would be the wages of an ordinary hand about the mill—not skilled workmen? A. We pay as high as \$10 a week to them; they earn from \$1.50 to \$1.60 a day; that is what we pay to those men.

Q. Would the men running the circular-saws receive that pay? A. The head sawyer does.

Q. And what do you pay to the laboring men? A. We pay about \$1 a day for laboring men.

Q. Do you employ any turners? A. We do.

Q. What are the wages that turners receive? A. Two dollars a day—that is, wood-turners.

Q. Are there any wood-working machinists in Moncton? A. I do not know that there is outside of my own hands.

Q. Do you keep them constantly going all the year round? A. Of course, during the summer season we have more hands employed than in the winter, but our chief hands we keep right on.

Q. What would be the wages of a stationary engineer? A. We pay our engineer \$1 a day.

Q. Then he is not a skilled man? A. No.

Q. Does he do his own firing for that? A. Yes.

Q. Have you had any accidents happen from machinery? A. We have.

Q. Anything serious? A. Nothing but what came through a piece of carelessness.

Q. Have you no guards on the saws? A. You cannot put a guard on the edger very well.

Q. Not very well? A. No; and a man deliberately put his hand on the back of a saw and it took it off.

Q. You have a shaper, I suppose? A. I do not run a shaper.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Do you ever put a knife guard on the back of a saw? A. We do.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Have you any boys employed about the mill? A. I have one.

Q. Is he an apprentice? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do apprentices get in the machine trade? A. I do not employ many apprentices, but I have had a few. I pay them \$2 a week for the first year \$3 for the second and \$4 for the next.

Q. Do they learn the whole work of wood-working machinists? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the wages of a foreman in a mill of that kind—I mean, a man who has charge of the bench work? A. We give our foreman in the second flat \$2.10 a day.

Q. Does he take full charge of the work? A. Yes; he has full charge of the work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are your apprentices indentured? A. No; never.

Q. How long do they serve their time? A. We usually take them for four years.

Q. Do they generally remain with you their whole term? A. I have had very little trouble with my apprentices.

Q. Are they willing to stay with you after their time is out? A. I have had six or seven apprentices, and they all stayed after their time was out, I have one that is with me yet.

Q. Do you make it a point to show your apprentices all the branches of the trade? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay to a teamster? A. One dollar a day.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q. What hours do your teamsters work? A. Ten hours a day; if they work over-time they are paid for that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you pay your hands extra for over-time? A. Yes; we generally allow them a quarter of a day for over-time.

Q. How often do you pay your men? A. Every Saturday.

Q. In cash? A. Yes.

Q. An in full? A. Yes; always in full

D. POTTINGER, Chief Superintendent Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Are you the superintendent of the Intercolonial Railway? A. I am the chief superintendent of the Intercolonial Railway.

Q. Are you able to speak definitely as to the earnings of the working people on the road? A. I can tell you their wages.

Q. What will the train-hands—say conductors—earn? A. The conductors are paid for the first year, \$1.75 a day.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Freight or passenger conductors? A. All the same. They are promoted to the passenger trains according to their ages of work; the older ones are put on those trains.

Q. According to their length of time in the service? A. Yes; according to their length of time in the service. The second year they are paid \$1.80 a day and the third year \$1.90, and the pay increases 10 cents a day each year until the ninth year of their service, and then they receive \$2.50 a day. That is the highest rate we pay on the road.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What are the brakemen paid? A. The brakemen are paid for the first six months \$1.20 a day.

Q. Does their pay increase? A. Yes; for the second six months they get \$1.25 and it increases 5 cents a day until they reach their sixth year, when they get \$1.50 a day. This is the highest wages we pay to brakemen.

Q. What do you pay to engineers? A. They commence at \$1.90 a day for the first year \$2.10 for the second year, \$2.30 for the third, \$2.50 for the fourth and fifth year, and for the sixth year \$2.75. That is the highest rate we pay to engineers.

Q. What do you pay to firemen? A. The firemen commence at \$1.30 a day for the first year; \$1.40 for the second and \$1.50 for the third.

Q. Would \$1.50 be the highest rate you pay to firemen? A. Yes; that is their highest rate.

Q. What do the section-men on the road receive? A. They are paid from \$1.05 to \$1.15 a day, and the section-foreman from \$1.45 to \$1.60.

Q. Are these employes paid by the day or by the run? A. They are all paid by the day, except the train and engine-men, and they are paid by the run. The line is divided into sections and those sections are laid out into a trip, counting one day for a trip or a day and a-half for a trip.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. How many miles constitute a trip? A. The scale was originally constructed on the principle of having 100 miles a day's work. From here to St. John is counted a day; from St. John to Moncton and return, with a passenger train, is counted two days, and with a freight train a day and a half. That is 89 miles from Moncton to St. John. From here to Campbellton, which is 187 miles, is counted a day and a-half.

Q. Each way? A. Yes; each way. From Moncton to Newcastle is a day, and a day and a-half if they return; that is about 80 odd miles—and so on; the road is divided up in that way.

Q. When the brakemen go out on a freight train and are delayed on the road by stoppages are they allowed for lost time? A. All the train, men and engine-men are on the day's run, and when that time exceeds twelve hours' detention the time commences again, and it is paid for to the engine men and conductors at the rate of 15 cents an hour, and the brakemen and firemen at the rate of 12½ cents an hour.

Q. Do your men have many of those detentions on the road? A. Not in the summer time, but in the winter they do.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. That would principally occur between here and Quebec? A. Principally between here and Quebec.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How long are the train hands supposed to remain on duty without rest? A. They are usually expected to take the train through, but if there is an excessive delay, and they are not able to go on, their train is laid off at some locomotive point.

Q. Then there is no rule in the service that will govern the train-hands in case of detention until they reach the end of their run? A. There is no special rule, but there is a rule that they shall have eight hours' rest when they come in before they go out again although in winter time it is not strictly kept, I fancy.

Q. Has the conductor in charge of a freight train authority to lay the train up in order to give his men rest? A. Not without telegraphing to the superintendent of his district, but I do not think that in a case of that kind the superintendent would refuse to grant the petition if he was asked. I say this because they receive so many instructions about giving the men full rest.

Q. Is there any copy of regulations furnished the men on entering the service? A. There is a book of rules and regulations that is given to every one; it is also posted up in the workshops. Besides, those rules are printed in the time-table, which every one has—I mean, a great many of them are.

Q. Do the men have to sign any agreement on entering the service? A. No; they sign no agreement.

Q. Does the railway authorities require the certificate of a guarantee company for the conductors? A. All the men who handle money in one way or another are certified in the different guaranteed companies.

Q. Can a conductor on leaving another road obtain employment without such a certificate? A. We never hire any body as conductors, except they come from the lower grades of the service; the whole work on the railway is by promotion upwards. There is no conductor employed on the road unless he has been a brakeman for some period.

Q. Can you speak—definitely as regards the conditions of the men on the road—I mean for safety? What would be the average width of your running-board? A. Twenty-four inches.

Q. Do you use the bell and cord on the freight train? A. On all trains.

Q. Have you ever found that the bell and cord is a source of danger to the men running on the top of the cars? A. I have never heard of it being so. There may be some trouble of that kind, for there is a great deal of opinion concerning the utility of stretching it on freight trains, but we have always enforced the stretching of it on all freight trains.

Q. Then, you cannot tell us whether it is possible to communicate with the engineer by the bell and cord under any circumstance? A. I do not understand the scope of your question.

Q. Are you able to tell, or do you know, whether the bell and cord are almost useless as a means of communication with the engineer? A. It is true that it fails sometimes, by getting caught in the brakes and other parts of the cars, but, as a general rule, it works well.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. In coming to that opinion, are you influenced by the persons you employ, as to what they have told you? A. I think there should be an improvement upon the bell and cord, but none of the employés have ever said anything about it that I have heard; I have heard no complaints about it.

Q. Did you say you had never heard any complaints made about it? A. No; none.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you ever made any trials of, or have you ever had any experience, in the Intercolonial Railway, in automatic couplers on the freight trains? A. We have tried a great many couplers.

Q. Have you ever seen any coupler that would, in your opinion, take the place of the link and pin? A. Not satisfactorily. There has been a coupler, as you know, started in Quebec, and the question is in a fair way of having a satisfactory solution arrived at. I presume you are aware that the Car-builders' Association—the masters' association—have recommended or decided in favor of a certain type of coupler. There is an association called the Association of Master Car-builders of the United States and Canada, and it is composed of almost all the car-builders for all the railroads in the country—I mean the people who have charge of the building and repairing of cars. They have been working for a number of years to get a satis-

factory coupler, and now they have got this one, and they are recommending the adoption of a hook coupler of a type called the Janey type. I cannot explain the principle to you more readily than to say that it is practically about the same as the Miller coupler; it hooks together like you hook your hands, but different from the Miller coupler. It has got a movable part on the end of it, and that difference makes it better than the Miller coupler. This narrows the discussion of couplers down very materially, and the question now is, how to get the most improved form of the Janey type, which I expect will be arrived at in the course of two years at the outside.

Q. Do you know if the want of uniformity in the height of freight cars is a barrier to the adoption of such a coupler? A. It is a difficulty, but that difficulty does not exist to the same extent that it used to. In fact, the cars are all about the same height now.

Q. Can you tell us, from experience, whether the working of the automatic air-brakes on freight trains is satisfactory? A. We have now about 200 cars provided with them, and the men seem to like them very well, because they always try to carry out the rules, and place those cars with them on next to the engine.

Q. Can the engineers control a freight train with the automatic brakes as easily as they can a passenger train? A. That is a matter of opinion; I should say they could.

Q. We were told in Hamilton that some experiments were made where they stopped a freight train running 30 miles an hour in about a quarter of a mile? A. There have been some experiments made in various parts of the United States by the Westinghouse Air-brake Company, all of which, I understand, have been very satisfactory. I was not present at any of them, but all the accounts go to show that the experiments have given satisfaction, sometimes stopping long trains—forty or fifty cars—without any difficulty.

Q. Have you ever given any consideration to the question of affording the brakemen on the top of the cars any better protection? A. That question has been up several times, but is a difficult one to meet.

Q. It has been suggested to us in the west that if a rail were placed on the outside of the top of the car, just high enough to catch a man, that it would give better protection. Have you ever given that matter any consideration? A. I have never heard about that, but I have heard of the running-board.

Q. Do the men say they would be liable to strike the running-board? A. It would always be open to the same objection as now, and if there was a rail there they would lose confidence in themselves and would be more apt to fall.

Q. Do you think the question of expense would be an objection here? A. Not any reasonable expense, because I think the railways are all desirous to prevent accidents as far as they can.

Q. Can you give us any idea of the percentage of the men injured on the road? A. I can tell you what were injured last year by couplings. We had eighty-eight men injured. I should say here that the most trifling injury that happened to a man, if his fingers are squeezed or the skin knocked off his hand, is all returned to him. Of these eighty-eight injuries thirty-five were from coupling, eight were from falling off the cars, and forty-five were from other causes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. Would this be on the entire road? A. Yes; on the entire road.

Q. Out of how many men employed in the whole service? A. About 700 men.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What is the extent of your mileage? A. Nine hundred and seventy-four miles—about.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you any system on the roads providing for benefits if the men were ill

or injured? A. There is a fund called the Employés Insurance Fund, and it provides for accidents. It is supported by contributions deducted from the pay of the men monthly.

Q. Is it a voluntary or compulsory arrangement? A. It is compulsory. It was established about 1875 or 1876, and in 1881 the rates were reduced one-half. The railway contributes to that fund about \$2,000 or \$3,000 a year. The rates paid are all in this sheet (hands paper to secretary).

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

MEMORANDUM of Conditions referred to in the within Agreement of Insurance.

1.—The Intercolonial Railway shall be the trustees of the fund for the purpose of indemnifying its employés for loss of time consequent upon injuries received by them whilst in the performance of their duties in the service of the said railway; and, in cases where such injuries may result in death, of making provision for the families of the deceased, or whoever the insurance may be made payable to under the within agreement.

2.—The fund will be called the "Employés' Insurance Fund," and will be formed by monthly contributions by the employés, to be deducted from their pay, and according to the rates which are mentioned and printed at the foot hereof. The said railway will supplement the amount so appropriated by a donation from its own funds.

3.—Any loss or losses occurring under this contract shall, in the case of the death of the insured, be payable within a reasonable time after good and sufficient proof that the insured sustained bodily injuries effected by violent and accidental means, within the intent and meaning of this contract and the conditions herein contained; and that such injuries occasioned the death of the insured within three calendar months after the happening thereof; or that the insured sustained bodily injuries as aforesaid, and which, independently of all other causes, immediately and totally disabled him from the prosecution of any and every kind of business—then, on satisfactory proof of such injuries and disability, there shall be paid forthwith to the insured an indemnity for the loss of time sustained by him in consequence of disability as aforesaid, at a sum per week to be determined as hereinafter specified: provided, however, that such indemnity shall be payable only for the period of continuous total disability immediately following the accident and injuries, but in no case for a period exceeding twenty-six consecutive weeks.

4.—No person shall be insured under this contract except such as are employed in the service of the Intercolonial Railway.

5.—*The insurance granted hereunder shall not extend to any injury of which there shall be no external and visible sign, nor to any death or disability which may have been caused wholly or in part by bodily infirmities or disease existing prior or subsequent to the date of this contract, or by the taking of poison, or any surgical operation or medical treatment for disease, nor to any case except where the injury aforesaid is the proximate and sole cause of the disability or death, and no claim shall be made under this contract when the death or injury may have been caused by duelling, fighting, wrestling, or by suicide (felonies or otherwise, sane or insane), or by sun-stroke, self-inflicted injuries, or by concealed weapons carried by the insured; or when the death or injury shall have happened in consequence of war, riot, or invasion, or riding or driving races, or of exposure to any obvious or unnecessary danger, hazard or perilous adventure, or of violating the rules of any company or corporation; or when the death or injury shall have happened while the insured was or in consequence of his having been under the influence of intoxicating drinks, or taking part in gymnastic sports, or while engaged in or in consequence of any unlawful act; and this insurance shall not be held to extend to mysterious disappearances, nor to any case of death or disability, the nature, cause or manner of which is unknown or incapable of direct and positive proof.*

6.—All sums which may be paid by way of indemnity to the insured by virtue of this contract shall be accounted in diminution of the principal sum hereby insured—so that, in case of subsequent death or injury during the continuance of

this contract, the total amount to be paid by the said railway shall not, in any case, exceed the principal sum hereby insured.

7.—No claim shall be payable under this contract unless a medical adviser of the said Intercolonial Railway, or one selected by them, shall be allowed to examine the person of the insured in respect to alleged injury, or cause of death, when and so often as may be reasonably required on behalf of the said railway.

8.—As the said "Employés' Insurance Fund" will operate for the *mutual benefit* of all the contributors thereto, it is made an express condition of this contract and agreement that no employé hereby insured shall, on leaving the service of the said railway, have the right or be entitled, in any case, to claim re-payment of the amount of his individual contribution to the said fund, or any part thereof.

9.—In case of any dispute arising as to the payment of any claim under this contract the matter shall be referred to the Chief Superintendent of the said Intercolonial Railway, whose decision on the subject shall be held and accepted as final.

10.—The said Intercolonial Railway shall not be in any way bound or responsible for the execution or discharge of any trust which may be created in respect of any insurance hereby effected; and the receipt of the person or persons to whom any insurance money is made payable under the within agreement shall be a valid and binding discharge to the said railway for such insurance money; and the said railway shall not be bound to see to the application of the money paid upon such receipt.

MEMORANDUM of Amounts to be Insured and of Payments to be Made by the Insured Monthly.

OCCUPATION.	CLASSIFICATION.	CLASS.	PAYMENTS.
Superintendents, engineers, accountants, paymasters, clerks, cashiers, draughtsmen, storekeepers, treasurers, messengers, train-despatchers, and telegraph operators, time-keepers, freight-checkers.....	Preferred.....	1st	Cts. 10
Station-masters, freight-agents, assistant track-masters, track-foremen, captains and mates of river steamers, boiler-makers, blacksmiths, brass-moulders, carpenters, painters, car-repairers, foremen cleaners.....	Medium.....	1st	20
Assistant station-masters and relieving agents, baggage-men at stations, freight-porters, car-checkers, flagmen, policemen, watchmen, engine and car-cleaners, deck-hands of steamers, oilers.....	Medium.....	2nd	10
Boiler-makers and blacksmiths' helpers.....	Medium.....	2nd	20
Belt-makers, upholsterers, cabinet-makers, coppersmiths, tinsmiths, engineers of stationary engines, fitters and machinists, plasterers, plumbers, pattern-makers.....	Ordinary.....	1st	20
Apprentices.....	Ordinary.....	2nd	10
Train baggage-masters, brakemen.....	Specially hazardous..	2nd	10
Locomotive inspectors, conductors, locomotive engineers, engineers of river steamers, yard-masters, shunters, switchmen.....	Extra hazardous.....	1st	30
Assistant engineers of river steamers, firemen of locomotives and river steamers.....	Extra hazardous.....	1st	20
Mechanical superintendents and track-masters.....	Extra hazardous.....	1st	{ M.S. 30 T.M. 40

NOTE.—"First Class" insures for \$500 in case of death, and \$5 per week indemnity for twenty-six weeks in case of accident. "Second Class" insures for \$300 in case of death and \$3 per week indemnity in case of accident, for twenty-six weeks. Mechanical superintendents and track-masters insured for \$1,000. All people in shops pay 20 cents, except laborers, who pay 10 cents.

There is another association or organization called the Employers' Insurance Association, and that has about 600 or 700 members. The principle of that association is very simple; on every death there is a payment of \$1 assessed on every member belonging to the society. The accident fund provides for medical attendance during the time a man is laid up through accident, as well as a death indemnity, and that is paid so much each week—that is, the first society referred to, I mean.

Q. Is that compulsory insurance, and have they made rules on the railway releasing them from all liabilities in case of accident to the employés? A. That is the understanding; I forget whether it is specified or not.

Q. Do the employés have no claim on the railway for accident? A. No; there is another scheme that will be brought in force about the 1st of July that will embody both of the principles involved in the two societies, and a great deal more. The employés have, on different occasions, asked that something should be done for them, and this society will, to a great extent, fill that gap. The new scheme is to be called the Intercolonial Railway Employés Benefit and Insurance Association. As well as the death indemnity, it provides for an indemnity during illness and accident. There will be an indemnity during sickness and medical attendance will be provided for the employés. The Minister of Railways has guaranteed to contribute about \$6,000 a year to the fund, so that the expenses will be much less than the other associations. This scheme will be laid before the men shortly, to get their opinion on it and to see if they have any suggestions to make in reference to the matter.

Q. In your present insurance scheme have the men any voice in the arrangement of it, or do the railway officers manage the business? A. The railway officers manage the whole business now; the whole matter is in the hands of the railway superintendent for the time being. On the new scheme there will be regular meetings of the men on the board to look after their interest, and they will be allowed a certain representation on the governing body of the association.

Q. Can you tell us what are the earnings of the men in the car-shop? A. Do you mean the wages?

Q. Yes; the wages? A. The wages of machinists are from \$1.40 to \$2.64 a day.

Q. Do a good many of them get \$1.40 a day? A. Some of them have been there for some time getting that sum. They have been laborers, who have been doing a particular kind of work, and they are classed under that branch. Boiler-makers get \$1.70 to \$2.20 a day; boiler-makers' helpers, \$1.25 to \$1.50; blacksmiths, \$1.60 to \$2.70; blacksmiths' helpers, \$1.15 to \$1.35; tinsmiths, \$1.50 to \$1.70; tinsmiths' helpers, \$1.25 to \$1.40; pipe-fitters, \$1.50 to \$1.80; carpenters and repairers, \$1.25 to \$1.85. I could say that a great many men in those shops are men who have never served their time in a carpenter shop, but who have been used to rough work. The laborers get \$1.10 to \$1.35 a day; painters get \$1.35 to \$2.30. We pay track laborers \$1.05 to \$1.15.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. On what section of the road are those men employed? A. Those are the general prices taken from the pay-roll of the whole line; there is not any material difference in the prices between the shops here, those in Halifax and River Du Loup. The track-foremen are paid \$1.45 to \$1.60.

Q. Have you any apprentices? A. We have some apprentices, not many, and they are paid 5 cents an hour for the first year; $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents for the second and 10 cents for the third. The men in the workshop are paid by the hour, for the convenience of reckoning their time—that is to say, the man who gets \$1.10 a day would get 11 cents an hour.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do the men ever build cars on piece-work? A. We have not built cars for a long time. When we built cars they were built by the day. We do piece-work in the shop, but it is mostly among the iron workers.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. What do you say were the earnings of the men—conductors and the like?

A. The conductors average about \$65 a month; brakemen \$40; engine-drivers, \$70, and firemen \$40.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do the men in the shops find constant employment all the year round?

A. Yes; sometimes we employ an extra number of men for special purposes, but we have a large regular staff that is employed all the year round.

Q. Are the men in the car-shop supposed to be the men who furnish auxiliaries in case of accidents? A. Yes; a certain number of them are selected men that are put on for heavy repair generally. They are paid according to their ability, and they are judged by the foremen, who oversees them; but as we are building no cars now we have not any necessity for dividing them off.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. How much do you pay the yard-men? A. They are paid 5 cents more for a day than the brakemen who have served the same length of service. Instead of getting \$1.20, he would get \$1.25 the second year and \$1.30 the next.

Q. How many hours constitute a day's work for a yard-man? A. I think twelve, but I am not certain; I may have occasion to correct that statement, and say their hours are ten.

Q. If they work over-time are they paid extra for it? A. Yes; they are.

Q. Have the engineers to undergo a color test before they are employed? A. The brakemen and firemen, when they are first employed, have to undergo an informal examination when we take them on for the first six months; then there is a final examination of them for color blindness and for other matters, to see if they can read and write—read train orders, and so on. When a brakeman is promoted to be a conductor and a fireman promoted to be an engineer he undergoes a color test as well. The color test we use is with flags and boards.

Q. Are the engineers promoted from the ranks of the firemen? A. Entirely; we never employ any other engineers, or in fact any body in the higher branches of the service, without promoting them from below.

Q. Has the railway any objection to employing engineers, conductors or brakemen belonging to labor organizations? A. No.

Q. I believe you have quite a number of them on the road? A. I believe so; and there is an organization among the men, I understand.

Q. Is there an understanding between the different railway companies about employing men discharged from other companies? A. We have not any, and I do not know of any on the other railways.

Q. If a man were discharged from the Grand Trunk Railway—after being discharged for inducing men to become members of a labor organization—would you consider that a cause for his non-engagement? A. That is a question that has never come up on our railway, and I do not know how we would look on it, for if such a man came into our service he would have to come on at the lowest grade—fireman or brakeman. There has never been such a case come before the department to investigate.

Q. If he were discharged for any other cause do you make inquiries about the matter? A. Yes; we would make all inquiries into that.

Q. Is there a strict understanding on that matter between the Intercolonial Railway and the other railways? A. No; but we inquire all we can.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you know of any railway that would employ an engineer without inquiring into what he had done before? A. No; I do not think it would be good policy to do so, for a matter of life and property is placed in his hands.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q. How are matters of differences between an employé and employer settled?

A. Investigated before the employés generally, and sometimes we have a further investigation to make.

Q. Suppose a man is suspended, and you do not investigate his case for a month after his charge is made, is he paid his month's pay? A. Sometimes he is paid and sometimes he is not; I think it is very seldom that any person is suspended, and it turns out that he is entirely innocent, that we have not paid him for the time lost.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Have you any system of fines in the Intercolonial Railway management?

A. We have fines for the punishment of those who break the rules.

Q. What are they? A. I do not understand you?

Q. What do they amount to? A. They range from 25 cents to \$25.

Q. Where do these fines go to? A. They go to the company. We punish the men by fines, and sometimes we dismiss them, but we generally suspend them; we very seldom discharge a man.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you require any notice from the men before leaving you? A. Yes; two weeks' notice.

Q. Do you give them two weeks' notice when they are discharged by you? A. Yes; we generally give that notice, but when a man is dismissed for infraction of the rules he gets no notice; but if his services are dispensed with through no cause of his he gets the usual notice.

Q. When he is dismissed is he paid up to the time of his dismissal or does he have to wait till next pay-day for his money? A. He is paid up at the time he leaves.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. If a man had caused an accident would you pay him up to the time he left?

A. We would pay him up to the time he worked, no matter what his work was.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Is the Intercolonial Railway doing the work of the New Brunswick Railway at the St. John station? A. Yes; they are at that station.

Q. Has the staff been increased on account of that work? A. There have been more porters employed in the lower grades of men.

Q. Are the men who were doing the work previous to the New Brunswick Railway coming into that station paid anything extra on account of that work? A. They are not.

Q. Are they compelled to work any longer hours on account of that work? A. I do not think it.

Q. Are you aware that men are working in that station from 6 o'clock in the morning till 11 o'clock at night? A. There may be one man doing so, but he is paid extra for his work; that man is the gate-keeper.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Does he get two day's pay for one day's work? A. He gets a certain amount extra a month; I forget what it is, at the present moment.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What hours do the baggage-masters work at that station? A. I do not know.

Q. Have the men any greater responsibility thrown upon their shoulders on account of the New Brunswick Railway? A. Some of them have, but not more than if the business of this railway increased, and under those circumstances I consider they are all very well paid.

Q. If the staff has not been increased, and it was only large enough to do the work before the New Brunswick Railway came into the St. John station, is it not

excessive now? A. I do not think so; we had but one station-master before that and there are two now, and he has hardly any more to do than before. The telegraph agent has more messages to send and the ticket agent has a few more tickets to sell.

Q. Is that a fair comparison to make, between the baggage-masters and the freight men? A. The baggage-master has to handle no more baggage than before. He used to handle the baggage that went to St. John, all of it, and that which went from the New Brunswick Railway he had to put it on board a carriage, take it down to the ferry boat and send it to the cars in Carleton, and put it on board the cars there.

Q. Do you not think that the cars of the New Brunswick Railway entering the station has increased the railway travel? A. It may have taken more off the boats, but it does not increase the baggage-master's work.

Q. Is there any more mail matter handled at that station than before the New Brunswick Railway ran in there—I mean, any greater responsibility in reference to the matter? A. The baggage-master has no responsibility in reference to the mail matter, for the Post Office Department bring the mails to the cars.

Q. In transfers, is there not mail matter kept at the station? A. There may be, but I am not aware of that.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. If a man were engaged at that work ten or twelve hours a day, and forced to work sixteen hours, would he not be entitled to higher wages? A. He is decidedly.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Have the men ever made any complaints to you in regard to that matter? A. I have not heard any complaints about the New Brunswick work, except from the yard master, Mr. Irvine.

Q. Have any petitions been sent to you about the matter? A. I do not remember of any.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. How many hours a day do the telegraph operators work? A. Twelve hours. The day is divided into two periods.

Q. What do the train despatchers receive? A. They commence at \$50 a month and their pay is increased at different parts of their service until they are paid \$1,000 a year.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you any females employed in telegraph operating on the road? A. We have two female operatives at stations; one is the wife of the station-master and the other is the station-master's sister.

Q. What pay do they get? A. One receives \$27 a month and the other gets \$30.

Q. How are the frogs on the railway filled? A. Filled with wood.

Q. Have you had any accidents happen from frogs? A. I think we had one once but I do not remember of any more.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Are there many accidents happening from crossings? A. Do you mean on turnpike roads?

Q. Any in the cities? A. No; not in the cities; on country roads they are more frequent.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Has the road any covered bridges, and if so are they high enough up to allow the brakesmen to stand upon the car while passing under? A. A law was passed several years ago in reference to that matter.

Q. Are there any bridges of that kind on the road? A. All our bridges are of that kind and all our snow-sheds up north. All our structures, with the exception of two, were raised at the time the law was passed, and these two were provided for in the law. One was a tunnel and the other a railway bridge near Ishmael, near Quebec. There was a law passed exempting these structures.

THOS. P. WILLIAMS, Superintendent Moncton Sugar Refinery, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What business do you follow? A. I am the superintendent of the Moncton sugar refinery.

Q. How many hands do you employ in the sugar refinery? A. Directly, about 130, and indirectly about 80.

Q. How many of these do you consider as skilled men? A. I would not say that I do not consider that there are a great many of them who are not skilled.

Q. Can you tell us the difference in the wages paid to skilled and unskilled men? A. The hands I have told you include the whole works—barrel factory and refinery. We have a barrel factory in connection with the refinery, and in it there would be about eighty men, or somewhere the reabout, on an average.

Q. What would be the earnings of these men? A. They get from 90 cents to \$1.20 a day, and you might say a skilled laborer will earn from \$1.25 to \$3 for a day of ten hours.

Q. Are the hands ever obliged to work longer than ten hours? A. Yes; and then they are paid *pro rata*.

Q. What amount do they receive above the ordinary wages when they work extra work at night or make over-time? A. They just get the same rate right through.

Q. They get nothing extra for it, though? A. No.

Q. How frequently are the men obliged to work over-time? A. The business requires them to work certain hours at night. We run from ten hours to thirteen and fourteen hours; some of the hands have to work those long hours. They have their dinner hour at noon and time for meals at night. We have a night-gang and a day-gang.

Q. Do you work all night? A. We have to have a gang there at night to look after the liquors and the chars.

Q. Do the night men receive the same pay as the day men? A. Yes; in the same departments there is no difference in the pay.

Q. Do you change the sifter from day to night, or do you run it the same day and night? A. Sometimes we do, but not generally. Sometimes the firemen make a change.

Q. Is not some portion of your work considered to be severe on the men? A. It is pretty hot—some parts of the refinery; some of the rooms are very warm.

Q. How can the men manage, when they are engaged at work, to protect themselves from draft? I suppose it is necessary for them to cool off? A. If the room is too warm they strip off.

Q. Do you know whether your business has any injurious effect on the health of the men? A. No; of course, if a new man goes to work it is pretty hard on him, but they soon get used to it. We have had some men with us a long time.

Q. Do the men, as a rule, get used to the work? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had any accidents among the men employed in the refinery? A. No; I do not remember of any.

Q. What wages would the men earn who are employed in the cooper shop? A. They go from 90 cents to \$1.25 a day, but the coopers themselves work by piece-work—so much a barrel; they make the barrel and then it is brought into the refinery.

Q. How much a barrel do the coopers receive? A. Five cents a barrel.

Q. Do you keep the coopers constantly employed? A. Well, it just depends on how much we are doing.

Q. Is there any portion of the year that you are obliged to close your workshop down? A. Sometimes we have to shut down to make repairs.

Q. For how long a period do you shut down, usually? A. We might shut down for a week or so.

Q. Do you never shut down any longer than a week? A. We might possibly shut down for a longer period, but we have not done so the last few years.

Q. How many months in the year do the men get work? A. I am not prepared to tell you that.

Q. Do they get work ten months in the year? A. I could not say.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you think that you ever shut up two months in the year, taking one year with another? A. We have not done so for the last couple of years, so far as I can remember; still, I may be mistaken about that.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How frequently are the men paid? A. Once every month—about the 9th.

Q. Is any portion of their wages retained? A. Not in the sugar refinery.

Q. Are they paid up to date? A. Paid square up.

Q. Have the men ever asked for a more frequent pay-day? A. No.

Q. Is there any reason why the men should not be paid more frequently? A. Yes; that is my work, and I know it takes the whole staff of the refinery to make up the pay-sheets; it is considerable work to do.

Q. If it were desirable that the men should be paid more frequently would you find any great difficulty in doing so? A. If it had to be done it could be done; that is about the amount of it; still, as I am placed in that position I can tell you it takes me more than a month to take stock and make up the pay-sheets correctly. We let the men have wood, sometimes, and this has to be deducted from their amounts on the pay-sheet. Sometimes, when they are a little pushed they get a little money, and that makes a little more trouble in making up the sheet, but they always seem satisfied with receiving the month's pay.

Q. Is the giving of the wood to the men considered a part payment of their wages—is it a regular system with you? A. We deduct it from their wages.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You are asked is it a regular system of payment with you, or do you merely give it to them on extra occasions? A. If they want half a cord of wood I give it to them, and deduct it from their wages at the end of the month.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. But they could have the money at the end of the month if they wished? A. Not until pay-day.

Q. Then, the giving of wood to the men is an accommodation? A. It is satisfactory.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Does the company provide wood for these men? A. No; it is cuttings in the cooper shop.

Q. Does the company own the houses in which the men live? A. There is only one house, next to the refinery, that the company owns, and one of the men resides in that house.

Q. Is your refinery connected with the sugar combine? A. Not that I am aware of; not as regards prices.

EDWARD MCSWEENEY, Ulphosterer, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am an ulpholsterer.

Q. Do you make furniture? A. No; ulpholstering.

Q. How many men do you employ in ulpholstering? A. Three.

Q. What are the average wages of an ulpholsterer in Moneton? A. I will give you the wages of the three I employ, in detail. The foreman gets \$2.25 a day and the second man \$1.50, while the third one gets \$2 a week. He is an apprentice.

Q. Is \$2 a week the wages for an apprentice the first year? A. Yes.

Q. What increase do you give him in the second year? A. That all depends upon his capacity to do the work.

Q. Do you indenture your apprentices? A. Not at all.

Q. Do you give the apprentices a chance of learning the trade thoroughly?
A. Yes; if they appear to have an aptitude for it.

Q. Have you got any knowledge of what are the earnings of the men in the furniture trade outside of your own business? A. Not specially.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you any knowledge of the business in Moncton outside of upholstering?
A. I have of carpeting and household furniture.

Q. Do you make the carpetings? A. No; I import them.

Q. Are you a retail dealer in these articles? A. Yes.

Q. Do you employ any clerks in your business? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the earnings of a clerk in Moncton? A. Our head clerk gets \$720 a year, the second one \$475, the third \$368 and the other one \$310, another \$210 and another \$208. We have a boy who gets \$2 a week.

Q. How many hours a day are your clerks obliged to work? A. From 7 o'clock in the morning till 7:30 standard at night. In the winter we close a little earlier, but in the middle of summer we are supposed to close at 7:30 standard, although on Saturdays and nights after pay-days we keep open a little later.

Q. Do the clerks, as a rule, commence work at 7 standard time? A. About that time.

Q. How long has the young man to work who receives \$208 a year? A. The \$208 employé is a lady.

Q. You say the \$208 employé is a lady? A. Yes; and she is on her second year with me.

Q. Does she remain in the store the same hours as the male clerks? A. No; she comes about an hour later in the morning and she goes away a little earlier in the evening.

Q. Is there any portion of the day during which she is permitted to sit down?
A. Yes; at any time she is not busy.

Q. When not engaged in business she can sit down? A. Yes.

JONATHAN WEIR, Iron Machinist, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What business are you engaged in? A. I run a machine shop.

Q. Wood-working or iron-working machinery? A. Iron work.

Q. How many men do you employ? A. About twelve.

Q. What wages does the general machinist earn in Moncton? I pay from \$8 to \$12 a week.

Q. What class of work would the men be engaged in who work at \$8 a week?
A. They would be engaged at turning-lathes, or something like that; they would be engaged at a drill.

Q. Would the average earnings in Moncton be from \$8 to \$12 a week? A. I think so.

Q. I mean of a machinist? A. Yes.

Q. Do your men find constant employment all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in getting good, skilled men to work at your business? A. Yes.

Q. How many hours a day do your men work? A. Ten.

Q. You say you find difficulty in getting good, skilled men to work at your business? A. I wanted good skilled men this winter and I could not get any.

Q. Do you take on any apprentices? A. Yes.

- Q. What wages do the apprentices get while learning their trade? A. I pay \$2 a week the first year, \$2.50 the second, \$3 the third and \$4 the fourth.
- Q. Do the boys when serving their apprenticeship learn their trade perfectly, or only a portion of it? A. They learn all the work that is done in the shop.
- Q. Do you do any engine building at all? A. Yes; occasionally.
- Q. Have you any men specially engaged for that purpose? A. No.
- Q. Do your ordinary machine hands do that work? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you employ any laboring men about the shop? A. Yes.
- Q. What wages do they get? A. We give them from \$1 to \$1.20 a day.
- Q. And what wages do the engineers get? A. I have no regular engineer; one of the apprentices takes that part of the work—I should say the youngest apprentice.
- Q. Then you do not consider it necessary to employ an engineer to run that branch of the business? A. I do not.
- Q. Has the apprentice full charge of the boiler, too? A. No; we keep an oversight over it and try to keep it clean.
- Q. Are your men generally careful about the machines? A. They are.
- Q. Have you ever met with any accidents? A. No; we have never had any accidents happen from the machinery.

SAMUEL WINTER, Tinsmith and Stove Dealer, called sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. What is your business? A. I am a tinsmith, stove dealer and coal dealer.
- Q. Do you employ many tinsmiths? A. Not many.
- Q. What wages are there paid to a good tinsmith in Moncton? A. An apprentice will get \$1.50 the first year, \$2.50 the second, \$3.50 the third, and \$4.50 a week the fourth year.
- Q. Do the apprentices serve four years? A. Yes.
- Q. What wages are there paid to a good journeyman? A. One dollar and twenty-five cents to one dollar and seventy-five cents a day.
- Q. How many hours a day do they work? A. Ten hours.
- Q. Is a tinsmith that gets \$1.75 a day capable of making a stove—the furniture—and doing outside work? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you employ any japanners? A. Yes.
- Q. Where do you import your tin from? A. Some from Canada and some from St. John. I used to get it from the States, but since the introduction of the National Policy I have got it all in Canada.
- Q. Is the article you now get in Canada as good as that you formerly imported from the States? A. It is getting better all the time and it is quite equal to the American tin now; it is working up all the time.
- Q. Do you indenture your apprentices? A. No.
- Q. Do they generally stay with you after they have served out their time? A. A. Sometimes they do; sometimes not.
- Q. Can you tell us whether the condition of the workingmen of Moncton is a prosperous one? A. Fairly so.
- Q. Do many of them own their own houses? A. Quite a few of them do.
- Q. Do you pay your men fortnightly? A. I pay them weekly.
- Q. In full and in cash? A. Yes; always.
- Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles with your tinsmith? A. No.
- Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles? A. No.

JOHN WALMSLEY, Overseer of Weavers, Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am overseer of the weavers.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you mean in the cotton mill here? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How long have you been the overseer in the weaving department? A. About twelve years.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. But the gentleman means in this mill here? A. I have been overseer about five years here.

Q. There is only one cotton mill in Moncton? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How many women have you employed in the weaving room? A. Between thirty and forty.

Q. How many children are there in that room? A. There are somewhere about eighteen or nineteen in the weaving department.

Q. Are any of these children under twelve years of age? A. I do not think we have any under that age; twelve years is about the youngest we have.

Q. How many hours a day are they required to be at work? A. They commence work at 6:30 in the morning and work till 6 at night, with an hour for dinner.

Q. Do you work the same hours all the days of the week? A. Yes; except Saturday, when the hands get off at 3 o'clock.

Q. Can you tell us for what offences fines are imposed in the weaving room? A. Inferior work; bad work.

Q. Is this bad work always the fault of the weavers? A. Not always; we do not fine them unless it is their fault.

Q. Is it possible to trace all the circumstances connected with bad work? A. Yes.

Q. How frequently are fines imposed on operatives in your mill? A. Whenever they bring bad work it is turned over to me, and I pronounce judgment upon it. I do not fine them for the first offence and sometimes not for the second, but if they bring bad work pretty often, then I will impose a small fine of 10 cents.

Q. Are the fines imposed entirely at your discretion? A. The imposition of fines is entirely at my discretion.

Q. Are there any rules in the factory stating what these fines will be imposed for? A. There are not.

Q. Are the employés told at the time of their engagement at the mill that they will be fined for these offences? A. I give them warning when I first take them on.

Q. At the time the fines are imposed are the operatives told of it, or do they have to wait till pay-day to find out? A. I tell them of it at once.

Q. What work are the children engaged at in your mill? A. Drawers and reachers.

Q. Are they kept constantly employed all the day? A. Not always; sometimes two hours at a warp.

Q. Do the weavers lose much time waiting for warp? A. Sometimes they do, and sometimes they are kept pretty steady at work; at other times they get a little behind.

Q. Do you ever experience any difficulty in getting skilled operatives to work in your department? A. Yes; we have got to teach them.

Q. Have you any female operatives in your department who take charge of six looms? A. No; I generally let them stand for a little while.

Q. Do you generally work four looms? A. Yes; but some work six.

Q. Are these women operatives allowed a helper or tender? A. No.

- Q. Do I understand you to say they are not allowed one? A. They are not.
- Q. They have to look after the six looms themselves? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you not think that is a considerable tax to place on one person? A. Yes; but the hands like to do it.
- Q. I suppose for the additional pay they get? A. Yes; for the money they get out of it.
- Q. Do you find that a person engaged on six looms is more apt to make bad work than a person working on four looms? A. No.
- Q. Are the children well treated in your department? A. I think they are.
- Q. Have you ever seen any of them kicked, cuffed or abused in any way? A. No.
- Q. Are any fines imposed on the children? A. There are none imposed on the children.
- Q. How many minutes' grace are the operatives in your mill allowed in the morning before the door is locked upon them? A. Sometimes about five minutes.
- Q. Have you any special rule in regard to the matter? A. No.
- Q. Will they be able to get in if the door is locked? A. Yes.
- Q. What length of time after the door is locked? A. Any time after the door is locked, for there is a private door at which they may come in.
- Q. How much are they supposed to lose if they come late? A. I do not know, for they are all on piece-work.
- Q. All of them? A. Yes; all of them on piece-work.
- Q. Then they can go to work at any time? A. Yes; all on piece-work can.
- Q. Is the overseer of the spinningroom present? A. No.
- By Mr. CLARKE :—
- Q. Who is the overseer of the spinning room? A. Mr. Rodden.
- By Mr. HEAKES :—
- Q. Can you tell us whether the operatives in the spinning room are generally well treated? A. I do not know, for I can only speak for my own room.
- Q. On what story is your room? A. On the bottom.
- Q. Is there water for drinking purposes there? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know whether there is water in all the stories of the building? A. Yes.
- Q. Then you do not have to run from the top to the bottom of the mill for water? A. No.
- By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—
- Q. Are the women weavers allowed to sit down while at work for a rest? A. Yes; some have time to sit down; they can sit down when all is right.
- By the CHAIRMAN :—
- Q. You do not object to their sitting down? A. No; not when they are tried.

JOHN FIELDING, Weaver, Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a weaver.
- Q. Are you employed in the same flat in the cotton mill as the last witness? A. Yes.
- Q. Are the weavers kept constantly employed in the mill? A. No; I do not think so; not for a short time this last month or two.
- Q. Do you lose a great deal of time waiting for warps? A. No.
- Q. What was the cause of the short time? A. Bad trade.
- Q. Has the mill been closed down at any time? A. Yes; closed down last week.
- Q. For how long? A. For a week.

- Q. As a rule, do you lose much time during the whole year from the mill being closed? A. No; not much.
- Q. Do you work by the piece? A. Yes.
- Q. How many looms do you tend? A. I attend six.
- Q. What class of cloth are you engaged in making? A. Fourteen and twelve picks.
- Q. How much a cut do you get for that? A. Twenty-three and twenty-six cents.
- Q. How many can you turn out in a day? A. From four to six.
- Q. Are you paid by the month or not? A. By the fortnight.
- Q. What are the average wages that you would earn for a fortnight? A. As near as I can come to it, about \$7.50.
- Q. Is that for a week or a fortnight? A. For a week.
- Q. Is the mill comfortable to work in in the winter? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you ever suffer from cold? A. No.
- Q. Do you know whether the children in the mill are well treated? A. Yes; they are.
- Q. Are any of the children kicked, cuffed or clubbed about? A. No; not at all.
- Q. Do you know whether the language used to the female operatives is at all times decent? A. I do not understand you?
- Q. Have you heard any bad language ever used towards any of the operatives of the mill? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.
- Q. How many of a family have you? A. One child.
- Q. Do you pay house rent? A. No.
- Q. Got your own house? A. Yes.
- Q. Did you pay for it out of your own earnings? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you think a man of a family can live comfortable and save anything on \$7.50 a week? A. And pay house rent?
- Q. Yes? A. He can pay house rent and live comfortable on that.
- Q. And support a family? A. And support a small family, I guess.
- Q. How much would a man pay for a house in the immediate locality of his work—say for a house of five or six rooms? A. Do you mean, how much they have to pay for a house of five or six rooms?
- Q. Yes? A. About \$6 or \$8 a month.
- Q. Would he occupy the entire house, or apartments in it—would there be any flats in the building? A. There would not.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q. Would it be a house by itself that he would rent for that sum? A. Yes; a house by itself.

By Mr. CARSON:—

- Q. Do many of the working men of Moncton own their own houses? A. Do you mean in Moncton?
- Q. Yes? A. Some of the men in the Government works may; I suppose they do.

WM. RIPPEY, Foreman Record's Foundry, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a foundryman.
- Q. Have you a foundry of your own? A. No.
- Q. Where do you work? A. In Record's foundry.
- Q. What particular branch of work in the foundry are you engaged in? A. I am engaged as foreman.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q. What particular branch of the work do you do? A. I am a moulder.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Are you a moulder yourself? A. Yes.

Q. What hours do moulders work in Moncton? A. Generally about ten.

Q. What wages do they receive for ten hours' work? A. A great deal is owing to the quality of the men.

Q. Are they paid piece-work? A. No; certain classes of men are paid piece-work—those working on stove-plate.

Q. What would be the average earnings of a stove-plate moulder in a week? A. From \$2 to \$2.50 a day.

Q. Would that be a good average for the stove-plate men? A. Yes.

Q. What do machinery-moulders earn? A. Machinery-moulders are paid from \$1.50 to \$2 a day.

Q. What kind of a moulder would a man be that would only earn \$1.50 a day? A. He would be what we call a third-rate moulder here.

Q. Then he would not be a good general hand? A. No.

Q. He would be more of a helper than anything else? A. He would be able and competent to take charge of a floor and do a certain class of work.

Q. Do you put men on certain classes of work who are not considered skilled moulders? A. We do.

Q. Laboring men? A. We put laboring men on some work.

Q. Do you take a handy man out of the shop and put him on plain work? A. We do.

Q. How many men would there be employed at \$1.50 a day? A. In the shop I am in at present I think there are about two.

Q. How many men are there employed in the shop altogether? A. Do you mean in the moulding department?

Q. Yes? A. There is somewhere between eighteen and nineteen; that is, boys and men—apprentices and men.

Q. How many apprentices have you in your shop? A. Five.

Q. That would be five apprentices to two third-rate men out of fourteen? A. No; out of nineteen.

Q. What wages do the furnace-men earn? A. The highest wages we pay is \$1.50 a day.

Q. What would be the lowest wages that a furnace man would earn? A. A new beginner gets \$1.30 to \$1.40 a day.

Q. How much do laboring men who work about the shop earn? A. We have not got any.

Q. Have the furnace men to do all the breaking up and carrying in of the iron? A. They have.

Q. Have you an engineer employed in your foundry? A. Yes.

Q. What wages does he get? A. I could not say exactly what he gets; somewhere between \$1.30 and \$1.40 a day.

Q. Is he a skilled engineer or a handy man about an engine? A. He is a practical machinist.

Q. Is your shop warm and comfortable in the winter? A. Yes.

Q. Does the sand ever freeze there? A. Yes; it does sometimes, when it is very cold at night—especially Sunday night.

Q. Is it warm enough for the men to keep warm without wearing any extra clothing? A. Yes; they work in their shirt sleeves.

Q. Is there any place provided in the foundry where the men can change their clothes? A. There is not.

Q. Do they have to change them in the open foundry? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you think that a wash-room, where the men could change their clothing and wash themselves in before going out in the street, would be appreciated by them? A. I think it would.

Q. Do you think the men would take advantage of the wash-room? A. I think so; I think a great many of them would, as some of them wash in the shop now.

Q. How many months in the year do stove-plate moulders work in the store, on an average? A. They work twelve.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do they work all the year round? A. Yes; except a week or two in the holiday season.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Have you charge of the machinery department? A. I have.

Q. Are the hands in that department paid by the piece or the week? A. They are paid by the week.

Q. What would be the average wages paid machinery workers by the week? A. A good moulder is paid \$2 a day.

Q. Is \$2 the average wages paid to machinery moulders? A. No; there are about three grades of wages in the shop for machinery moulders.

Q. Will you name them? A. \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$2.

Q. Are they always kept busy throughout the year, the same as the stove-plate moulders? A. No; not always.

Q. Do you make any agricultural implements in your shop? A. Very little.

Q. Have you got any agricultural implement moulders in your shop? A. No; we do very little of that kind of work here.

Q. Do many of the moulders own their own houses? A. No; not at the present time—that is, of the men we have working for us, none of them own their own houses.

Q. When an apprentice has served his time does he generally stay with you? A. They generally do.

Q. Have you the privilege of discharging the men in the foundry? A. I have.

Q. Are you opposed to the employing of moulders who belong to the International Moulders' Society? A. No; it does not make any difference to me who or what they are, as long as they do their work.

Q. Are your hands paid weekly or fortnightly? A. Weekly.

Q. What day of the week is pay-day? A. Saturday.

Q. Do the men consider Saturday a much better day for pay-day than any other day in the week? A. I do not know that it is any better than any other day, but it has always been customary to pay on Saturday around here.

Q. Have you got a milling-room in connection with your foundry? A. Yes.

Q. How is the milling-room ventilated? A. It is ventilated most every day; it is ventilated top, bottom and sides, and every way possible.

Q. Is it very dusty? A. No; it is not dusty. The mill is closed in all round and the dust is always confined inside.

Q. Where do you find a market for your goods—in the upper Provinces—or is your trade a local one? A. We find a market all over the three Provinces.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you sell in Quebec? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Is your business on the increase—I mean, the output? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. When you take an apprentice on at stove-plate moulding do you teach him the whole stove? A. Yes.

Q. Do you find many moulders coming to work who cannot make the whole stove? A. No; not unless we get hold of one that comes by chance from the United States.

Q. Whenever you get a new pattern of a stove, and do not know the price to place upon it, do the stove-plate moulders have a say about what it is worth for them to make it? A. We generally make a price and they agree.

Q. Do you generally have a conference with the chairman beforehand? A. We generally average the price on a stove of a similar design, and make the price about the same.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles in your shop? A. No.

PETER DUXBERRY, Spinner, Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a cotton spinner.

Q. How long have you been engaged in that work? A. Four years and a-half in this town.

Q. Did you learn the business here? A. No.

Q. What wages do you receive? A. About \$10.50 a week.

Q. Are you constantly employed? A. No; we have not been the last nine months.

Q. How much time have you lost within the last eight months, averaging one month with another? A. I could not speak of that, but we have lost some little time the last eight months.

Q. When you are kept constantly employed how much can you earn a week? A. Ten dollars and a-half a week.

Q. Can you tell what would be the lowest you have earned in the last three months? A. Seven dollars a week.

Q. Have you frequently earned as low as that? A. No; not frequently as low as that.

Q. Would that be for want of material to go on with the orders? A. No; want of orders.

Q. Has the mill been kept running all the time they have had orders on hand? A. I guess so.

Q. Have all the hands been kept on during the last eight months, or have only a portion of them been kept on? A. They have all been kept on.

Q. Can you tell us if there are any fines imposed in the room you are employed in? A. No; there are no fines imposed.

Q. Have you any small boys or girls working in that room? A. I have two boys under me.

Q. Would that be all the boys there are in the room? A. No; we have two boys to one pair of mules; each pair of mules has two boys.

Q. Can you tell us what would be the age of the youngest boy? A. About fourteen.

Q. What would be the age of the girls? A. I have no girls working with me.

Q. Are there none in the room? A. There are girls in the room, but none under me.

Q. Can you tell us what would be the age of the youngest girl? A. No; I cannot tell you their ages.

Q. Do they work the same hours as they do in the weaving room? A. Yes; the same hours.

Q. Is the machinery sufficiently well protected? A. Yes; our machinery is very well protected.

Q. Has there ever been any death or accident in your room? A. No.

Q. Are the children permitted to sit down at any time during the day? A. My boys do.

Q. That is to give them a chance to rest? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever heard them complain of being worked hard? A. No.

Q. Have you ever seen any of them ill-treated? A. I have not.

- Q. Did you learn the business in the old country? A. Yes.
- Q. Did you have any agreement made to come out here before you came out?
A. Yes.
- Q. Did you make it in the old country? A. Yes.
- Q. Who did you make it with? A. With the former manager, who is now gone away; Mr. Richards was his name.
- By Mr. McLEAN:—
- Q. Was an agreement made about the wages you should receive? A. No.
- Q. Did you receive your passage out here? A. No; I paid my own way out.
- By Mr. HEAKES:—
- Q. Did you work two spinners in England? A. I did not.
- Q. How did the wages compare here with there? A. About the same; there is not much difference.
- Q. Can a man do any better here on the same wages than he could in England?
A. I do not think he could.
- Q. Do you think it costs you as much to live here as there? A. The coal here is higher and the rent is dearer; I find rent very much higher here.
- Q. How do you find provisions? A. Meat is cheaper here.
- Q. Then you think you are no better off here, at the same wages, than you were in England? A. No.

ISIDORE LÉGARÉ, Card Grinder, Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. What is your business? A. I am a card grinder, and I work in the cotton mill.
- Q. Are you the only grinder in the mill? A. Yes.
- Q. What wages does a man in your business receive? A. Who? Do you mean me?
- Q. Yes; what do you get? A. I am getting \$1.25 a day.
- Q. Do you get constant employment all year round? A. We stopped last week for a week.
- Q. Are you kept going all year round, as a rule? A. No; when I am not working I do not get any pay.
- Q. Do you work the same hours as the rest of the operatives in the cotton mill?
A. Yes.
- Q. Have you any one to help you? A. Yes; I have a helper.
- Q. Is he a boy or a man? A. A man.
- Q. What wages does he get? A. He gets \$1 a day generally.
- Q. Does he work all the year round? A. He works the same time that I do.
- Q. Do you find \$1.25 a day sufficient to keep you and your family comfortable?
A. I have not got my family here.
- Q. And so you do not have to keep them here, then? A. No.
- By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—
- Q. How long have you been working in the mill? A. I have been working in the mill going on six years now.
- Q. Did you say six years? A. Yes.
- Q. What would be your average earnings during those six years? A. I do not know.
- Q. Take the whole year through, and what would your average be? A. I don't know as I have got that.
- Q. During the last six years would you, every year, taking one after the other, get \$300 a year? A. Yes; just about that.

GEORGE B. JONES, Wood-working Machinist, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a machinist in a machine shop.

Q. Wood shop? A. Yes.

Q. What are the wages of a good wood-working machinist here? A. I get \$2 a day for eight months in the year, and the other four months I lose 25 cents a day of a cut; after that we run on short hours for a month or so.

Q. Would \$2 be a good average for machine hands in Moncton? A. It is not very high; I should not think it would keep them when they could get other places.

Q. How much less do the men receive than that? A. I generally receive \$2 the year round.

Q. All of the men? A. Do you mean do all of the men get \$2?

Q. Yes? A. No; not all of them.

Q. What are the lowest wages that machinists get in Moncton? A. I hardly know; some of them get from \$1.40 to \$1.50 a day.

Q. Are those men who get \$1.40 and \$1.50 a day considered to be good, skilled machinists? A. Not always.

Q. Would they be men who are capable of taking charge of the machine properly and looking after it? A. No.

Q. Would they be men who had just learned to run an engine? A. Yes.

Q. Are there many first-class wood-working machinists employed in Moncton? A. I do not know, I am sure; quite a few of them.

Q. What hours do you work in the summer time? A. We work ten hours.

Q. And what hours in winter? A. We work nine hours; there may be a space of two months, or so, that we work a little later than that.

Q. Do you work nine hours all through the winter? A. May be not for two months in the winter.

Q. Do you find constant employment at your trade in Moncton? A. Yes.

Q. Are the men, as a rule, kept on all through the winter months? A. It is just according to the work; sometimes some of them lose a month or so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are you the foreman of the shop? A. No.

Q. Are you a journeyman? A. Yes.

ARTHUR AMBROSE, Employé, Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What do you work at? A. I work in the cotton mill.

Q. How long have you worked there? A. About four years.

Q. What wages do you get? A. Forty cents a day.

Q. What wages did you get when you first went there? A. Thirty cents a day.

Q. You have been there four years now? A. Yes.

Q. And you only get 40 cents now? A. I do.

Q. What work do you do? A. Spinning.

Q. What age are you now? A. I am fifteen years old.

Q. Are there many boys younger than you working in the mill? A. Yes; there are quite a lot.

Q. Then you went to work at the mill when you were eleven years old? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any boys of that age working there now? A. I do not know of any there now.

Q. Have you been well treated in the mill? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever paid any fines? A. No; I have not paid any fines, that I know off.

Q. Do you know if any of the boys in your room have paid any fines? A. I do not know of any of them paying fines.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. During the time that you have been working in the mill have you ever known any of the boys to be cuffed or slapped by the foreman or the manager? A. No.

JOSEPH GARSIDE, Operative, Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you work in the cotton mill? A. Yes.

Q. In what department? A. The cloth department.

Q. Are there many young men working there? A. There are only two young men there; there are three in the shop altogether, besides my assistant and myself; that makes five altogether in our room.

Q. Do you measure the cloth? A. I ship the cotton out and have charge of the cotton produced from the weaver.

Q. How long have you been engaged there? A. I have been four years and a-half in this mill.

Q. What might your salary be? A. Ten dollars a week.

Q. What is the average salary of those hands working in the cloth department?
A. Some of them have \$3.50; they are females. The young man who is my assistant gets \$7 a week.

Q. Are there many boys in your room? A. One.

Q. How old might he be? A. Sixteen.

Q. How old would the youngest girl be who is working in your department?

A. About nineteen or twenty—young women.

Q. Do they carry any of the web? A. No.

Q. Do they do any lifting? A. They just handle the cotton around; that is all.

Q. Lifting the webs is too heavy work for the women? A. It is.

Q. Then they do not do any heavy work? A. No.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Is the folding done in the cloth room? A. It is.

Q. Do these young women have charge of the folding machines? A. No.

Q. Are they run by the men? A. Yes.

W. R. PARKER, Foreman, Wood-working Factory, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am foreman of the wood-working factory.

Q. Do you make sashes and doors? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do you receive? A. Two dollars and ten cents a day.

Q. Do you have to lay out all the work for the men? A. Not all; some.

Q. Do you have charge of the shop generally? A. Yes.

Q. What do first-class carpenters and joiners who are working on the bench earn in Moncton? A. From \$1.50 to \$2 a day.

Q. What would be the average earnings they would make? A. The average would probably be \$1.60 a day.

Q. How many of them would get as much as \$1.75 a day? A. Very few in the shop that I am in.

Q. Have you got special men engaged for sash and door work? A. We have.

Q. Have you one man that makes that his department? A. We have one man that generally makes the sashes.

Q. What wages would he get? A. About \$1.40 a day, I think.

Q. Is there a man specially working on blinds? A. No; we do not make a speciality of that. We do not make very many blinds in Moncton—only occasionally.

Q. Are all your men engaged in house work? A. Yes; we do general work.

Q. Can you tell us what are the wages of outside hands? A. They get, I think, about \$1.50; some of them get \$1.60 and \$1.75; it is all according to the ability of the men.

Q. Do you know of any men in the town that are considered to be first-class men who are getting \$1.30 a day? A. No; I do not know of any first-class men who are getting \$1.30

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You mean to say that the first-class men get more than that? A. I think so—yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Are the same wages paid in winter as in the summer? A. Sometimes they are reduced a little in the winter.

Q. How much a day would the reduction be in the winter wages and those of the summer? A. Perhaps 5 or 10 per cent; probably 5 per cent.

Q. Why are the carpenters not working so much in the summer? A. Generally because there is not so much work doing, and because, as a rule, it takes a man longer to do the same amount of work in winter, especially in our line of business.

Q. Is your shop warm and comfortable? A. Pretty fairly warm.

Q. Does a man have to work extra hard to keep himself warm? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How long have you been in Moncton? A. It is about thirteen years since I first came to the place.

Q. Are you familiar with the working classes in this town? A. Rather.

Q. Is there much business done in Moncton, that is paid for by notes—any small debts? Is there much business of that kind done by notes? A. I do not do much of it myself.

Q. Is there any of it done in this town? A. I do not know that there is any.

Q. Do you know if there is any at all done? A. I could not say about that, for I am not familiar enough with people's business of that kind.

Q. Then you do not know whether many of the working-men use notes in payment of debts? A. I do not know that there are many doing so.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you know whether the men are always paid in cash? A. I think they are, unless they agree to take something besides cash.

Q. Are they sometimes asked to take something besides cash in pay? A. I do not know that they are ever asked to do so.

Q. Do you know if any of the men in Moncton have been partly paid with orders on stores? A. Not in my time, that I know of.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You do not know of anything of that kind being done? A. I do not know, of my own knowledge, of it being done.

ROBERT JOHNSTON, Carpenter, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a carpenter.

Q. Do you work in the same shop as the last witness? A. Yes.

Q. Do you agree with his statement as to wages? A. I do not get what he says.

Q. What wages do you receive? A. I get \$1.25 now.

Q. Do you consider yourself a good hand? A. I have got recommendations as a first-class workman.

Q. Do you know if there are many men working for less than \$1.25 a day in Moncton? A. I do not think they do this year.

Q. Have there been any this winter? A. Not as I know of.

Q. What were your wages last summer? A. One dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q. When were they reduced? A. I could not tell you, as I do not work steady in the shop; I am shut off in the slack time.

Q. Do you find pretty constant employment at the trade here? A. I have only been here about six months, so I could hardly tell you whether carpenters get steady employment or not.

Q. Have you any knowledge of what the wages are in other shops besides the one you are in? A. No; not at all.

Q. Do you work on the bench? A. Yes.

Q. Do you have to get your own work out? A. No; we generally have to dress it out after it goes through the planer.

Q. Do you get a detail of the work from the foreman? A. We do.

Q. Does the foreman furnish all the items for you? A. Yes.

Q. Does he get all the work together for you? A. Yes.

JANE ASHWORTH, Operative, Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you work in the cotton mill? A. Yes.

Q. In what department? A. In the weaving room.

Q. How many looms do you run? A. Six.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Nine and a-half.

Q. If you worked a week steady what would be your salary? A. Seven dollars and a-half a week.

Q. Do you find six looms as much as you could manage? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any fines imposed in the weavingroom? A. No.

Q. Are there no fines imposed for bad work? A. There are not.

Q. Are there any rules posted in your room? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any little girls in your room? A. Yes.

Q. How old might the youngest of them be? A. About twelve years old.

Q. Is there a foreman or manager in your room? A. Yes.

Q. Does he always use proper language to the young girls in the room? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any young boys in the room? A. Yes.

Q. Have any of the young boys been ill-treated, cuffed or slapped by the foreman at any time? A. No.

Q. What length of time are you allowed for dinner? A. One hour.

Q. Do any of the hands eat their dinner in the room? A. Yes.

Q. Is the ventilation good during the summer? A. Yes.

Q. Is the room warm during the winter? A. Yes.

Q. Is there drinking water in the building? A. Yes.

Q. Is there drinking water on the same flat as your room? A. Yes.

Q. Do the doors of your room leading out into the street open inwards or outwards? A. They open inwards.

Q. Is it one straight stairway, or are there turns in it? A. It is a winding stair.

Q. Are any of the wages kept back from the young women? A. No.

Q. Are they paid up in full? A. Yes.

Q. How many months in a year, on an average, are the weavers kept going? A. They have been earning very little of late; I have only been in Moncton ten months and the mill has been running short eight months of that time.

Q. If the machinery breaks down through no fault of the weavers have the hands to work over-time to make it up? A. No.

Q. Do they work over-time at all? A. They do not.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you ever worked in any other cotton mill before you came to Moncton?
A. Valleyfield Mill, Montreal.

Q. Did you earn better wages in Valleyfield than here? A. I earned about the same as here.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you belong here or there? A. I was born in England.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Did you ever work in a cotton mill in England? A. Yes; but I only worked four looms in England.

Q. Do you think cotton mill hands are better off here than there? A. Well, it is this way: you can run six looms here and only four in England; I can manage to run that number.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What do women have to pay in Moncton for good, wholesome board? A. From \$2 to \$2.50 a week.

ANNIE VAIL, Stitcher, Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you work in the cotton mill here? A. Yes.

Q. What part of the mill do you work in? A. The spinning department.

Q. What wages do you earn? A. Seven dollars and twenty cents for a fortnight—that is, for full time.

Q. What have you earned there lately? A. Well, we are earning now \$7.20, and sometimes \$6 a fortnight.

Q. Have you ever made any less than \$6? A. No; not to my knowledge.

Q. Have you anything in the way of bad treatment to complain of? A. I have not.

Q. Is everything nice and comfortable in the mill? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any bad language used towards the females by the foreman? A. No; not in my room.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there any little girls working in your room? A. There are.

Q. What might the age of the youngest be? A. I do not know exactly; I think about fourteen.

Q. Are there any small boys there? A. I do not know of any boys.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Are there no boys working in your room? A. Yes; there are boys in our room, but they are away from me; I do not know anything about them.

RUTH VAIL, Carder, Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you work in the cotton mill here? A. Yes.

Q. What department do you work in? A. The carding room.

Q. What do you earn in the carding room? A. Four dollars, and four dollars and fifty cents.

Q. Do you make that constantly when you are making full time? A. We have been making short time lately, but we generally get that a week.

Q. What would be the lowest you have earned in the last four or five months?
A. I hardly know.

Q. Do you ever get as low as \$4 a week? A. Yes; we get that, and sometimes less than that.

Q. Does the mill close down altogether any time in the year? A. No; not since I have been working in it.

Q. How long have you been there? A. Four years.

Q. Is \$4.50 a week the wages all the women in your room earn? A. No; some of them make as high as \$7 a week.

Q. What would they be working at? A. Some work at different parts; I spin.

Q. Are the rooms nice and comfortable in the winter? A. Yes.

Q. Is every care taken to provide for the care of the hands? A. Everything is very comfortable.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Can the little girls in your department read and write? A. There are no little girls in my room.

Q. Do the young women in your room get all the holidays that occur during the year? A. All of them; all they want.

Q. Are they paid for the holidays? A. No.

Q. Are there any fines imposed in your room? A. No; not any.

ANNIE TOWER, Spinner, Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do you work in the cotton mill? A. Yes.

Q. What department of the mill do you work in? A. The spinning department.

Q. Do you do the same work as the last witness? A. No; I do top-spinning.

Q. How much do you earn? A. Seven dollars and twenty cents a fortnight.

Q. How long have you been at that work? A. Going on four years.

Q. What did you get when you first commenced? A. Six dollars a month.

Q. Did you say \$6 a month? A. Yes.

Q. That would be \$3 a fortnight? A. Yes.

Q. Would that be what most of the women get in your room? A. That is what most of the spinners get.

Q. Do you expect to learn any other branch of the business than spinning? A. No; not in the mill I am in now.

Q. Then you will remain in the spinning room? A. Yes.

Q. Are there many little girls working in that room? A. There are not many.

Q. Do you know what would be the age of the youngest girl? A. Fourteen, I think.

Q. Are the children well treated in the mill? A. Yes.

Q. You have no complaints to make about treatment in the mill? A. No; not at all.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do many of the girls in the mill pay their own board? A. Quite a number.

Q. Do you know what they pay for board? A. One dollar and fifty cents a week, I think, most of them pay; from that up.

Q. Do you think that they find it rather hard to pay for their board and clothe themselves? A. I do not know about that, I am sure.

JOSEPH HOWARD, Soap-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a soap manufacturer.

Q. Do you manufacture laundry soaps? A. Yes.

Q. Do you make any fancy soaps? A. No; nothing but laundry soaps; we also make paint.

Q. What do the soap-boilers earn, or what can they earn in Moncton? A. One dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q. Do they have full charge of the whole building? A. They do.

Q. Do you cut your soap by machinery? A. By machinery.

Q. What do you pay the men helpers around the soap factory? A. We pay laborers about \$1 a day.

A. Have you any boys? A. Yes; the boys get about 50 cents a day.

Q. What are the boys working at? A. Just packing the soap.

Q. Do you make your own boxes? A. Yes; we buy some.

Q. Do you keep a man specially engaged for that purpose? A. No; it is just a laboring man that does that work.

Q. How many men have you employed at paint-making? A. We keep three, ordinarily.

Q. What do they earn? A. They average \$1 a day.

Q. Do you put your paints up in tins? A. No; in barrels—dry paint.

Q. Do you do any other business besides the making of soap and paint? A. I do not.

Q. Do you do any rendering? A. No.

Q. Then you do not go into the tallow business at all? A. No.

Q. Do you use machinery for stamping your soap? A. We do.

Q. Do boys tend to that part of the work? A. A man and a boy.

Q. What does the boy get? A. About 50 cents a day.

Q. Have you any girls employed in the factory? A. None at all.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. How old might the youngest boy be in your employ? A. I presume about twelve years old; I cannot speak accurately.

Q. Do you find much demand for your paints here? A. It is something new with us here.

Q. Is it a local trade that you do in paints? A. Yes.

Q. How often do you pay your men? A. Every Saturday night.

Q. Do you pay them in cash? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Where do you get your stock of tallow from? A. Some we get in the United States and some we get right here in this city.

Q. Do you import potash? A. Some comes from England; the chemicals we get from England altogether.

Q. Where do you sell your goods? A. The Maritime Provinces generally.

Q. Do you ship any west? A. We ship our goods all through the Maritime Provinces.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do you use any palm-oil or glycerine in the manufacture of your soaps? A. No.

ALFRED STEVENS, Manufacturer of Hosiery, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What business do you follow? A. I am a manufacturer of hosiery.

Q. How many hands have you employed in the business? A. About thirty.

Q. Are they principally women? A. They are nearly all women; we employ a few boys.

Q. Do you employ any young girls? A. The youngest we have is about sixteen years old.

Q. How many hours a day are your hands employed? A. I think we average about nine hours; we are supposed to get in ten hours, but we do not put it in, as a rule.

Q. Are the hands constantly employed all the year? A. They have all they can do, for we give them steady employment.

Q. What would the earnings of these women amount to? A. They work the most of them on piece-work, so the week's wages vary a great deal. New beginners may perhaps earn as low as 50 cents, and they run up to \$5 and \$5.50.

Q. When a woman becomes skilled at the business what would be her average wages? A. She can make about \$4 to \$4.50 a week at knitting.

Q. Would the girls that get 50 cents a week be the younger ones? A. Some of them are, and some of them are larger, but for the first week just commencing they would only earn that sum.

Q. How long does it take them to get proficient? A. They become very good knitters in two or three weeks.

Q. Has each one of them to take charge of one knitting machine, or of several? A. Just one; our machines are worked by hand-power.

Q. Are the employes subject to any fines for spoiled work? A. No; we never fine them.

Q. Have you any other class of employes except those who attend to the knitting machines? A. We have what we call closers and those that wind.

Q. Are they able to earn as much as those who are in charge of a machine? A. We give winders from \$2 to \$2.50 a week on hosiery work, and on piece-work they make all kinds of prices. Everything depends on whether they make a neat closure. Some of them make about \$4 a week.

Q. Would that be about the highest they would earn? A. Not always; sometimes they go above that.

Q. Do they ever work over-time? A. No; we have never worked any over-time; we have never put in any more than twelve hours a day.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you do any machinery work? A. Our machines are all run by hand-work; we do not use any power.

Q. Do any of your hands do crocheting or tatting? A. No; they do not do anything but make hosiery and socks.

Q. What do you pay a girl when she goes on first? A. When we first take a girl on for the first week she will not earn very much, but the second week she will earn something, and the third week she will get quite a job. Then she will learn so that I have to pay her pretty well. I do not pay my hands anything much for some time after they begin to work, but as soon as they have made anything that is saleable we pay them well for it.

Q. Do you ever find your beginners who are coming to ask for work are girls who have never learned anything about knitting or sewing at school? A. I do not think there is anything of that kind taught in the schools here; we have had girls come in for work who never saw a knitting machine before they came to our place, but some of them have become very good knitters in two or three weeks.

Q. Do you think that if young girls were taught that kind of work, to a certain extent, in school, they would become more expert at it when they began to follow the business for a living? A. I think very likely they would.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is there anything that you could make known to the Commission with reference to your business that has not been brought out by the questions asked? A. We commenced this business three years ago and we have tried to carry it on the same line as an old company that failed here before. We are supposed to pay the same prices for work that they did and are using the same machines that they used. We use the Cuttle and World Star machine. The World star machine is made in Georgetown, Ont., and the Cuttle machine is an American one. We use some of the machines that they used. We use the Clapham machines that were there in the time of the old company. We also use the Universal knitting machines. They had a machine there for that purpose, and we undertook to use it, but we are not using it now.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Where do you get your material from? A. We buy our wool and yarn from mills in the country, and some from the old country. We have bought yarn from other companies, and we have got some cotton yarn from Mr. Parks, in St. John.

Q. Do you use any Berlin wool? A. We use fine wools, such as Scotch fingering and Peacock yarn. We buy a good deal of fine yarn from the Quebec country, from Worcester company; it is a concern that started there about two years ago.

ROBERT EARHARDT, Metal Finisher, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What business do you follow? A. Metal finishing.

Q. Are there many men engaged in that business in Moncton? A. There are not many here, I guess; I have all the men that are engaged in that business here; I am the only one that carries on the business.

Q. How many men have you employed? A. Sometimes I have four or five and sometimes only two. Myself and my son are engaged.

Q. What wages are there paid to skilled workmen in your business? A. It is very hard to tell what is paid here; It is about \$3.50 to \$4, but it does not pay so well here as other places, for prices are so very low.

Q. Can you tell us what wages you pay your men? A. The wages I pay are from \$1 a day up.

Q. What is the highest you pay? A. If I wanted an engraver and plater I could not get him less than \$3.50 a day, but I do the the plating myself—I and my son.

Q. Have you any boys working for you? A. Sometimes I have.

Q. What do the boys earn? A. I have paid a boy from 50 to 75 cents, and away up above that, according to their ability.

Q. How many hours do you work? A. Ten hours a day.

SEYMOUR PETERS, Lumberman, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a lumberman.

Q. Are you a manufacturer of lumber? A. I am not.

Q. Do you keep a lumber yard? A. Yes.

Q. Do you buy your stuff principally in the rough, or sawed? A. I do; I buy the principal part of it at Petitcodiac.

Q. How many men have you engaged? A. I average about three in a yard.

Q. What wages do you pay them? A. \$1 and \$1.25 a day.

Q. What is the length of their day's work? A. Ten hours.

Q. Are they constantly employed, both winter and summer? A. No; not all the time.

Q. About how much would they make in twelve months? A. One man makes full time and the other two about nine months in the year.

Q. Do you make any pickets? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you employ any teamsters? A. These are teamsters that I spoke of.

Q. How much do you pay the man that measures the lumber—the yard man? A. I do not have any.

Q. Do you pay your men weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A. I pay them every Saturday night.

Q. In cash? A. Yes.

THOMPSON TAYLOR, General Merchant, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a general merchant.

Q. Do you keep many clerks in your store? A. I keep seven; that includes the truck-man and the errand boy.

Q. What hours have they to be in the store? A. They are supposed to be there at 7 in the morning until 9 at night.

Q. Every day? A. Every day, except Saturday, when it is a little later.

Q. Do you employ any female clerks? A. No.

Q. About what would be the average earnings of a clerk in a store in Moncton?
A. One hundred and twenty dollars is the lowest pay that we give.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. What is the highest? A. Six hundred and fifty dollars a year.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Would the \$120 clerk be an apprentice? A. That would be the errand boy; an errand boy generally develops into a clerk.

Q. Is \$650 the average pay of clerks in Moncton? A. That is more than the average; there are very few clerks in Moncton that get that.

Q. Do you ever receive orders for goods from customers? A. What do you mean?

Q. Do you ever receive orders made in your favor from people who are employers of labor? A. We do, sometimes—yes.

Q. Do you know if it is a practice in Moncton for men to receive notes instead of cash for their wages? A. I do not know of any of it; I do not think it is a practice here at all; I think it is very little done, at least I do not know of it being done.

Q. Do you think that the work people are generally paid in cash? A. I do.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Can you give us any comparison of the prices here to-day as compared with ten years ago—say, pork, flour, sugar and other provisions? A. Sugar is cheaper, I think; but other articles I could not speak of from memory.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. You cannot remember without looking at your books? A. I do not think I could distinctly; I know that sugar is cheaper now than it was some years ago; probably it is cheaper now than it was ten years ago.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Could you give us any information after looking at your books? A. I could.

Q. Could you give us the statement this evening? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Could you give us a statement for 1882 and 1887? A. Yes; I could.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do you employ any women at manufacturing? A. No.

Q. Do you do any millinery or dress-making? A. No.

Q. Do you pay your clerks fortnightly, monthly or weekly? A. We pay them weekly, with two or three exceptions—they run accounts; our idea is to pay the clerks weekly in cash, and what they get out of the store they pay for themselves. We have tried both ways of paying our clerks, and we find the weekly cash plan to be by far the best.

Q. Do you employ any cash boys? A. No; the man in the office tends to that. We run a cash arrangement; each clerk that makes a sale puts his cash and a ticket into the office, and the change is attended to by the man in the office.

E. C. COLE, Clothier, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What business are you in? A. I am in the clothing business.

Q. Are you a manufacturer of clothing? A. Yes—to order; I also keep a ready-made clothing store.

Q. Do you have women or men working on the premises? A. I have both.

Q. Have you any working outside for you? A. I have not.

Q. What are the earnings of a man in your business for a week? A. The men in our business earn from \$8 to \$12 a week; they do all their work by piece-work, and their wages vary according to the skill of the workman.

Q. What can a good tailoress earn making coats? A. From \$5 to \$8.

Q. What can they earn on vests? A. They make from \$3 to \$4.

Q. What can they earn on pants? A. About the same.

Q. Do you make any shirts? A. I do not make shirts.

Q. How many hands do you keep? A. In the busy season we have about thirty hands, including cutters.

Q. What are the wages of cutters? A. Our two cutters receive about \$30.

Q. Are your hands kept constantly employed all the year round? A. Not all of them.

Q. How many months in the year do they have steady work? A. I should think they have steady work about nine months in the year; occasionally they are idle three months. We keep our older hands steadily employed all the year round—that is, a number of them; others do not find employment the year round.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do any of your hands take work home with them after working hours in the shop? A. I think they do in some instances; they are allowed to do it.

Q. Do they do it? A. I think so.

Q. Is it principally done among the men or the women? A. It is the women, principally, that take their work home. It is very seldom that a man takes work home with him to do, although he may come back and work after working hours. Our hands are all on piece, except the machinist and pressmen.

Q. After taking the work home at night, how much would the women earn? A. Pants and vest-makers usually earn from \$4 to \$5 a week, and coat-makers earn from \$5 to \$8; \$5 would be the lowest pay to a coat-maker.

Q. Have you any women making the same class of coats as the men? A. We have them making similar classes, but we give the finer class of coats to the men to do, as they turn out a better class of work.

Q. Do the women work sometimes on the same fine material as the men on coats? A. The men are supposed to do finer work.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. But the women sometimes do the fine work? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. When a woman does the same kind of work as a man does she get the same pay as a man? A. If a woman does the same work as a man she gets the same pay. The difference between them is, that a man makes his work up complete, and we have to keep a pressman to do that work for the women.

Q. If they did their own pressing would you pay them the same as the men? A. When they do the same work we pay them the same prices.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you think that a woman cannot do the same work as a man? A. On coats we think the men coat-makers are the best, for it takes more strength to handle them properly than what a woman possesses.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. What do you pay women for making pants? A. Sixty and seventy cents; the finer grades seventy cents.

Q. What do you pay women for making vests? A. The same prices; they are on the same scale.

Q. Do they make the button-holes? A. Yes.

Q. How many hands have you generally engaged? A. Including the two cutters, we would average twenty-seven hands.

Q. Do the men and women work in the same room? A. In the same room.

Q. Have you separate conveniences for them? A. No; but they are not in connection with the room itself; the water-closet is private, as far as that is concerned.

Q. But it is all the one water-closet? A. Yes; it is the one water-closet, but it is provided with a lock; it is a regular water-closet, and it is connected with the water-works.

Q. Is the furnace for the heating of the irons in the same room? A. It is in the winter season but not in the summer season.

Q. Is the room well ventilated in the summer? A. It has good ventilation; there are open windows from top to bottom.

Q. How far from the work-room is this place where the furnace is? A. We do not use a furnace; we use a stove there.

Q. Where is it? A. It is in the centre of the room in the winter season.

Q. Where is it in the summer season? A. It is outside of the room; there is no heat communicated to the work-room from it.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. How many men and women have you employed? A. I think about seven men; their number fluctuates somewhat.

Q. Do any of these men own houses of their own? A. Yes; some of them do.

Q. Did they save the money from their own earnings? A. I imagine so, from the kind of men that own their own dwellings; but I do not think that our men own their own dwellings.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. What is the size of the room where all your hands work? A. I think it would be 30 x 25; it might be 35 square. I am not positive about its size, but it is a sufficiently good-sized room.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Where do you sell your goods? A. Locally generally; of course, our trade extends outside of the town.

Q. Do you find much competition from the upper Provinces? A. Not in our business, for it is mostly a custom business. We buy our ready-made clothing and meet with the ordinary competition.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you buy your ready-made clothing from Ontario? A. Some of it I do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you pay your hands weekly? A. Pay them every Saturday night in full.

Q. Are they paid in cash? A. Yes; they are paid in cash and in full. Of course, if they buy anything out of the shop during the week it is deducted from their pay.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Are the hands required to buy anything from you? A. No; that matter is entirely at their own option.

WILLIAM O'NEIL, Boot and Shoe-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What business do you follow ? A. I am a boot and shoe-manufacturer.

Q. Do you keep men working for you ? A. Yes.

Q. Do you run a factory ? A. No ; my place is just a custom establishment.

Q. How many men do you employ ? A. We have thirteen to work.

Q. How much can a shoe-maker earn in this town ? A. They average from \$6 to \$9 a week.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you find a sale for all the goods you make in this town ? A. Yes ; ours is a retail trade. We have a little sale for our goods in the country, but nothing to speak of.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Would there be any difference in the price paid to men engaged on the same line of work ? A. Some of the men working for me make \$9 and others make only \$6 a week.

Q. How many hours do they work in a day ? A. That is optional with the men themselves.

Q. How many hours would a man require to work to earn \$9 a week ? A. The men work about ten hours a day, as a general rule.

Q. Do they ever work any later than six o'clock at night ? A. In the winter when they cannot get to work at seven in the morning, they do sometimes.

Q. How much over-time do they make in that way ? A. I do not think that they make any over-time.

Q. Do you take any apprentices on to work ? A. Yes.

Q. What is the usual time that apprentices serve at your trade ? A. I generally give them two years, and the third year I put them on piece-work.

Q. Is that a sufficient length of time for them to learn that business ? A. I call it a sufficient length of time, the way the shoe business is carried on at the present time.

Q. Do these boys learn to make the boot throughout ? A. They do not learn to make the boot throughout.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. They only learn one portion ? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What wages do the boys receive ? A. We take our boys on at \$35 a year the first year.

Q. Are these boys required to do any other work after their work is done at night ? A. No.

Q. Then they do no work after their work is done at six o'clock ? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Have you any women working for you ? A. Two.

Q. Boot and shoe-finishers ? A. Yes.

Q. What are their wages ? A. I give \$2.50 to one and \$3 to the other ; one of them has only been working for me the last three months.

Q. Do the apprentices learn the whole business, from the pasting up to shoe-fitting ? A. Yes ; the whole thing.

Q. Do you use any machinery ? A. We use no machines but some sewing machines ; of course, we have an eyelet-punch machine, but no machinery beyond that.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you have any bottoming machines ? A. No.

Q. Do the apprentices, after they serve their time, remain with you ? A. Generally they do ; sometimes they leave. They generally stay with me two or three years.

Q. Do you find much competition from the upper Provinces? A. Yes; there is a great deal of competition, but we do not find any competition on the same class of goods; as a rule, we make better goods than they do in the upper Provinces.

Q. Where do you find your heaviest competition? A. From Quebec.

Q. The city or the Province of Quebec? A. Province of Quebec; mostly from Montreal and around there. I find that in my trade that the cheapest grade of goods is getting done away with, and the people are commencing to ask for a better class of goods.

Q. Where do you get your leather from? A. From Burrell, in Ontario.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Why do you not get your leather here? A. I like the kip of Ontario better.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. How long have you been manufacturing? A. Six years.

Q. Has your business been steadily increasing? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Did you ever import any leather from the old country? A. Not of late years.

Q. Do you find that the article you get from the upper Provinces is as good as that you formerly imported? A. Yes; I find a great improvement in the Canadian goods; I find that both their calf and kip have greatly improved of late years.

Q. Do you use much machinery? A. We use no machinery at all.

W. J. FRASER, Miller, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a miller.

Q. Do you keep a flour mill? A. Yes.

Q. How many millers have you employed? A. We do not do very much grinding of wheat, for we cannot grind it so successfully here as they do in the upper Provinces, so we buy most of the flour from Ontario; that flour is so cheap now that we do not grind much wheat.

Q. What do you do principally in your mill? A. We grind corn and shorts for cattle.

Q. Do you keep any men employed? A. From three to five.

Q. What are the wages of a good miller here? A. From \$40 to \$50 a month.

Q. Would that be for a first-class miller? A. Yes.

Q. And for a second hand, how much? A. From \$1 a day up.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you grind any oatmeal here? A. We do not make oatmeal.

Q. How many hours a day would a miller work? A. About ten hours.

Q. Do you run your mill at night? A. We do sometimes.

Q. Do the same men run the mill at night as in the day time? A. Yes; but we only run her up to 11 or 12 o'clock.

Q. Are they paid for that over-time? A. Yes; they are paid by the hour.

Q. Do you take on any apprentices to learn the business? A. Yes.

Q. Do you run your mill by water or steam? A. By steam.

Q. Do you employ a skilled engineer? A. Yes.

Q. What wages does he get? A. One dollar and twenty-five cents a day.

Q. Does he do his own firing for that? A. Yes.

Q. Do you have a man employed about the mill to do the repairing? A. No; whatever repairing we have to get done is done at the machine-shop, which is very close to us.

Q. What does the ordinary help of the mill cost? A. I think about \$15 or \$20 a week.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Does the price of chopped food fluctuate? A. It is a little better now than it has been for some time past. The price of chopped food here is altogether controlled by the Ontario market, because the shorts come from there; just now they are very dear, and so chopped food is very dear.

Q. Is chopped food coming into use to any great extent? A. Very largely; there is a great deal more used now than two or three years ago. People that did not chop their food two or three years ago use it now; they take their grain to the mill and have it chopped.

Q. Is it not in many sections made a special article of food? A. Yes; but I do not think it is made a speciality of here as much as in Ontario. I think there is a chop-mill in Halifax, but I do not know of any other in the Maritime Provinces.

Q. Has the price of meal increased or decreased during the past few years—cornmeal? A. It is dearer just now than it has been, because the price of corn is up. It has been low for three years, but it is higher now; and, to tell you the truth, I do not know why it is.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Can you tell us what flour is worth by the barrel in Moncton? A. We generally sell flour for \$4.50.

Q. Is that by the car-load or by the single barrel? A. By the single barrel.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is that your highest-priced flour? A. Yes.

Q. Where does the wheat come from that makes your highest-priced flour? A. We used to get it from Ontario, but we get it now sometimes from other places.

Q. Is there any Manitoba wheat used here? A. I do not think there is any person in the Province that imports that wheat here, for flour is so low now that it does not pay. Our flouring mills do a great deal better work than formerly; we use the roller now instead of the stone.

Q. Have you given any thought to the price of flour during the past ten years? A. I have not.

Q. Has it decreased in price during the past ten years? A. Yes; it is a great deal cheaper now than it was ten years ago.

Q. Can you tell us the average price of flour now? A. I could not; I could if I were at home.

Q. Is the flour that is made now a superior quality to the flour that was made ten years ago? A. I think the flour is better now than then.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is the same quality of flour now better than the same grade ten years ago? A. Within the last ten years roller flour has come into use, and all flours of all grades are very much finer. There is one thing I would like to speak about, and it is this: on corn there is a duty of $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents a bushel, and that is against the interest of the millers here.

Q. Do you mean duty on Indian corn? A. Yes; and that works very much against the millers in these Provinces, making it almost impossible for them to grind flour.

Q. What is the duty on meal? A. Forty cents a barrel. It gives the people of Ontario a slight advantage of a few cents, but I think that they might let the duty come off the raw material and give the millers of these Provinces an advantage in grinding their corn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you think that in Canada corn could be cultivated to such an extent that it would decrease the importation? A. I could not say for all Canada, but I know we could not grow corn in New Brunswick. I do not think that for many years Canada will grow enough corn to supply its home market.

WILLIAM BRAY, Foreman Cooper Shop, Sugar Refinery, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am the foreman in the cooperage department in the sugar refinery.

Q. How many men have you engaged in the cooper shop? A. There are from thirty to forty sometimes; that is the average of the coopers.

Q. How much do the coopers receive for making a barrel? A. After the stock is prepared they receive 5 cents a barrel; the heads are all turned round for him.

Q. Do not the men prepare their own stock? A. No; the stock is prepared for them by day-work.

Q. Are the men allowed to have helpers? A. Yes.

Q. Do they hire their own helpers? A. Yes.

Q. Who do they generally hire? A. Boys.

Q. Can you tell us what they pay these boys? A. I think they pay them about \$1.

Q. Do you mean a day? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the average earnings of a man with a helper? A. Seventy barrels.

Q. Do you mean by the day? A. Yes.

Q. That would be \$3.50 a day? A. Yes.

Q. What would a man make without a helper? A. Forty barrels.

Q. How many months' work do they get in a year? A. I should think about ten; if you came down to the fine point it would not amount to that.

Q. What wages do the men receive who make the heads? A. The heads are prepared out of logs, and then they are pulled to the refinery and fastened. They then get them and they are turned; the man gets about three-quarters of a cent for that—that is, for both heads.

Q. How much can a man earn at that work? A. He generally makes about 300 barrels a day—he and a boy.

Q. What does he give the boy? A. About 75 cents a day.

Q. What does the man get? A. He gets about \$1.25 a day—that is, for sawing the stuff; after that it is wheeled out and pulled into the refinery.

Q. Do you manufacture your own staves? A. Yes; that is the majority of them; we have imported a few.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What time do your coopers go to work in the morning? A. They are supposed to go to work at seven in the morning.

Q. How many months in the year do the coopers work? A. Well, as I said before, I should think about ten; but I cannot come right down to the fine point and say what time they make.

Q. You say they begin work at seven in the morning? A. Yes.

Q. Do they work till six at night? A. They generally work till pretty nearly that time; some days they will get done before that time and sometimes a little later; but as a general thing they spend about ten hours at work.

Q. Are you a practical cooper yourself? A. Yes; I have worked at the trade.

Q. Does it take more material to make a sugar barrel than a flour or an apple barrel? A. It does, for it takes larger stock and it must be heavier.

Q. Have you to be more particular in making it? A. The barrel has to be heavier and made of larger stock, so of course it takes more material.

GEO. PORTEOUS, Cooper, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What business do you follow? A. I am a cooper.

Q. Do you have a cooper shop of your own? A. No; I am making barrels in the sugar refinery.

Q. Did you hear the evidence of the last witness? A. I heard the most of it, I think.

Q. Do you agree with the statements he made? A. Almost.

Q. Tell us where you and he differ? A. It is a matter of opinion; he did not state positively as to the time we work. I think he figured a little too high, for I am of opinion that we lose more time than he said. I am of the opinion that nine months is the outside time we work during the year. I understood him to say that we work ten.

Q. Then you lose about three months in the year? A. I think so.

Q. While you are working do you lose any time waiting for stock? A. I do not remember having lost any.

Q. Are you kept constantly going while the shop is running? A. We are.

Q. Are the earnings which he stated about right? A. Yes.

Q. Did he state right when he said you made about forty barrels a day? A. That is about what we do.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Can you find anything to do during the three months you are out of work? A. The time is broken that we lose; it is not all at once. There is one place where we might get work, but very little outside of that. I have done but little work outside of the refinery since I have been employed with them, which is about seven years.

Q. You mean you have done very little work, apart from the refinery? A. Very little—\$100 or \$120 worth.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Have you ever worked outside of Moncton? A. I have worked in New York, and Miramichi and Montreal; I served my time in New York.

Q. What is the difference in the wages, if any, between Montreal and Moncton? A. It is some years since I left Montreal, so I do not know what they are paying now, but the last I heard the wages are \$2 a day, and it is \$1.50 here.

Q. How long is it since you worked in New York? A. In 1864; I know it is quite a long while ago, and I think shortly after the war.

Q. Do many of the coopers in Moncton own their own houses? A. There is only one who owns his own house—that is, one living in the town. There are three or four of them that live in the country and they have houses of their own—deeds of of farms or the nucleus of farms.

Q. Can a cooper earning the wages that they do here support a family and live comfortably on it in Moncton? A. It depends a great deal on the size of the family, but if a man has steady work and a small-sized family he can support them. I find it hard to get along with my family and support them comfortably, but I have a larger family than most of the men—some six or eight.

Q. What rent do you have to pay for a house of six rooms? A. I can hardly tell; it is all according to the locality of the house. I am paying \$10 a month rent for mine, but I think a house can be got for \$8.

Q. You are paying \$10 now? A. Yes.

Q. How many rooms are there in the house? A. Eight.

Q. Is it convenient to the refinery? A. It is next house to the refinery, and belongs to the company.

Q. Have the company houses for their employés? A. This is the only house belonging to the company I am aware of, and they are going to move that away now,

Q. Did you say that you have been working in Moncton seven years? A. Seven years last December.

Q. Is there any business done among the middle classes by the giving of notes? A. Do you mean the receiving of notes in payment of wages?

Q. Yes? A. Not that I know of; I have not received any but once, and that was for a little work I did outside; it did not amount to anything, though.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you know whether it is a practice made use of in Moncton? A. I think not; some few may do it, but I do not think it is done as a general thing.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you think if the working classes were paid weekly that it would benefit them any? A. I think it would.

Q. Do you consider that it is very inconvenient to the families of workingmen to be paid fortnightly and monthly? A. I think so; unless a man earns more money than he needs for the immediate support of a family it is hard for him to make both ends meet unless he has something ahead—some little money laid by; it is very unhandy to have to wait a fortnight for his money.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you think a workingman can buy to better advantage for cash than for credit? A. I think so—decidedly.

SILAS WHITE, Engineer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What business are you engaged in? A. Engineering.

Q. Have you charge of a stationary engine in Moncton? A. Yes.

Q. What are the wages of stationary engineers here? A. I do not know what their wages are here; most of them earn what I do—9 cents an hour; that is all I am allowed.

Q. Do you work ten hours a day? A. Twelve and fifteen hours, sometimes; it is all according to the time the men knock off.

Q. Where do you work? A. In the sugar refinery.

Q. Did you serve your time learning to be an engineer? A. I did in this way; I went to work and learned.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Have you a certificate as an engineer? A. No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Did you go firing first? A. I am at it three years; I did no firing.

Q. Do you know if what you earning is the average pay of engineers around here? A. I think most of them get more than that.

Q. When you work twelve or fifteen hours do you get extra pay for it? A. No; I am paid the same rate per hour.

Q. Are you allowed nothing extra for over-time? A. No.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you work in the night or day time? A. I go to work at three in the morning; other times four.

Q. How long do you work? A. Till half-past three or four o'clock.

Q. In the afternoon? A. If there are three men at the pans I go to work at three in the morning, but if there are five at the pans I work till five.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are you a married man? A. No.

J. A. HUMPHREY, Miller, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q. What is your business ? A. I am a miller.
 Q. Do you run a grist mill ? A. Two mills, a grist-mills and a saw mill.
 Q. How many men do you employ in the grist mill ? A. Sometimes one and sometimes two.
 Q. How many do you employ in the saw mill ? A. About twenty.
 Q. Do you cut your own lumber in the woods ? A. I buy part of it at the mill, and some parts of it are prepared for me at the woods in a certain way. We do not get it from the stump,—from the trees—but we buy it at a certain stage of forwardness.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

- Q. What do you pay gang men ? A. I have not got a gang.
 Q. Have you a sawyer ? A. Yes.
 Q. What do you pay the head sawyer ? A. We pay the head sawyer about \$7 a week.
 Q. What do you pay the tail-stocker ? A. I do not know exactly what we pay him ; we pay the men from \$22 to \$39 a month. Our engineer would get the highest wages.
 Q. Do you board the men ? A. No.
 Q. Do they board themselves ? A. They board themselves.
 Q. Do you use a rotary—a Canadian or an American machine ? A. A Canadian.
 Q. Where was it made ? A. It was made somewhere near Montreal.
 Q. What do you pay circular-saw men ? A. They get about \$1 a day.
 Q. Do you saw laths ? A. I saw laths.
 Q. What do you pay your lath-men ? A. They get about the same as the other men.
 Q. Do you work ten hours a day ? A. We work eleven hours ; we calculate to work the whole stock up, and it depends on what we have to do how long the men work.
 Q. Then, when you have no work of that kind to do the men are shifted off on something else ? A. Yes.
 Q. What small articles do you make ? A. Pickets.
 Q. Do you make any staves or heads ? A. We do.
 Q. Do you say you do not go to the stump ? A. We do not.
 Q. What do you pay surveyors ? A. My foreman would get something like the highest wages we pay, and that is something like \$40 a month.
 Q. Is the boarding house kept by yourself ? A. I do not run a boarding house ; a number of the men have their own houses ; they either rent or own them.
 Q. Do any of the men own the houses ? A. Yes ; some of them own their own houses.
 Q. About what board do the men pay ? A. I think about \$2.25.
 Q. A week ? A. A week.
 Q. Do many of them pay that ? A. Some of them pay \$2.50 ; and their board ranges from \$2.00 to \$2.50.
 Q. How many months in the year do you work ? A. About nine months in the year. The time varies ; we often do not work nine months in the year ; sometimes we go more.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

- Q. Does the work depend upon the season or the logs ? A. Upon the sales.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

- Q. Do you manufacture any pickets or shingles ? A. We do ; we manufacture both.
 Q. What do you pay your surveyor ? A. Forty dollars a month.

J. P. WEIR, Engineer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am an engineer in the sugar refinery.

Q. What wages do you get? A. Thirty cents an hour.

Q. How many skilled engineers have you employed there? A. I have an assistant—that is all.

Q. Do you have any firemen? A. Four firemen.

Q. How many hours a day do you have to work? A. Usually ten hours; but I am at their call when anything goes wrong at the refinery; I have to be there night or day, when wanted.

Q. Do you make any over-time? A. Yes; sometimes.

Q. Are you paid anything extra for that? A. I am paid by the hour.

Q. Do you get nothing extra for over-time? A. I get nothing extra.

Q. Do you know if there is any desire on the part of engineers that the men in charge of engines should have certificates? A. I do not know; I have not heard of it.

Q. Do you know if there are many unskilled men who have charge of engines? A. There are a great many.

Q. Would it not be better for those working in the building if those men were skilled men? A. I think it would.

Q. Is there any objection on the part of engineers to pass an examination for certificates? A. I do not think there is among skilled men.

Q. Would 30 cents an hour be an average rate of wages for skilled engineers in Moncton? A. I think it is above the average.

Q. Do you find constant employment all the year? A. I have only been at the sugar refinery about a year and a-half; I was employed with my father before that time.

BARNABUS WHITE, Packer, Sugar Refinery, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I work in the sugar refinery; I am employed in the packing room, packing the sugar in barrels.

Q. How many men are there employed packing? A. There are four of us.

Q. Do they all receive the same pay? A. Yes.

Q. What are the wages of packers? A. Ninety cents a day.

Q. Do you work six days a week? A. Yes.

Q. So, you make no lost time in a year? A. Yes.

Q. How much time do you lose? A. I could not say.

Q. Do you get ten months' work in the year? A. Sometimes we do and sometimes we don't.

Q. Is it very heavy work? A. It is pretty heavy work.

Q. Is the packing room comfortable to work in? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Does it require much skill to be a packer? A. Yes.

Q. Is the packing room close and warm in the summer time? A. It is very warm.

Q. Do the men in the other room feel very uncomfortable in the summer? A. I do not know about the others.

Q. Do you work over-time at nights? A. Sometimes.

Q. Are you paid extra for that? A. No.

Q. You are not paid extra for that? A. We are not.

Q. How often, on an average, do you work over-time in a year? A. We put in an hour or so at night about once a week.

Q. Are the men paid once a month? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever heard the men express a desire to be paid more frequently?

A. No; I never have.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Would it be more convenient to be paid once a fortnight or once a week?

A. I do not know.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a family? A. No.

Q. Do you rent a house? A. No.

Q. Do you feel it rather close economy to support a wife and yourself on 90 cents a day? A. No; I do not.

ALFRED MILES, Upholsterer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. Upholsterer.

Q. What are the wages of upholsterers in Moncton? A. Seventeen cents an hour.

Q. Do you find constant employment at that rate of wages? A. I do.

Q. Do you work at carriage upholstery? A. No; I work in the Government shop.

Q. Do you mean the railway shop? A. Yes.

Q. Are you upholstering cars? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you worked in these shops? A. Nearly eight years.

Q. What wages did you commence at when you first went there? A. Fifteen cents an hour.

Q. Is 17 cents the highest wages paid to your trade there? A. It is the highest they are paying now.

Q. When a man is first taken on is he taken on at the lowest rate always? A. They rate them about 15 cents an hour.

Q. Always that rate at the start? A. Always at the start.

Q. Do they ever take any apprentices on? A. Never since I have been there.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten.

Q. Do you ever make any over-time? A. Not lately.

Q. Do you belong to the insurance society of the company, or are you insured elsewhere? A. I am insured in the society.

Q. Do the railway insure their men? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay anything into it? A. So much a month is kept off our pay.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You are one of the members of the society? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Is it voluntary on your part to be insured in the company? A. It is compulsory.

Q. Have you ever heard any complaints about the management of this company? A. No.

Q. Are the claims always promptly paid? A. As far as I know, they are.

Q. You have heard no complaints about bad management? A. No.

DUNCAN MCKINNON, Carpenter, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a carpenter.

Q. Do you work at house work? A. No; I work in Record's foundry.

Q. What are the wages paid to men in a shop of the kind? A. One dollar and forty cents a day is what carpenters are getting.

Q. Do you work ten hours a day? A. I do.

Q. Do you find constant employment at those wages all year round? A. Yes.

Q. Are the wages the same in the summer as they are in the winter? A. They are.

Q. Do you know what would be the average wages that are paid house carpenters in Moncton? A. Do you ask for average wages?

Q. I ask about the average wages per hour? A. I should think they would be about that at the present time and for the last two years—say about \$1.50.

Q. One dollar and fifty cents would be for a day? A. Yes.

Q. What do they range at? A. They range \$1.25, \$1.45, \$1.50 and \$1.75, and so on.

Q. Can you tell us whether it costs you more to live to-day than it did five years ago? A. I do not think it costs me more.

Q. You say it does not cost you more? A. I do not think so.

Q. Has there been any increase in house rent in the last five years? A. Not so far as I am concerned; I have been renting a house for five years, and I cannot rent it to the same advantage as I could five years ago.

Q. You own your own house, then? A. Yes.

Q. Have wages increased to any extent in the same period? A. I do not think so; outside of town it has not, but in town it seems to have increased.

Q. Would that be on account of more buildings going up lately? A. Good men seem to be scarcer.

Q. Do you know if the men in Moncton are ever paid with orders on stores? A. I have known of a few cases, but not very many.

Q. Then it is the exception and not the rule? A. Yes.

Q. Then you do not think that the truck system prevails in Moncton to any extent? A. I do not think so.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. It does not prevail in your establishment? A. No; not at all.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you resided long in Moncton? A. Eleven years last fall.

Q. From your knowledge of Moncton, do you think it would be more convenient for the working classes if they were paid weekly? A. I certainly think so; I have had an experience of both systems myself. We are paid weekly now in our place, and I know we can buy to better advantage than we could before.

Q. Is there much business transacted with notes? A. There is some.

Q. Does that happen with the class of workmen that are paid monthly, fortnightly or weekly? A. It happens with the monthly people, generally.

Q. They give these notes in exchange for small debts or payments? A. Yes; in payment for small debts.

Q. Do you think that would be done if the men were paid weekly? A. If they were given reasonable wages I should not think they would do so.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Even with the wages as they are at the present time, you think if they were paid weekly they would be better off? A. Yes; for they could buy for cash.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. You believe, then, that it is very inconvenient for a workingman with small wages to be paid monthly? A. Yes; I do.

Q. What would a workingman have to pay for a house in a convenient portion of the town composed of six rooms, and provided with the ordinary conveniences? A. Do you mean a whole house?

Q. Yes? A. They range probably from \$8 to \$12; a \$12 house would be in a very good locality.

Q. Have you got any information you could give the Commission? A. I do not know as I have, at the present, any more than what I have said.

Q. Do you believe in the indenture system of apprenticeship—having them bound for a certain number of years? A. I do, because they are better able to get their trade more perfect than when they are allowed to go away when they think fit. Not binding apprentices makes them poor mechanics, I think.

Q. Do you think that under the indenture system the employer would be compelled by law to teach the apprentice properly? Yes; and the apprentice would be compelled to serve his time out.

Q. Do you think that if a boy serves his time with one employer it has a tendency to make him steady in his habits? A. I do.

PASCHAL WHITE, Sugar Refinery, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I work in the sugar refinery.

Q. What part of the refinery do you work in? A. Tending the liquor.

Q. Do you find that work severe on you? A. I do not know; I do not think it agrees very well with me.

Q. Is the heat trying? A. It is rather hot.

Q. How many hours a day do you remain in this room? A. Eleven, twelve, thirteen, fifteen and sixteen hours, some days.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you remain there all the time? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What time do you get away for dinner? A. I go to my meals at one o'clock.

Q. Do you have an hour in the day for dinner? A. Yes.

Q. How frequently have you to work after six o'clock, and more than ten hours? A. Most every day.

Q. What are your wages? A. Eleven cents an hour.

Q. Do you get paid 11 cents for every hour you work? A. Yes.

Q. You get no extra allowance for over-time, though? A. Sometimes, when we are a man short, we get extra.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. You get extra pay if you are short-handed? A. I do.

Q. But do you not have to work half an hour to make up that man's time? A. We do.

Q. Does the extra you make amount to the man's wages when divided among all the men? A. Some days it does and some days it does not; we get two and a-half some days, and some days three hours; when he is away altogether we get five hours apiece.

Q. Are you paid once a month, like all the others in the refinery? A. I am.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you ever known any of the men to be influenced by the heat of the building? A. Yes.

Q. Does it make them sick? A. No.

Q. Then it just produces weakness? A. Yes.

ALFRED E. OLIVE, Conductor, Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a conductor on the Intercolonial Railway.

Q. Are you a conductor on a passenger or freight train? A. On a passenger train.

Q. How many miles is a day's run with you? A. Our run is 185 miles, and we are allowed a day and a-half for it.

Q. What is the usual run for a day's work on other railroads? A. It is different if you run a passenger or freight train. A passenger conductor generally runs longer than a freight one does. One hundred miles is usually called a day's work.

Q. For passenger or freight conductors? A. The rules do not state which.

Q. How many hours do you occupy in running your 185 miles? A. Our schedule time is about seven and a-half hours.

Q. Each way? A. Yes; each way.

Q. What pay does a conductor of a passenger train get? A. Two dollars and fifty cents a day.

Q. Is that the average all round? A. That is the average all round, with the exception of three or four, who get what they call a \$10 a month "bonus."

Q. What is the "bonus" given for? A. I could not say, I am sure; I could not answer that.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Is it for seniority? A. I suppose it is for seniority.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. It is one of the things that have never been explained? A. No; it never has.

Q. Do you get any allowance for detention? A. Yes.

Q. How is the time arranged for detention when you are on the road? A. They give us a day and a-half for fifteen hours, and after that we are paid 15 cents an hour.

Q. Has the conductor, in case of detention, the power to allow his hands leave to go from the train to get rest? A. Yes.

Q. Can he use his own judgment in that respect? A. Yes; he can.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Can he do so without notifying the railway authorities? A. He must notify the train despatcher.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. How long have you known men to be detained on the road without rest?
A. I have known them to be from twenty to twenty-four hours on the road.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. That would be in the case of a snow storm? A. Yes.

Q. Which happens pretty often? A. Yes; in the winter time.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. When a man comes in off a run how many hours is he allowed to rest before he is sent out again? A. He is allowed eight hours at the least.

Q. Have you ever known men to be ordered out with less than eight hours' rest?
A. Not as I know of.

Q. Do you pay into this insurance scheme as well as the rest of the men? A. Yes.

Q. That is compulsory upon you to do so? A. I suppose it is taken off of us.

Q. Do you know if the men would prefer a voluntary scheme? A. This compulsory scheme, as it is called, is very reasonable, and I do not think that the men, as a whole, object to it.

Q. Is it not controlled entirely by the officers of the road? A. Yes; I think it is.

Q. Are the claims of the company all promptly paid? A. Yes; as far as I am aware of them.

Q. Does it make any provision for sickness? A. No; it is just for accident or death.

Q. What amount does a conductor receive per week in case of injury? A. A conductor receives \$5 a week for twenty-six weeks.

Q. And what does he receive at the end of that time? A. At the end of twenty-six weeks he does not receive any more.

Q. If a man is not able to return to work after the twenty-six weeks are over are his services dispensed with? A. I think so; I have never read anything to the contrary.

Q. Have you ever known a case of that kind, where a man has not been able to return to work after the end of the twenty-six weeks? A. No; I have not.

Q. Does the company provide medical attendance free? A. Yes; I think it is free.

Q. Right through the whole period of sickness? A. Yes.

Q. If an employé of the railroad is injured away from home is he furnished with medical attendance by the company? A. Yes; if he is on the railway service.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you know if the railway—the head office—has any objections to employing conductors who belong to the Conductors' Association? A. I have not heard of any.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is there not an objection to employing men from other roads on the Intercolonial Railway—are they not all taken from the men on the road? A. The conductors are all taken from the men on the road. Of course, if a person comes off another road he has to begin work in a lower capacity.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is this insurance controlled by the officers of the road, or is it a company? A. I do not think there is any company formed in regard to it.

JOHN BARRY, Conductor, Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What do you do for a living? A. I am a passenger conductor.

Q. Did you hear the evidence of Mr. Olive? A. I did.

Q. Did you hear all he stated—all his testimony? A. Yes.

Q. Do you approve of what he said? A. Very much of it I do.

Q. Have you any information to give us bearing on your occupation that he has not furnished? A. I do not think there is any I could give you.

Q. Do you think the working rules of the road are satisfactory? A. I think so.

Q. Of course, you work on the Intercolonial Railway? A. Yes.

Q. You have no complaints to make against their system? A. I have none.

JOHN CASEY, Conductor, Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a conductor on a freight train.

Q. What is your usual run for a day's run? A. One hundred and twenty-six miles.

Q. How many hours would it take to run that distance? A. About eleven.

Q. What pay does a freight conductor receive? A. They are rated differently.

Q. What pay do you yourself get? A. Two dollars and twenty cents.

Q. Do you get \$2.20 per day? A. Yes; but this 126 miles constitutes a day and a-quarter.

Q. Would 100 miles be a day's run on a freight train? A. Yes.

Q. How many brakemen do you have on a train composing your crew? A. We have three.

- Q. Are there any freight brakemen here to night? A. I think there is one.
- Q. Can you tell us if the running-boards on the top of freight cars are sufficiently wide for safety? A. Yes; I think so.
- Q. What is the average width of them? A. About 24 to 36 inches, I think.
- Q. Have you ever found the bell cord any source of danger to the men on top of the cars? A. Not any.
- Q. Have you ever know of cases of men tripping on it and falling off the cars? A. No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

- Q. Do you approve of them? A. I approve of bell cords.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q. Did you ever give the question of a rail on the outer edge of the car consideration? A. I do not approve of it; I think the car is better without it.
- Q. What have you got to suggest to the men on the top of the cars for protection? A. I do not know, I am sure; but I think that any kind of railing would interfere with the men.
- Q. How would a rail on the outside of the car interfere with men, if it were raised a foot high? Do you mean right on the edge of the car?
- Q. Right on the outside of the car? A. In that case it would not interfere with the men.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

- Q. Your objection to it was having it alongside the running-board? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q. Would you consider it a benefit in case a man was to slip off the car? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you think it would be better than the rail along the running-board? A. I think so.
- Q. Do you know if there are any accidents occur by men falling off the car? A. I do not think there are many; I have only known of one in ten years.
- Q. Have you ever had any experience in coupling cars? A. Yes.
- Q. What do you consider the best coupler in use at the present time? A. For freight cars I think the common link and pin is the best.
- Q. Have you ever seen any coupler that could be substituted for the link and pin and that would do away with the danger? A. I have never seen one that worked perfectly.
- Q. Do many men get injured by the coupler? A. Quite a number get their fingers squeezed.
- Q. Have you ever seen the Janey coupler tested on freight cars? A. I have not.
- Q. Then you do not know how it works? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q. How many brakes do you think a brakeman should have control of on a level strip—how many brakes is he able to manage? A. A great deal depends upon the road.
- Q. I mean on a level? A. In that case a great deal depends on the speed.
- Q. Say the train was running thirty miles an hour? A. Freight trains run twenty miles an hour, and I think that four would be as many as he could manage in a short distance.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q. From the time that the whistle sounds for the brakes till the train stops how many brakes could a man put on? A. I think six—probably eight.
- Q. Have you had any experience with the air-brake? A. Yes; some little.
- Q. Do you think it is an improvement on the hand-brake? I think it is quite an improvement.

Q. Can the engineer control a freight train with the air-brakes as easily as he can a passenger train? A. I think he can; I have never seen a full freight train of air-brakes, but I have had three or four on the train, and I know they have acted good.

Q. Are you paid monthly? A. Yes.

Q. Is any part of your pay retained? A. No.

Q. Are you paid right up to date? A. Up to the end of the month.

Q. What day is pay-day? A. From the 6th to the 9th or 10th of the month.

Q. Then there is a week's pay always in the hands of the company? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. If you want to leave, how much notice have you to give? A. Fourteen days' notice.

Q. If the company would discharge you, how much notice would they give you? A. Sometimes not very much.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Are the men dismissed without the charges against them being investigated? A. No; not to my knowledge.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. When a man is discharged is he paid up all the money that is due him? A. I have never heard any complaints.

Q. Has he to wait for his money till pay-day? A. I could not answer that.

EDWARD DONAHOE, Sugar Refinery, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I work in the sugar refinery.

Q. What part of the building do you work in? A. I clear the charer.

Q. Top or bottom? A. No; underneath.

Q. Is that occupation very trying on you? A. Not very.

Q. Is the heat very excessive, or is there any heat in your room? A. Yes; it is pretty hot sometimes.

Q. How many hours do you work a day? A. I work eleven hours at night.

Q. Do you work constantly all the year round? A. I do not.

Q. What wages, as a rule, do you earn? A. I could not tell exactly.

Q. Do you not know what wages you earn? A. Yes; 11 cents an hour.

Q. How many months in the year do you get employment? A. I could not tell exactly.

Q. Do you work over-time? A. Sometimes.

Q. Do you get any extra pay for over-time? A. Nothing extra; only 11 cents an hour.

Q. Is the rate per hour in the day the same as in the night? A. Yes.

MARTIN DALY, Brakesman, Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a brakesman.

Q. Do you work on a freight train? A. No; I work on an express train.

Q. Did you hear the evidence of the passenger train conductor? A. No; I did not.

Q. How many miles constitute a day's run for you? A. One hundred and eighty-eight miles is considered a run for two days.

Q. How many hours are you supposed to occupy in making these two days? A. Eight hours.

- Q. Each day? A. Each day.
 Q. Is that for 186 miles? A. No; 188 miles.
 Q. Do you have much detention at times? A. No; not on that train.
 Q. When you have detentions how much are you allowed for it? A. Twelve and a-half cents an hour.
 Q. What is the regular pay of a brakesman on an express train? A. It is all according to how long they have been on the road.
 Q. What do you receive yourself? A. One dollar and fifty cents a day.
 Q. Are you insured in the company's benevolent fund? A. Yes.
 Q. Have you any complaints to make about the management of that society?
 A. I have not.
 Q. Do you know if any of the men would prefer a voluntary association of their own? A. I never heard them say anything about it.

HENRY MELANSON, Brakesman, Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q. What is your occupation? A. Brakesman.
 Q. Freight or passenger train? A. I am on a freight train.
 Q. Can you tell us if the brakesmen on the Intercolonial Railway are well looked after, so far as safety is concerned? A. I think they are.
 Q. Are the running-boards of good width? A. Yes.
 Q. Have you ever heard any complaint about the bell cord on top of the cars?
 A. No.
 Q. Do you know if there are any bridges crossing the track of the railway that are not high enough for you to stand under on top of the car? A. I do not think there are any between here and Truro; that is where I run.
 Q. Are the frogs on the line all packed? A. I could not say about that.
 Q. You cannot tell whether they are or not? A. No.
 Q. Did you ever have your foot caught in one? A. I had it caught once in the Moncton yard.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

- Q. How long ago is that? A. That is three years ago.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q. Do you know if any of the men are injured by coupling cars? A. No.
 Q. Do you know if any of them are injured much in any other way? A. I do not.
 Q. Do you know if there are any complaints about the deadwood on top of the cars? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q. Do you know if the bell cord on the top of the cars is the surest means of communication with the engineer? A. I do not.
 Q. How long have you been a brakesman? A. Four years.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

- Q. Have you ever been on any other railroad than the Intercolonial Railway?
 A. I have not.

ISAAC NASE, Carpenter, Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q. What is your occupation? A. Carpenter.
 Q. Are you a house carpenter? A. I served my time at house carpentering.
 Q. Do you work at house carpentering now? A. No; I am working in the Intercolonial Railway car-shop.
 Q. What wages do carpenters receive there? A. From \$1.25 to \$1.85 a day.

Q. Do you know if any of the men commence with less wages than \$1.25? A. I never knew of any commencing less than that.

Q. How long will a man work at \$1.25 before he gets advanced to \$1.50? A. It is all owing to circumstances; he may work for two years before he gets a raise.

Q. Have you ever known of green hands being taken on and getting higher wages than \$1.25 a day? A. No.

Q. Do you know if handy men are taken and put to work with carpenters and paid their wages? A. At what work?

Q. At repairing cars? A. I do not know if there be so.

Q. Do you do any new work at cars there? A. No; we do no work that is entirely new; we do not build any cars.

Q. You just do the repairing of cars, then? A. That is all the work we do.

Q. Is there any piece-work done in your shop? A. There is very little of it done now; I do not know that there is any done in the shop.

Q. Are the men divided into gangs, or do they have to do general repairing? A. They have to do general repairing.

Q. Do they have to build trucks, repair cars, &c.? A. There is a certain amount of men engaged to work on the trucks, and they attend specially to that work.

Q. What wages do these repairers of trucks get? A. I think they strike very nearly the same as those who finish; perhaps a little lower.

Q. Do you furnish all your tools for your work? A. All for our own work.

Q. Does the road furnish you with spanners and wrenches? A. Yes; when we use them.

Q. Do you not use them on all the work? A. We do use them on trucks, but we have very little use for wrenches at our work of finishing.

Q. When the men are sent out to work as auxiliaries what pay do they get? A. I could not say, for I have never been on the road at all.

Q. What men in the shop are generally sent out? A. I think it is the laborers that are generally sent out to do this auxiliary work.

Q. Are the men working on the trucks ever sent out? A. I think they are, sometimes.

Q. Do you ever have any over-work to do? A. Occasionally.

Q. How much do you receive for over-time? A. Hour for hour—the same as in the day time.

Q. Do you receive just the same for night-work as for day-work—nothing extra? A. No.

Q. Are the carpenters insured the same as the men on the road? A. Just the same.

Q. What amount do you pay each month for insurance? A. We pay 20 cents a month; that is what is taken off our pay.

Q. How much are you insured for? A. Five hundred dollars.

Q. Is that in case of death? A. Yes.

Q. And how much in case of accident? A. Five dollars.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How many weeks do you receive that? A. Twenty-six weeks.

HENRY McAFEE, Painter, Intercolonial Railway, called sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. Painter.

Q. Do you work at house work? A. I served my time to house work, but I have not been at it since I have been on the railway.

Q. What are you engaged at now? A. Car-painting.

Q. Do you work in the Intercolonial Railway shops? A. Yes.

Q. What wages are there paid to car-painters in the shop? A. From \$1.50 to \$2.30 a day.

Q. What do the average of the men get? I suppose the \$2.30 man is an overseer?
A. Two dollars and thirty cents is the outside wages the railway is giving to painters now, and there is only one or two getting that.

Q. What do the average of the men get that are painting cars—the ordinary hands?
A. They get different pay in the different grades of work.

Q. Can you give us the rate for each grade?
A. The grades would be \$1.30, \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$2.30.

Q. What kind of work are the men engaged on who earn \$2.30?
A. On general work.

Q. Are they on freight cars?
A. Yes.

Q. Do they work piece-work?
A. There was piece-work in the shop some little time ago, but I do not think there has been any of late.

Q. How many hours a day do you work?
A. Ten.

Q. How long will a man be working at \$1.30 before his pay has advanced?
A. I do not know that I could answer that.

Q. Have you ever known a man to be taken on when there was a vacancy and receive higher wages than the old hands were getting?
A. Yes; I have.

Q. Would he be an extra good hand?
A. He would probably be a very good hand.

Q. Have you ever known any man to be taken on the Intercolonial Railway over the heads of good men?
A. I do not know about that; it might be done in some cases.

Q. Do you know of any handy men who are employed and set to work as painters?
A. Not on certain classes of work.

Q. Are they employed on any class of work?
A. On certain portions of the work they would do.

Q. Do they get the same pay as the painters get?
A. No.

Q. What wages do they receive?
A. \$1.10, \$1.20 and \$1.25.

Q. Are any painters paid as low as that?
A. No.

JOHN NUGENT, Machinist, Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation?
A. Machinist.

Q. Are you an iron-working machinist?
A. I am working at locomotive repairs.

Q. Have you been long employed at locomotive repairing?
A. About twelve years.

Q. What pay do men receive in your line of work?
A. \$1.50 to \$2.10 a day.

Q. Would \$1.50 be the lowest rate paid to machinists?
A. I think that would be about the lowest.

Q. Are they all skilled machinists that are employed on the line?
A. Pretty much all of them.

Q. Do you take on any apprentices?
A. Yes.

Q. How long do these boys have to serve to learn their trade?
A. I could not say whether it is three or four years.

Q. Do they learn all the branches of the machinist's trade there?
A. They can learn all about locomotive repairing.

Q. When they are out of their time would they be capable of going into a shop and taking a job as machinists?
A. Some of the boys could.

Q. Are you able to tell us what these boys earn when they are learning their trade?
A. The first year 70 cents, the second 75 cents and the third \$1.

Q. Do the company furnish you with all your tools?
A. Yes.

Q. In the event of the tools being broken or lost are the employés charged with them?
A. I have never known of it being done.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. How old might these boys be when they are first taken on to learn the trade? A. Generally sixteen or seventeen years old.

Q. Are they indentured? A. No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Are deeds of indenture taken from them? A. I could not say.

JOHN HUNTER, Engineer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES .—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a locomotive engineer.

Q. How many miles constitute a day's run for you? A. One hundred and twenty-six.

Q. Are you on a passenger or a freight train? A. Passenger.

Q. What pay does an engineer on a freight train receive? A. Two dollars and seventy-five cents a day.

Q. Can you tell us what a fireman gets? A. One dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q. Do you know whether the system of signal lights in use on the Intercolonial Railway is a good one? A. I think it is.

Q. Is there ever any confusion from the lights on coming into a yard? A. Not that I ever knew of.

Q. You never heard any complaints about them? A. I never heard any complaints.

GEORGE MOORE, Machinist, Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a machinist.

Q. Do you work at the car-shops? A. Yes; on the Intercolonial Railway.

Q. Are there many machinists employed there? A. Yes; quite a number.

Q. What would be the average wages of a good hand? A. About \$1.75 or \$1.80 a day.

Q. Are they constantly employed during the year? A. Yes.

Q. Are they paid once a month? A. They are.

Q. Have you ever known of the men to express a desire to be paid more frequently? A. Yes.

Q. Do you belong to the insurance fund, like the rest of the men? A. I do.

Q. Have you many boys at the business? A. Not very many.

Q. Do the boys generally remain after they have served their time? A. Some of them do and some of them do not; I should say that perhaps half of them remain, or nearly so.

Q. Would a boy, having an aptitude for the business, turn out to be a good mechanic after he had served his time in the car-shop? A. Yes; that is, in the locomotive line.

Q. Are these boys bound in any way? A. No.

Q. Have you worked as a machinist in any other place, outside of Moncton? A. No.

JOHN FRASER, Blacksmith, Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a blacksmith.

Q. Where do you work? A. In the Intercolonial Railway shops.

Q. Are there many blacksmiths working there? A. I could hardly say, but I think there are about seventeen or eighteen; I work in the boiler shop.

Q. Do you find constant employment all the year round there? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do you get? A. One dollar and eighty cents a day.

Q. Would that be the general average of the blacksmiths in the other shops? A. No; I do not think so; I think they range from \$1.50 to \$2.50 a day, or may be \$2.75.

Q. How much do the helpers get? A. Do you mean in the boiler shop?

Q. I mean blacksmiths' helpers? A. I could not say about the blacksmith shop, but I think from \$1.25 to \$1.40 a day.

Q. What do they get in the boiler shop? A. From \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Q. Are these helpers employed as riveters, too? A. No; they hold on the rivets.

Q. Are you able to tell us what the riveters get? A. \$2.20 a day; from \$1.80 to \$2.20.

Q. Does the railway shop furnish you with all the tools? A. Yes.

Q. Do they ever charge for them if any are broken or lost? A. Not that I know of.

Q. Do you ever make any over-time? A. Yes.

Q. Are you allowed anything extra for over-time? A. No.

Q. Are you paid the same rate as in the day-time? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How many hours do you work? A. Ten hours a day.

Q. Are you paid once a month, like the other hands? A. I am paid once a month.

Q. Have you ever heard any of the men express a desire to be paid more frequently? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think that it would be more convenient for married men to be paid more frequently? A. I think it would.

Q. Are you a married man yourself? A. Yes.

WILLIAM GARDINER, House Joiner, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a house joiner.

Q. Have you worked long in this town? A. About ten years—between ten and twelve years.

Q. What are the wages paid to workingmen here per day? A. On an average, about \$1.35 a day.

Q. Is the same rate of wages paid in the summer as in the winter? A. No; not the same.

Q. How much of a cut is there in the seasons? A. In the winter we get about \$1.25 a day.

Q. Are there many men in this town receiving \$1.75 a day? A. No; I do not think so.

Q. Can a good, first-class joiner find employment in this town at \$1.75 a day—can he find it readily? A. No; I do not think so.

Q. Do you know how many months in the year, on an average, carpenters get work in this town? A. A carpenter would not get over eight months, I think.

Q. Is that allowing for short time in the winter? A. Yes.

Q. And for lost time? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know whether there are many men in this town getting less than \$1.35 a day? A. Yes; I know of some.

Q. Would there be more getting less than \$1.35 than those who are getting more? A. I rather think there are; I mean in the winter season.

Q. Is there any reason why the carpenter should not get as much or do as much work in the winter as the summer season? A. I think he can do just as much.

Q. Do you know of any other reason, except the slackness of work, why the wages are cut in the winter? A. I do not know of any other reason.

Q. Do you think that the workingmen of Moncton can pay house rent and live comfortably on their earnings? A. I think it would take it all to do that.

Q. Do you think they can save much money? A. Not a great deal.

Q. Do you know many mechanics in Moncton who have purchased houses for themselves out of their earnings? A. Not outside of the house joiners in the shop; I do not think there are many others.

Q. What increase of wages has there been in Moncton the last five or six years? A. I do not think there has been any the last five or six years.

Q. Do you know if house rent has increased in that time? A. I do not think it has.

Q. Has it been stationary all around? A. Just the same.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you ever know contractors or boss carpenters to cut down the wages of labor on account of the surplus of the unemployed? A. Yes; they cut them in the winter.

Q. Are you a married man? A. No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you ever known any mechanics in this place to lose any portion of their wages through either dishonesty or insolvency of their employers? A. I do know of some, some years ago.

Q. Do you know of any recently? A. Not at the present time.

Q. Are the men always paid in full? A. Well, not right up, always.

Q. How much is retained by the employer? A. It generally goes according to the pay; sometimes they keep some back.

Q. Do they keep back more than one day? A. Yes; sometimes they do, but not always; they do not always pay up prompt.

Q. Do they sometimes pay a man a part of his wages and tell him to wait till pay-day for the rest? A. They do not say that exactly.

Q. Are the men ever paid with orders on stores? A. I do not know of any.

Q. Do you know if the mechanics in the building line in this town are ever given notes for their pay? A. No; I do not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. If a carpenter is away from the shop on pay-day, working on a building, does he have to go to the shop for his pay, or does the pay come to the building where he is working? A. The men generally have to go to the shop for their pay.

Q. Do they find that to be very inconvenient at times? A. Yes.

Q. Do they go for their pay in their own time or the boss' time? A. They go in their own time—that is, in working outside.

BENJAMIN TITUS, Fireman, Intercolonial Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a fireman.

Q. Are you a railway fireman? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been on the road? A. Three years last November.

Q. What wages do you get now? A. One dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q. What wages do firemen begin at? A. One dollar and thirty cents a day.

- Q. Is his pay increased every year till he gets up to \$1.50? A. It is.
- Q. When a fireman remains on the road does he expect to get an engine in time? A. Yes; and most of them do.
- Q. How long will a fireman be on the road before he gets an engine? A. It all depends on how smart he is.
- Q. Is there any difficulty in firemen obtaining engines when they are capable of taking charge of them, or do they have to wait any length of time? A. They do.
- Q. Do they have to wait for an opening? A. They do.
- Q. How many miles do you have to run per day? A. One hundred and eighty-six.
- Q. Do they run on freight or passenger trains? A. I run on a passenger train.
- Q. Are the firemen on freight trains paid as much as the ones on passenger trains? A. After they are on.
- Q. Do they get the same pay? A. Same pay.
- Q. How much does a fireman receive for detention? A. Twelve cents an hour.
- Q. How many hours is the most you have known a fireman to be kept on duty on one run? A. I have been on duty forty-eight hours.
- Q. How much rest would you be allowed after being on duty that length of time before going out again? A. It is all according to the rush; there is no set time when we are on "specials."
- Q. Are the men ever ordered out to work without having ever received eight hours' rest? A. I have known them to be.
- Q. When a train has been detained on the road for a length of time are the firemen allowed to leave their engines, except to get a meal? A. He is not allowed to leave unless another man takes his place.
- Q. They cannot leave until they are relieved? A. No.
- Q. Does it frequently happen that firemen, when they are detained, cannot get a relief? A. Sometimes they cannot. Of course, if they are told they can send a man up from the round-house—from headquarters.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q. When snow blocks you up, are you not sometimes twenty-four hours on the road without communication with any other car? A. Yes.
- Q. Would not that be on the road to Quebec, as a general rule? A. It does.
- Q. In that case you cannot get a relief? A. No.
- Q. Would it be possible for you to get a relief? A. You cannot get a relief unless a man is sent to you.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. As a general thing, are firemen promoted to engines in rotation? A. They have been till this last year.
- Q. But as a general thing they are? A. They always have been, till this last year; that is, to the best of my knowledge.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. What is the reason that men have been appointed to engines out of their proper turns? Is there any special reason for it that you know of? A. Since the examination—one man might be able to answer the question a little more satisfactorily than another man.
- Q. Does it all depend upon how he passes his examination? A. Yes.
- Q. And upon how many marks he makes upon his examination? A. Yes.
- Q. Then seniority has nothing to do with it? A. That is since this last winter.
- Q. Have you ever known a fireman to be given an engine over the head of a man who was capable of taking charge of one? A. I could not say about a man's capabilities myself.
- Q. You do not know whether he passes as good an examination as you do? A. We are not supposed to know how another man passes; we do not know ourselves when we pass exactly how we pass.
- Q. Have you heard any grumbling on the mode of appointing firemen to engines recently? A. I have this last spring.
- Q. Do the men think that they have not been treated fairly? A. Yes.

CHATHAM, N.B., 17th April, 1888.

THOS. F. GILLESPIE, Owner of Chatham Foundry, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am owner of the Chatham foundry; that is one part of my business.

Q. How many men do you employ in the foundry? A. From eight to twelve, or thirteen.

Q. Are these men engaged on skilled or machinery labor? A. Machinery labor.

Q. Can you tell us what wages a man will earn on machinery labor? A. He will make from \$7 to \$13 a week.

Q. Would the man at \$7 a week be a competent moulder? A. Yes.

Q. Then the \$13 man would be the foreman? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the average wages of the men, leaving out the foreman? A. The ordinary rate is from \$8 to \$9 apiece.

Q. Do the same prices rule a stove-plate moulder? A. We do not do very much by piece-work.

Q. Do they all work day-work? A. Yes; all the same.

Q. Therefore, the same rate of wages would prevail? A. Yes.

Q. How many hours a day do they work? A. They work ten and a quarter hours five days in the week and seven and three-quarters on Saturday.

Q. Do you keep your hands constantly engaged all the year round? A. I do.

Q. Do you close your foundry any portion of the year? A. No; our foundry has not been closed yet, at least since I have been in it.

Q. What wages do furnace men receive? A. The furnace men get \$1 a day.

Q. Have you men engaged in cleaning castings? A. The men do that work.

Q. Do you employ more than one man at furnace work? A. That is all.

Q. Do you take on any apprentices in the moulding business? A. Yes.

Q. What is the usual length of time they have to serve to learn their trade? A. Three to four years.

Q. What will a boy get when he goes to learn his trade? A. One dollar a week.

Q. What will he get the second year? A. Two dollars a week.

Q. And what will he get the third year? A. Three dollars a week.

Q. Do you find that they generally stay with you after they have learned their trade? A. Most of them leave us.

Q. Do you bind them by any means? A. No.

Q. Then you have none of your apprentices indentured? A. We have no indentures.

Q. Do you think that if a boy was indentured he would be more attentive to his business and learn his trade better? A. I do not think so; some of them would do better than others, but as a rule they would not.

Q. As a rule, when these apprentices have finished their time do they remain with you? A. They do if I find employment for them.

Q. How many apprentices have you now? A. I have only one; I have only employment for him.

Q. Do you employ an engineer? A. Yes.

Q. Is he a skilled engineer? A. Yes; a skilled engineer.

Q. What does a stationary engineer like him get? A. Two dollars a day.

Q. Does he do his own firing for that? A. No; we have a man to do his firing.

Q. What other business are you engaged at? A. I am in the stevedoring business.

Q. Do you employ any men at that? A. No; except when discharging vessels.

Q. What are the wages of a laborer discharging coal? A. One dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q. How much do ship-laborers find to do here in the season? A. I could not say about that.

Q. Have you no idea how much they have to do? A. I could not say; when there are no ships here there is nothing to do.

Q. Do you employ any teamsters? A. Sometimes.

Q. What would be the wages that teamsters receive? A. I do not know; I think it is \$1 a day; good men would get \$2.50 and \$3 a day.

Q. Would \$1 a day be the average for laboring men here? A. Ship-laborers get \$2 a day, and sometimes more than that; I am speaking now of the laborers in my foundry; they get \$1 a day all the time, I think.

Q. Do you know if the cost of living has increased in Chatham in the last five or six years? A. Yes; I think so.

Q. Has it been much of an increase? A. I could not say; I know it costs more to live than it did.

Q. Has the rent of houses increased? A. Yes; house rents have increased.

Q. Has the pay of the laboring men increased in proportion to the increased rents and cost of living? A. I do not think it has.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What rent does a laboring man have to pay? A. That is hard to say, because some of them have got their own places; a great many of them live in their own houses.

Q. Do they own their own houses? A. A great many of them do; I suppose they pay—those that rent houses—from \$3 to \$7 a month rent.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you employ any pattern-makers in the foundry? A. I do.

Q. How much do they get a day? A. One dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q. Are they kept steady going? A. Yes.

Q. Where do you get your patterns from? A. We make them.

Q. Do you import any stove patterns? A. No.

Q. How is the ventilation of the foundry? A. It is well ventilated.

Q. Is it comfortable in the winter time? A. It is comfortable in the winter time.

Q. Is its sanitary condition good? A. It is.

Q. Has it connection with the water-closets? A. Yes.

Q. Is the water-closet near the moulding room? A. It is 20 or 40 yards from it.

Q. Is it covered up, or an open pit? A. It is an open pit.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What kind of coal do you use? A. I get anthracite coal.

Q. Do you use any soft coal? A. Yes; we use Sydney coal in some cases.

Q. What does that cost you? A. Sydney coal?

Q. Yes? A. About \$3.25—I mean Victoria mine coal; old mines, Sydney, would cost more—\$4, or \$4.50, or \$4.75.

Q. Do you use any Spring Hill coal? A. Yes; I sell Spring Hill coal.

Q. How do prices of coal compare here with those of Montreal—are they higher or lower? A. I do not know about the prices in Montreal; I never looked them up; but I know that the freights from Spring Hill to here are more in comparison to the distance than from Spring Hill to Montreal.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is it a fact that coal is carried from Spring Hill to Montreal for a less rate than from there to Chatham? A. I pay \$1.20 from there to Chatham, but I do not think that Montreal pays as high a rate.

Q. What is the price of Spring Hill coal here? A. It is, for round coal, \$2.75.

Q. And for Spring Hill coal? A. That is for Spring Hill for house purposes. It is \$1.35 for blacksmith's coal, and then the freight has to be added, which brings it up to \$1.60 and \$1.70.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you pay your men weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A. I always paid them weekly until last year, when I changed to fortnightly payments.

Q. Was it at the request of the men that you paid them fortnightly? A. It was not.

Q. Are the men paid in cash? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you know if any men in Chatham are paid in due bills? A. It used to be the practice in old times; sometimes they are paid in due bills.

Q. Do you know whether it has been the practice here this last season? A. I do not know that it has.

Q. What is the retail price of coal in Chatham? A. I retail coal from \$3.50 to \$3.75—that is, soft coal; and I sell anthracite from \$6.50 to \$6.75 and \$7.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Can you tell us why it is that coal should be dearer here in 1877, 1882 and 1887 than it was in Halifax and St. John? A. The price of coal is regulated by the market.

Q. Is it a fact that coal was much dearer in Chatham in 1877, 1882 and 1887 than it was in Halifax and St. John? A. I could not tell you what it was in 1877.

Q. Do you know what was the price of coal in Chatham in 1877, 1882 or 1887? A. I could not from memory, but I could hunt it up.

Q. Will you hunt it up? A. Yes.

Q. And could you do so this evening? A. I will—yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is the price of a barrel of flour in Chatham? A. I get \$5.25 for the very best quality; that is the best I could get. There is cheaper flour than that to be got.

Q. What is the price of the second grade—baking flour? A. I could not tell you that.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What is the price of flour used for bread? A. I suppose it is \$4.50 or \$5.

WILLIAM MUIRHEAD, Foundryman, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a foundryman.

Q. Did you hear the evidence of the last witness, Mr. Gillespie? A. I did not.

Q. How many men do you employ? A. I average about twenty men and five boys.

Q. Do you do stove-plate or machinery moulding? A. Principally machinery and boilers, and a little steam casting.

Q. Is that all you do under the head of machinery moulding? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the average wages of good, skilled moulders? A. They go all the way from \$1.50 to \$2 a day; it is all according to the work they do and the way they put it out.

Q. Do they work piece-work? A. Sometimes; they generally work by the day or week.

Q. Would \$1.50 be about the lowest for a good plate-moulder? A. Yes; for a good one.

Q. Is it a practice to hire men for plate-moulding and keep them on the same class of work all the time? A. It is, when you have that class of work to do; and they work on it well, because you know they can do it.

Q. Do these men take the place of skilled moulders? A. They do; we often lose a cast, or something like that, but we have to expect it from them.

Q. Do you find constant employment for your men all the year round? A. We did last year, and for the last four years.

Q. What would be the wages of a pattern-maker? A. From \$1.20 and \$1.30 to \$1.70.

Q. Would the \$1.20 pattern-maker be a skilled or handy man? A. He is a handy man; the best man I have gets \$1.70.

Q. Do you keep a man about the foundry making boxes and column boards? A. This man I speak of does that work when it is wanted.

Q. What would be the wages of furnace men? A. One dollar and ten cents, one dollar and twenty cents, or sometimes one dollar and twenty-five cents; it is all according to the work he does—he helps to clean the castings, sometimes.

Q. What do you give to laborers about the foundry? A. There are not many of them, except the boys I speak of.

Q. I suppose you do mill casting? A. No; we have nothing like that to do; we do all that by hand.

Q. Do you use the old-fashioned scratch? A. Yes.

Q. Do you have boys engaged as apprentices? A. We call them apprentices, but they are not indentured.

Q. Do they go away after their time is out? A. As a rule, they stay with us till they are pretty well up in years and feel that they can do better somewhere else; some stay a long while and others do not.

Q. Do they generally stay their time out? A. Most of them do.

Q. Do you take apprentices on for stove-plate moulding? A. We have done very little stove business here for the last four or five years.

Q. Do the boys get a good knowledge of stove-plate moulding during the time that they serve with you? A. They do.

Q. Do they become good workmen in that time? A. They become first-class in that time.

Q. Are your men paid weekly? A. Yes.

Q. In cash? A. Yes.

Q. And in full? A. Yes.

Q. Is no part of their wages retained? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are there any moulders in Chatham that own their own houses? A. I know three that own their own houses; one is boarding with a family he is married into and another is a man from Halifax.

Q. Did they pay for those houses out of their own earnings in Chatham? A. I do not think they did; I think parties got the houses for them.

Q. Do you know what a workingman would pay for a house of five or six rooms with modern conveniences in Chatham? A. I suppose he would pay \$8 to \$10 a month; I could not say for certain, but from what I have heard I should think he would pay that sum.

Q. Do you know if the working people of Chatham can live comfortably on their earnings? A. I think they can, as well as in other places in the Province; I know we have not many poor people—very few paupers.

Q. Do you think they can save much out of their earnings? A. Some can, I suppose.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles here? A. Some years ago we had; that was principally when the ships came here.

Q. But you have had none in your own business? A. No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Is it a fact that many of the working people in Chatham are in comfortable circumstances? A. I think so; I know the majority own their own houses; in fact, I am pretty sure of it.

ERNEST HUTCHINSON, Lumberman, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am in the lumber business.

Q. Are you manufacturing lumber? A. Yes; shipping it.

Q. Do you employ many men in that business? A. In the manufacture, I think from thirty-eight to ninety, men and boys.

Q. Do you manufacture lumber—deals? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Do you manufacture all deals? A. No; laths and shingles.

Q. About what are gang-men paid? A. \$1.50 to \$1.75.

Q. Do you pay tail men the same? A. No; tail men do not get so much as that; they get \$1.30 or \$1.40.

Q. Do you use a patent engine? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay your firemen? A. They get \$1.40.

Q. Do you saw laths by the thousand? A. No; by the day. We do not saw laths by the thousand at all; we just hire the men by the day.

Q. What do you pay lath-sawyers? A. We pay lath sawyers—I am not certain; I think we pay one man \$2 a day and the others we pay from \$1.25 to \$1.50. I am not certain on the point of the lath machines.

Q. Are they all able to shift? A. They are all able to shift.

Q. What do you pay your bed-men? A. One dollar and thirty cents.

Q. What do you pay your engineer? A. I hire him by the year.

Q. He does repairs in the winter, I suppose? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay your surveyors? A. The surveyors get about \$1.50.

Q. Do you go to the stump for your lumber, or do you buy it? A. I buy it.

Q. When it comes down the river? A. When it comes down the river.

Q. What are log-scalers paid? A. Is that for surveying logs at the boom?

Q. Yes? A. The law regulates that. The lumber Act regulates the price at 15 cents per thousand, but I think that the surveyors or scalers very seldom get that. There are some conditions in the Act which a lumber-scaler is required to do, such as the marking of the contents of the log on it, but they do not always do so. They get as high as 10 or 15 cents a thousand, although the law provides that the work shall be done for 15 cents. This is done because the provisions of the law are very seldom enforced.

Q. Who pays the scaler, the seller or the buyer? A. That is a matter of arrangement. The buyer pays the scaling fee.

Q. Do you ship any laths to the United States? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. How many months in the year are your men employed? A. From six to seven, according to the season.

Q. When your mill is closed do you furnish these men with any other class of employment? A. Some of them we do; the rest go to the woods, to work at lumbering.

Q. Do you retain them at the same wages in winter as in summer? A. No; we pay less wages in winter.

Q. What would be the earnings of those men in the winter season? A. In the woods they get from \$14 to about \$18

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you board them? A. Yes; that is with their board; that is in the woods.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. How frequently are the men paid? A. In the mill, every two weeks.

Q. And in the woods? A. There is no regular arrangement for paying the men in the woods. They generally get paid as they require it and the balance is settled

in the spring. The paying of the men in the woods is a matter of arrangement between the employer and the employé.

Q. Are any of the men engaged about the lumber mill paid partly in due bills and partly in cash? A. Not that I am aware of.

Q. Do you know if that has been the practice of some of the mills in Chatham during the past season? A. I can only answer for my own, and I know it has not been done in mine.

Q. How long have you been in business in Chatham? A. For myself and others, twelve years or thereabout.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. As you board your men in the woods, could you give us the price of boarding them? A. Yes.

Q. Could you furnish us with the prices you paid for sugar and pork in 1877, 1882 and 1887? A. I could get you the list of what the operators paid.

Q. Could you give us a list for November of each year? A. Yes; I will try to get it.

Q. Could you give us a list of your principal supplies? A. I could.

Q. Speaking from your knowledge, could you say whether a large proportion of the work people of Chatham own their own houses? A. I could not tell you about that, for I do not live this side of the river.

Q. Do you live in Newcastle? A. I live in the parish of Newcastle, and over where I live there are a good many laboring men who own their own dwellings—perhaps half.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have the wages of mill men increased in the past five years in this neighborhood? A. Take them all round, I think not.

Q. Have they been at a standstill or have they decreased? A. I think there has been very little variation, and I am of opinion that if there has been anything there has been a decrease.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How many hours constitute a day's work with you? A. Ten.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you work any over-time? A. I do.

Q. Are the men paid extra for over-time? A. Yes.

Q. Extra, according to the day-rate? A. Extra, according to the day-rate.

Q. Have you ever had any accidents happen in the mill? A. Very seldom; I cannot call any to mind at present. I have known one or two accidents to happen, where men got their hands cut, but I cannot call to mind any serious accident.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Is the business of manufacturing lumber increasing in this place? A. No; it has fallen off very much the last few years.

Q. Would that be due to the lack of demand or to the fact that the trade has gone to other places? A. It is due to the lack of demand, but the great reason for the diversion of the lumber trade can be attributed to the extreme fall in the price of iron that has taken place.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is it not due to the extreme tax that the Government has placed on the lumber—that is the stumpage? A. I do not think the stumpage has any bearing whatever on the lumber trade; it prevents the operator from making the profit he could otherwise make upon it, but it has no bearing upon the prices. It does not affect the prices and it had not raised the price of lumber.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do you know what has been the decrease in the output the last few years? A. I think for the last eight years it has fallen from 140,000,000 to about 70,000,000; I think it is little more than half what it was. In 1876 it was 118,000,000; in 1877, 160,000,000; in 1880 it was 155,000,000, and from 1877, take the ten years together, it is little less than half what it was.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you think that the decrease was mainly from natural causes? A. The decrease, of course, was on account of the limited demand, for it would not pay persons to get out large quantities of lumber now. If the prices of lumber go up we would take logs out of difficult places, where it would not otherwise pay us to go for them.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. There is no other reason for the price going down in Chatham? A. No.

Q. What affects either parts of the Dominion affects you? A. Yes; that is, in our particular line—the lumber trade.

Q. Not speaking of the present generation, I would ask how have lumber dealers succeeded—have they succeeded in making fortunes in this country, or is it reversed, as a rule? A. I could not say; it is pretty hard to tell whether a person has made a fortune or not. I do not think there have been any fortunes made in the lumber business in the last ten years, but it is my opinion that many years ago money was made here in that business; I know it is supposed that there was.

Q. Were not many of those who were supposed to have been rich while living found out to be poor when they died? A. Yes; I think so.

PRICE-LIST of Supplies for the Month of November in the Years 1877, 1882, 1885 and 1887.

ARTICLES.	1877.		1882.		1885.		1887.	
	\$ c.	c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	c.	\$ c.	c.
Flour	7 00		6 00 @	6 25	5 60		5 00	
Cornmeal.....	3 25				3 75		3 54	
Oatmeal.....	7 00		6 50		5 25		5 00	
Beef	10 @	12	10		13		10	
Pork	12 @	18	15 @	20	10 @	14	12	
Tea.....	45 @	50	40		25 @	40	25 @	40
Sugar	12		10		7		7	
Molasses.....	55 wine mes.		60 Imperial..		55		40	
Butter	24		25		22		22	
Kerosene							25 @	35

Fresh beef sells in November at about 5 cents.

I hereby certify that the above statement is to complete the evidence given by me, yesterday, before the Royal Labor Commission. The above are retail prices.

E. HUTCHINSON.

CHATHAM, N.B., 18th April, 1888.

THEOPHILUS DESBRISAY, Foreman for Mr. Snowball, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am foreman for Mr. Snowball.

Q. In the mill? A. Partly the mill and partly outside the mill.

Q. What other departments, outside of the mill, have you charge of? A. I am foreman of the shipping and supplies to the men in the mill, and I have to do the looking after his tugs.

Q. Have you anything to do with the Chatham Branch Railway? A. I have, in Mr. Snowball's absence.

Q. How many men do you employ in the lumbering business? A. I think between 300 and 400.

Q. How many of those would be residents of Chatham? A. The greater part of them; I should say three-quarters of them.

Q. Did you hear the evidence of the last witness, Mr. Hutchinson, in regard to the wages of the different branches of the trade? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What are gang-men paid? A. There are different grades of gang-men; the head-men get about 20 cents more than the tail-men. The gang-men get about \$1.50 and some \$1.60.

Q. Do tail-men get the same wages? A. No; tail-men get about \$1.30, and then there are helpers, who get about \$1.

Q. That is the middle-men? A. It is.

Q. What does the head circular-man get? A. From \$1.40 to \$1.50.

Q. What do bed-men get? A. Some get \$1.10; some \$1.20; perhaps some new, ordinary men get \$1.

Q. What do pilers get? A. About \$2.

Q. What do you pay engineers? A. \$2 and \$2.50.

Q. And the filers? A. \$2.

Q. Is there one in each gang? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay lath sawyers? A. The highest we pay them is \$1.30.

Q. Do you manufacture many laths? A. No; it does not pay to make laths in this market.

Q. What hours do your men work? A. Ten.

Q. A day? A. Yes.

Q. About how many months in the year do you find work for the men in the mill? A. About seven months; from six and a-half to seven.

Q. Do you work at night? A. Yes; last season we worked for the first time in four or five years.

Q. What are those men employed at in the winter? A. Some go to the woods, some go fishing and some stay home.

Q. Are half of the men employed, then, in the winter? A. I think so, and more.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What wages do ship-laborers get in shipping lumber? A. Outside men get from \$1.30 to \$1.40; that was the wages last summer.

Q. Do you hire the men yourself or do you let the stevedore do that? A. The stevedore employs them; the inside men get \$2.

Q. What do you pay per St. Petersburg standard for loading vessels? A. I forget what the ships paid; I think \$1.40 a standard.

Q. Do you know how that compares with the price of the Quebec standard? A. I do not know; I think they ship a great deal cheaper there; I think they are loading vessels for \$1.

Q. A standard? A. Yes.

Q. Do you load from lighters here or from off the wharf? A. As a rule, off the wharves. We had a vessel loaded here last year for \$1, but that was the condition of the charter.

Q. Are the vessels principally loaded from the wharf or off lighters? A. Off the wharf in Chatham.

Q. Do you use any steam in loading lumber? A. With steamers we use steam—large ones—but with small ones it is not convenient to do so.

Q. Are you able to tell us the rates paid on the railroad from here to the Junction? A. I could not remember.

Q. Could you furnish us with a list of wages paid to the conductors, firemen, &c.? A. Yes.

Q. How frequently are your men paid in the mill? A. Every fortnight.

Q. Are they always paid in cash? A. Yes; if they require it.

Q. Has it been your practice to pay any of the hands in the mill, within the last few years, in due bills? A. If any man of family wanted any provisions, or a barrel of flour, we would give it to him.

Q. Have the men always asked for these due bills when they have been paid with them? A. Yes; I think so.

Q. You could not tell us for certain? A. The men are all squared up every fortnight during the summer, and any balance coming to them is paid in cash.

Q. Do they have to take these due bills in the mean time? A. They do not have to; they need not take them if they do not like to.

Q. Is it not a fact that previous to the last season the men were paid in cash entirely? A. No more than it was last summer or season.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you know if these due bills have been offered to the men in part payment, without their asking for them? A. I do not know of that of my own knowledge; I know that during the summer the men are all paid up every fortnight.

Q. Are these due bills given on any particular store? A. They are given on Mr. Snowball's own store.

Q. Does the company own the store that the due bills are given on? A. It is not a due bill that is given; it is merely an order from the office to give the workmen so much goods.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. And these are given whenever needed, but the men are not obliged to take them? A. They are not.

Q. When the money is due them and pay-day comes they are paid up in cash always? A. Yes; we pay them all in cash at the end of the fortnight.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. If the men ask for cash as well as due bills would you give it to them? A. Yes; but the other suits as well, for they can get goods from us as low as they could elsewhere, and a man of family might not be able to run a fortnight and wait for his pay, and as he is not able to get credit he might just as well take the order for the goods, as they are as cheap as he could get any where else.

Q. In the woods, what time do you start your night-watch? A. Seven o'clock.

Q. What time do you quit in the morning? A. Six o'clock.

Q. How many hours are you supposed to run? A. Ten hours a day.

Q. And ten hours at night? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you believe that if the men were paid every week in cash that there would be so much credit asked for as now? A. I do not know as they ask for credit; they get what they want; for if a man wants a few dollars during the week, before pay-day is up, he can get it always.

Q. Do you know the number of men in the employ of the company that get \$1.15 a day? A. I could not tell you that exactly.

Q. Are there many? A. In the mill there are a good many that get \$1.15 and \$1.20 a day.

Q. Are any of these married men supporting families? A. I think so.
 Q. Can a man live comfortably, support a family, live squarely and pay house rent on \$1 a day? A. I think some can live very well.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Can your men live well? A. I never heard them grumbling about their living; they live first rate. The trouble with mill men is, they cannot work in the winter time, but when the mill shuts down in the fall of the year they can go into the woods and work for the concern there, while their families are provided for during the winter from the stores; therefore, they have an advantage.

Q. Do they get their board in the winter? A. Yes; in the woods.

Q. And their wages go for the support of the family? A. They do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Does the family get their provisions out of this store for the winter when the husband is away from home? A. Sometimes they do and sometimes they do not; in that matter they can do just as it suits them.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Could you give us a statement of the things that you used in the woods for the last five years—say for ten years—November, 1877, 1882 and 1887? A. I will. These are the prices at which we sold flour, beef, pork, sugar and tea in 1887, 1882, and 1887:—

	Flour.	Beef.	Pork.	Sugar.	Tea.
1877.....	7.00@8.00	10c.@12c.	10c.@12c.	12c.	45c.
1882.....	\$6.75@\$6.90	10c.	15c.	10c.	35c.@40c.
1887.....	5.25	10c.	12c.	8c.	30c.@40c.

In the matter of sugar, the people could buy, if they wished, fourteen pounds for \$1.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you supply the men that go to the woods with clothing, boots and shoes?
 A. We do so.

Q. Do they get some boots, and shoes, and clothing from the company in part payment of wages? A. The articles that the men want to go to the woods with we generally fix them out with them—the head lumbermen.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Are they free to buy where they like? A. Yes; we very seldom have any trouble with our men. This is a statement of the wages paid on the Chatham Branch Railway for the last year, and what we are paying now:—

Superintendent.....	\$60 per month.
Conductor.....	50 “
Driver.....	40 “
Firemen (two).....	30 “
Brakesman.....	1.10 per day.
Station-master.....	40 per month.
Operator.....	25 “
Assistant agent.....	25 “

In the case of the station-master, he is provided with fuel, rent and light. The price for stowing and loading vessels in Chatham in 1887 was \$1.25 per St. Petersburg standard.

GEORGE WATT, Ship-chandler, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a ship-chandler.

Q. Does ship-chandlery include the supplying of everything for the fitting out of ships? A. Yes.

Q. Is there much of that kind of work done here? A. No; the vessels barely buy what they require.

Q. Do you employ many men in that business? A. No; I do not require a great many people.

Q. What would be the wages of an ordinary clerk in a place like yours? A. I generally pay about \$28 a month; it is generally a small boy that I employ.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. How old a boy would he be? A. Quite young.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is the ordinary pay of a clerk in Chatham, without specifying any particular person in the business? A. I do not know as I could tell you without mentioning some body; I pay my boy between \$25 and \$28 a month.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. How old is he—eighteen or nineteen years? A. He is about twenty.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. How many hours a day would he be required to be at business? A. We commence at seven or eight in the morning and knock off at eight at night.

Q. Does he work the same hours on Saturday? A. Yes.

Q. Do you do anything in the fishing business? A. Yes.

Q. Are there many people employed in the fishing business here the last few years? A. No; it is just fishing by nets.

Q. Do you do any canning? A. No; shipping of fish—smelts.

Q. Are you able to tell us anything about the earnings at the smelt fishing business? A. It is very uncertain work—some do very well at it and others earn little or nothing. I have seen some of them last fall make \$60 a night—one man—while some of them have not made that much for the whole of the winter. The fishing for smelts is not continuous, and it varies with every season.

Q. Is not the season for smelt fishing short? A. Yes.

Q. Are most of the men that fish those that are out of work? A. Yes; out of work in the winter; they rent a net and go fishing for a month or two months; some own their own nets.

Q. What is the average prices paid for these fish this year? A. They range from $1\frac{1}{4}$ cents to $2\frac{3}{4}$ cents; I paid $2\frac{3}{4}$ cents a hundred, and that takes everything—small and large.

Q. Do you know if the laboring men of Chatham are able to earn a considerable sum at that kind of fishing? A. There is a great deal of money paid out at that every winter, and many of the men would be hard up if it were not for the smelt fishing.

Q. How many people do you think would be engaged in that business—or, rather, how much money do you think would be paid out during the fishing season to the working people? A. It ranges from \$25,000 to \$30,000.

Q. Would that, with the work which they get while the mill is open, give them sufficient to live on? A. It would give them a very fair living.

Q. Do you think that the sum that you have mentioned is the general wages paid to clerks in Chatham? A. I do not know.

Q. You can only speak for yourself? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Is it an unprofitable business to be a clerk? A. Yes; most people have to take small wages while they are learning any business.

F. E. DANVILLE, Surveyor, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Are you a surveyor of lumber? A. Yes.

Q. Do you manufacture lumber or logs? A. Logs.

Q. Anything besides logs? A. Logs and square timber.

Q. What are the wages of timber surveyors? A. In my own case I am working under yearly wages; I am a yearly man.

Q. Do the surveyors have six months' steady surveying? A. I do not know any that have six months' work.

Q. Do they have other work to do besides surveying? A. Some do; some carry on farms, and some do a little business on their own account.

Q. Who employs them? A. I could not tell exactly.

Q. Are they employed by the seller of lumber or by the buyer? A. I could not say; it ought to be by mutual agreement.

Q. Then there is no regular custom in regard to the matter? A. No; not that I am aware of.

Q. Does not the buyer of lumber always pay the surveyor? A. He is supposed to.

Q. Who chooses him? A. The seller, generally.

Q. Do you think that it is a good regulation that the seller should choose the surveyor while the buyer has to pay him? A. That is a pretty hard question to answer; I think that it ought to be a matter of mutual agreement between the two, in order to make it satisfactory to both parties.

Q. What is the law with regard to that matter? A. I do not know; I am not certain about it.

Q. Does the law compel the purchaser to pay the surveyor? A. Yes; I think so.

Q. But he has no choice in the matter of the surveyor at all? A. I think he has redress in case of trouble.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. What department of the work do surveyors do, apart from the scaling of lumber? A. Some of them are on farms when not busy at surveying and some of them go to the lumber woods in winter.

Q. Are you interested in farming yourself? A. No; I am a yearly man.

Q. You are not interested in farming, then? A. No.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do you know whether the working people of Chatham obtain pretty steady employment all the year round at either one thing or another? A. Some part of them do; those that I am acquainted with do; some are very seldom idle; good men are very seldom idle.

Q. Do you think it is possible for all the good men to obtain employment in that way? A. At the present time I think it is, but there are times when work is not sufficient for them. Last summer, as far as I could see, they could receive employment.

Q. Is the winter or summer season the hardest with you? A. It does not make a great difference with me; I cannot answer that question for certain, I am sure.

Q. What are the wages of surveyors? A. I could hardly say what they earn, but I get \$1,000

Q. How many months in the year do you get work? A. I am a yearly hand and get work for twelve months.

ALEX. ROBINSON, Carriage-builder, called sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q. What is your business ? A. I am a carriage-maker—wood-worker.
- Q. How many men do you employ ? A. Between six and nine.
- Q. What are the wages of a wood-worker on the body-work of a carriage ? A. I pay wood-workers on that work from \$6.50 to \$9 a week.
- Q. What do you pay blacksmiths ? A. I pay them about the same wages.
- Q. Do you do any upholstering ? A. I get my upholstering done outside.
- Q. Have you a painter hired ? A. I generally keep my boys engaged assisting at that work, for I do the painting myself ; I sometimes hire a painter.
- Q. Do you make the whole carriage, or part of it, or do you import any of them ? A. We sometimes import them.
- Q. Where do you get the principal parts of your carriages from ? A. Sometimes from Ontario ; some from Galt, but most from Guelph.
- Q. Do the blacksmiths have pretty constant employment at good wages ? A. We employ them by the year.
- Q. Yearly engagement ? A. Not always a yearly engagement, but as a rule we have one, two or three with us.
- Q. Have you any apprentices at the business ? A. Yes.
- Q. When apprentices go to the carriage business do you teach them the whole trade or just one branch ? A. If a lad goes to learn the whole business he generally will learn it, but some of them only learn one branch.
- Q. How long will it take a lad to learn the business ? A. It will take five or six years.
- Q. Have you any difficulty in keeping boys with you that time ? A. Yes ; they generally want to go after they have worked two or three years, for they want to get better pay.
- Q. If boys were indentured do you think it would relieve any part of that difficulty, or remove it ? A. I think not ; I think that when a boy does not want to stop with an employer it is better to let him go.
- Q. Do you not think that the indenturing of apprentices would tend to make the boys more steady ? A. It would with some boys, I think, but with others it would not. If a boy does not want to learn a trade I think it is better to let him go.
- Q. Where do you meet with most of your competition ? A. The most competition we meet with is from the large factories and large companies.
- Q. Do you know if the prison-made goods from Montreal find their way down here ? A. I do not think so.
- Q. Do any prison-made goods come down here ? A. I do not know about prison-made goods ; they may, but I do not know of it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q. What portion of the carriages do you get from the upper Provinces ? A. Sometimes we get part of the carriages from there.
- Q. Springs and axles ? A. Yes ; springs and axles. As a rule, I get my springs from St. John.
- Q. Do you find any improvement in springs and axles at the present day from what there was six or seven years ago—that is, in the make of them ? A. I cannot say that ; some years ago we used to get the best springs from the United States. We used to think that the American springs were the best, but I dare say there is an improvement in the Canadian springs, and that they are better than they were seven or eight years ago.
- Q. Are there as many American springs imported now as formerly ? A. There is not.
- Q. Where do you get your leather from for the tops ? A. I buy them ready made.
- Q. Where do you get them from ? A. The upper Provinces ?

- Q. Montreal? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you find the article good? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you use all Canadian wood? A. No; not all; we use some American hickory and whitewood.
- Q. Where do you get your hickory from? A. I get some of it from Mr. Hayward, in St. John.
- Q. Is it second growth of hickory? A. Yes; he keeps both qualities; I get the second growth.
- Q. Do you prefer the second growth? A. Yes.
- Q. What age do you take apprentices at? A. From fourteen to sixteen years of age; I have taken them on at fourteen and fifteen; I think fifteen is the youngest.
- Q. When they have served their time do they generally remain with you as journeymen? A. Yes; some of them have done so; one or two have.
- Q. Do you not think that if a boy were indentured by law, that is, if his boss was compelled to teach him his trade perfectly, that it would be the means of turning out better journeymen than the hap-hazard plan at present followed? A. I do not think it would improve a boy to be indentured; it might compel some boys to remain, but my idea is that it is never wise to compel a man or a boy to remain if he does not wish to.
- Q. Do you think it would compel the boss to teach the boy properly, and not turn out any botches? A. It might do that in some cases. In my own case I am inclined to teach the boys all I can for my own benefit, and I think most every boss ought to do so if he looks to his own interests.
- Q. Do you do your own polishing? A. Yes; varnishing.
- Q. Where do you get your varnishes? A. I get one varnish from England; I get Valentine's and Hoar's, but as a rule I like Valentine's.
- Q. Do you use English varnish principally for finishing? A. English—Valentine's—for varnishing.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q. Do you think that if boys were indentured the parents of children would allow their boys to go and learn a trade? A. I do not know. As a rule, they are not inclined to send their boys to learn a trade, but are inclined to let them get a job around town.
- Q. If you were to take a boy on indenture would you require security from his parents? A. If I were to bind myself to a boy to teach him his trade I would like to have some security for him from his parents.
- Q. If the boy were not to do his duty you would like to have some security outside of the boy? A. I should like to have some security from the parents to recompense me for my trouble.
- Q. Do you think that in that case the parents would like to pay up? A. I do not think they would.

D. McLAUGHLIN, Shipping Foreman for Mr. Snowball, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. What is your business? A. I am Mr. Snowball's foreman at his wharf and in the shipping department.
- Q. How many men have you employed at shipping? A. It is all according to the business there is to do.
- Q. Do you pay them on loading the lumber? A. I do.
- Q. What do you pay the men loading lumber? A. We pay them \$1.25 to \$2.
- Q. Are they holders? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you superintend the loading, or do you have a stevedore? A. We have a stevedore.
- Q. Does the stevedore hire his own men? A. He does.

Q. Is a stevedore in loading from the vessel employed by the company to superintend? A. He takes the contract from the master of the vessel.

Q. At so much a ton? A. So much a standard.

Q. Do you know how much a standard he gets, as a rule? A. I do not know exactly.

Q. How many months in the year are men employed in ship-loading? A. About six months, I think.

Q. Do the men find other employment in the company's service for the rest of the year? A. It is not a company.

Q. Does Mr. Snowball employ himself altogether? A. Yes.

Q. Does he furnish employment for those men who work at shipping for the rest of the year? A. For quite a number he does; some of them go to the woods.

Q. Do you know the average earnings of a man engaged at ship-labor—the average earnings of a ship-laborer for a season? A. I do not know; it is not more than the others earn.

Q. Do they have six months' work? A. I do not think it—near it.

Q. Are these men always paid in cash? A. Always in cash.

Q. How frequently are they paid? A. Every fortnight.

Q. Is Mr. Snowball responsible for the wages of these men, or are they employed and paid by the stevedores? A. The last season they were paid at Mr. Snowball's office, but previous to that the stevedores paid them.

Q. Are they paid every two weeks? A. Yes; except when the vessel is loading.

Q. And after she is loaded? A. They are paid as soon as possible, in full, after the vessel is loaded.

Q. Are they paid by Mr. Snowball, the same as his own men? A. Yes.

JOHN LOGGIE, Lumber Surveyor, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a lumber surveyor.

Q. Did you hear the evidence given by the last lumber surveyor? A. I did.

Q. How are you paid—by the thousand? A. I am.

Q. How much per thousand is a surveyor paid? A. He will average about 12 cents; we do not get quite as much as the law allows.

Q. Who hires you—the seller or the buyer? A. We generally get the consent of both parties.

Q. Who pays you, generally? A. The purchaser.

Q. What is the law in that respect, about the pay of the surveying? A. There is an Act—a provincial Act; I cannot remember it at present—regulating that matter.

Q. Are you employed in the winter in the woods? A. Yes.

Q. Who do you do scaling for in the woods? A. I am employed by a man who has a contract under Mr. Snowball for his lumber; he scales a great deal for him and he is paid by the thousand.

Q. How much of the year are you employed surveying? A. By the thousand, do you mean?

Q. Yes? A. Three months, I should say.

Q. Do you survey in the mills all the time? A. No; I am in the woods sometimes; I am about eight months in the year hired and about three months working by the thousand; the other month I am idle.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you draw out the logs? A. I scale the lumber on the brow; I do not haul them.

JOHN WOODS, Stevedore, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a lumber stevedore.

Q. How much per thousand do you get for handling lumber? A. We are paid by the standard.

Q. What is the average price that you are paid? A. About \$1.40 or \$1.50.

Q. Can you load deals from the wharf as speedily as from a lighter? A. It is not very likely that you could.

Q. Does it cost more to handle deals from the wharf? A. Yes.

Q. Would that account for the difference between the price of loading in Chatham and Quebec? A. I think so.

Q. Do you know how much a standard difference there is between the two places? A. I have heard, but I have never worked in Quebec; I have heard it was \$1.

Q. If the price in St. John were \$1 would it cost 50 cents more a standard to load from the wharf? A. Yes; in some cases it would.

Q. What wages do you pay holders? A. Two dollars, and sometimes more.

Q. What do you pay to the men on the wharf? A. \$1.40 or \$1.50.

Q. Do you use winches in lowering into the hold? A. Yes; in steamers, sometimes.

Q. Do you use winches at all on sailing vessels? A. No; not in loading square timber.

Q. Do you load square timber here? A. Yes; and we use horses for that; we use then on the wharf.

Q. What are the wages given here for ship-laborers? A. Two dollars a day.

Q. What would the stowers get? A. The same wages.

Q. What do you pay the swingers? A. The same.

Q. Which do you consider the most dangerous work, loading square timber or deals? A. There is very little difference; in steamers there may be some danger.

Q. How many months' work in the year do ship-laborers get in Chatham? A. Do you mean in loading ships?

Q. Yes? A. The season generally starts somewhere about the last of May and lasts till about the 15th of November—about six months.

Q. Can you give us any idea of what would be the average earnings of a ship-laborer in a season? A. Something like \$200.

Q. You think they would earn somewhere in the neighborhood of \$200? A. Somewhere in that neighborhood.

Q. After the season is over do these men get a chance for employment at any other business? A. Yes; there are not a great many idle men in this place.

Q. Do some of them go fishing? A. Yes; some of them go fishing; some go into the woods and some go at house building.

Q. Do you know of any ship-laborers that own houses of their own in this place? A. There are a great many of them that have built houses here.

Q. Do they live pretty comfortably on their wages? A. I think so.

Q. Do they seem to be satisfied? A. Most of them do.

Q. Did you ever have any difficulty with the ship-laborers? A. Not any; I have loaded a great many vessels and I have never had much trouble with laborers.

Q. Do you load vessels at night? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay extra for night-work? A. I do.

Q. Do you pay extra from the day-work? A. I have paid extra for night-work.

Q. Do you do any Sunday loading of vessels here? A. No; I do not.

HENRY A. MUIRHEAD, General Merchant, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. What is your business? A. That is a bothersome question to answer.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Are you engaged in general business? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you employ many men? A. Yes.

Q. What are they doing? A. This year we are getting a tug-boat ready for work.

Q. What do you pay the men that run on this tug-boat? A. One dollar a day.

Q. Is that the usual rate you pay these men? A. Yes; except in the winter time.

Q. What wages do you pay the engineer on this boat? A. She is not running yet.

Q. What did you pay last season? A. The tug-boat is building now.

Q. Are the men employed about the mill skilled hands? A. Some of them are.

Q. What do you pay for unskilled labor? A. Most of the hands get \$1 a day—
from \$1 a day up to \$2 in the summer time.

Q. Are they employed the year round? A. Only in the summer time—about
six months.

Q. Do they generally find other industries to work at in the winter? A. Yes;
smelt fishing and the like of that.

Q. Take it as a whole, are there many men idle in the summer time who desire
work? A. Last year I cannot say there were a great many idle, for if they wanted
work they could get it; there was plenty of work.

Q. Is there a demand some seasons in the building trade for mechanics? A. I
do not know that there is much difference any season in the building trade.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do you keep a store? A. I do.

Q. Do you employ any clerks in it? A. Yes.

Q. What are the wages of clerks in stores in Chatham? A. Well, I cannot say;
I can only speak for myself; the wages I give are from \$35 to \$50 a month.

Q. Do you employ any females? A. I employ a servant girl.

Q. I am speaking of the store, not of the house. Do you employ any female
clerks? A. No.

Q. What are the hours these clerks are obliged to be in the store? A. The hours
in our store are pretty long, sometimes. When they are required they have to turn
out at 4 in the morning, and sometimes they have to work till 10 and 11 at night;
other times they do not turn out till 7 and 8 in the morning and leave at 6 at night.
I am in the ship-chandlery business.

Q. How many chances do they get in the year to get off at 6 at night? A. I
would not like to answer that, for I do not really know; there are only six months in
the year we work.

Q. Is it the rule or the exception for them to get off at 6 at night? A. They
generally get off at 6 at night, except in the busy season—that is, the boys in the store.

Q. What would be the ages of these boys in your store? A. One boy would be
twenty, I suppose.

Q. What would his earnings be per month? A. About \$30 a month, I suppose.

Q. Do you do anything in the fish business? A. No.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Have you any experience in coal? A. No.

Q. Can you tell us the comparative prices of coal between here and Montreal?
A. No; I cannot.

JOHN McDONALD, Carpenter, called and sworn.

- Q. What is your business? A. I am a carpenter in a mill.
 Q. Do you employ many men? A. No; not a great many in my business.
 Q. What are the wages given to bench and outside hands? A. One dollar and fifty cents a day.
 Q. Do the men find pretty constant employment at \$1.50 a day? A. They do in summer time.
 Q. Do they find it in the winter time? A. In winter work is slack.
 Q. Do you have many handy men coming in and working at the trade during certain months of the year? A. Yes; a few.
 Q. What do you give them? A. \$1 and \$1.25 a day.
 Q. Do they take the place of skilled laborers? A. No.
 Q. Are there many carpenters in this town? A. Quite a few.
 Q. Do they engage in other businesses besides their trade? A. I do not know.
 Q. Have you any machinery in your shop? A. We have.
 Q. Do you employ a good wood-working machinist? A. Yes.
 Q. What are the wages of a good wood-working machinist here? A. \$1.75 to \$2 a day.
 Q. Have you got any handy men employed running machines that could be called machinists? A. I do not know; I am merely cutting up, so I cannot tell much about that.
 Q. Have you any wood-turners at work? A. Yes.
 Q. What hours do these men work? A. Ten hours a day.
 Q. Saturday and all? A. Yes.

ROBERT MURRAY, Police Magistrate, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your position? A. I am attorney and barrister-at-law and police magistrate.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What is the extent of your jurisdiction? A. I have jurisdiction over the county of Northumberland.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is the general condition of the people of Chatham? A. I think they are in a very fair condition—in what respect do you mean?

Q. Every respect? A. I think they are in good condition, for there is very little crime here.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. How are they about crimes or drunkenness? A. We do not have a large amount of drunkenness here; this is a Scott Act county.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Has the passage of the Scott Act decreased drunkenness? A. I think it has; there was one time when it did not, I think, but during the last three months I have not had any one before me at all for drunkenness.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. After the law was passed was it strictly enforced? A. It never was so strictly enforced as within the last three months; before that time the enforcement of the Act was slack.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Is it enforced very strictly now? A. Yes; very strictly, and if they keep or going as they began the law will be enforced.

Q. Do you know from your experience as magistrate that working people have frequently or at all applied to you for means to collect their wages? A. Not frequently, considering the amount of business done.

Q. What is the principal cause of the non-payment of wages in the cases that have come before you? A. I did not know when I came before you that I was to give any testimony here. In most of the cases that have come before me for trial there has been simply a dispute between the men and the stevedore, or the men and the foreman of the mill, sometimes as to the wages the men should earn, but it was merely a misunderstanding.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Then you think there is no disposition on the part of employers not to pay the men their wages? A. No; not that I know of.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. There is no garnishee law in this Province? A. None that I have heard of. In the woods, where the lumbermen have lost their wages, I have heard of a number of such cases of complaints, but in local work I have never heard a case of that kind happening.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Is there any law relating to the garnishee of land in New Brunswick? A. There was an Act of that kind before the House of Assembly this year, but I do not think it was passed by them.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Is garnishment of wages frequent in this place? A. I do not know of anything of that kind happening within the last few years.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Do you think that the people here are in a very fair condition, generally? A. I think they are in a very fair condition; a great many of them are living carefully, and we have not a great deal of real poverty amongst us.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do you know how much the corporation has to spend? A. I do not.

Q. Do you know whether corporation work is on the decrease or not? A. I do not.

Q. Do you know whether they spend much money for paupers? A. It is not much.

Q. Have you any paupers in the poor-house? A. Yes.

Q. How many? A. Twenty-two in the county poor-house.

Q. As the people are in fairly prosperous condition here, I suppose the legal profession is not very prosperous? A. No; not very prosperous. I hear them all complaining that there is not much litigation in the county.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you know anything about the school system? A. I could not tell you anything about the school system.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Have you any further information to give us about the people of this county? A. I have not at present; I did not know I was going to be called to give testimony; I merely came out of curiosity.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Is there any public night-school in this town? A. There is not.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Is there any place in Chatham where mechanical drawing and architecture is taught? A. There is not.

A. Is there a mechanics' institute in this place? A. No; there was one here some time ago but it is defunct now.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is it your opinion that the Scott Act has been a real benefit to this county? A. I cannot say, considering the way that it has been enforced, or rather not enforced, that it has, but it is being better enforced now.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you think it would be a benefit if it were enforced? A. I think it would be if it were enforced.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Would it not be better to stop the manufacture of liquor altogether? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you know whether the passage of the Scott Act has had a tendency to depreciate the value of property? A. I cannot say that it has.

Q. Has it stopped the smoking of cigars and tobacco? A. I could not say; I think it has had some effect on those articles.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. Do you know if the Scott Act has had a tendency to reform drunkards? A. I don't know; I think it has.

D. G. SMITH, Journalist, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a journalist; I was a councillor for this town in the municipal council last year, and during that time I was a member of the alms-house committee and the street committee, and so have a little knowledge of the affairs of the town. I know that a serious agitation was made last year that the police force should be reduced from two to one officer; this was done because it was thought that one policeman was quite sufficient to preserve order in the place. I know that in our alms-house, which is open to the parishes of the county, there were very few paupers last year, and I have not heard of any increase to their number this year; the number at that time was twenty-two.

Q. Are there only twenty-two paupers in the alms-house for the whole county of Northumberland? A. Yes; the alms-house is for the whole county. There are in some of the parishes provisions made for the support of their poor, but that is only done at special times; the number that I have stated are the regular paupers who are kept in this institution. The alms-house is managed by a commission appointed by the Government, but paid by the municipality.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What is the population of the county of Northumberland? A. About 25,000.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. What is the population of the town of Chatham? A. The population of the parish of Chatham is, or was at the last census, 6,000, and I should think that the town itself must have nearly 5,000 inhabitants now.

Q. How many policemen were there employed by the town before the adoption of the Scott Act? A. About the same number as now.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is the repairing of the streets done by a committee of the town? A. It is done by a board of street and fire commissioners, composed of nine members, who have both the fire and street service under their management.

Q. Is any corporation work given out by tender? A. The town is not incorporated, so the street work is done under the direction of this board I have spoken of. They have an engine, and an engineer to look after it, and the engineer is responsible for keeping the engine. The streets are generally placed under the charge of one member of the committee or board, who is called the street commissioner; he has to look after the cleaning of the streets and the assessment and expenditure thereon.

Q. How much would a workingman who handled the pick and shovel receive in this town? A. One dollar and twenty-five cents a day.

Q. Do these men get much work at the repairing of the streets? A. They work at that work all summer; it gives a man a summer's work. I think that the street committee only employ one or two men, and possibly three men at the outside, in the summer.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is the condition of the workingmen fair, as a rule, in Chatham? A. Yes; I think it is remarkably good, considering the fact that their regular employment only lasts about six months in the year; of course they can, and do, turn their attention to other industries in the winter—such as fishing, and going to the woods to work.

Q. If free night schools were established in Chatham do you think that the young men and women of the place, who work at their callings in the day-time, would take advantage of it in the winter? A. I think not to any great extent, for I am of opinion that they would rather go to the Salvation Army of a night than attend school—that is, as a rule.

Q. Can you tell us what would be the average age that a boy leaves the common schools to go to work? A. That all depends upon his position in life. The children of the working people leave school very young; some of them leave before they get the rudiments of an education. I should say that the average age at which a boy would leave school to learn some kind of a business would be twelve to fourteen years of age. I know that in my own business, the printing, boys come to me about fifteen years of age—some as young as fourteen.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Among those who receive better than the ordinary education is there a desire, after they leave school, to enter upon a farming life, or do they prefer to enter the professional or mercantile walks of life? A. I think the general idea among parents of children is to get their boys to go into some of the professions; I think most of them do that. I think that those who receive a higher education go into the commoner walks of life and do not enter into the professional calling. They go into mercantile life, and some of them enter the teaching profession—at least, some of them do.

Q. Of those who go to the higher school do you think that many of them enter upon farming? A. I think that very few of them indeed do so.

Q. Then you think that whatever good the higher schools might impart to the country is lost by the present way in which the people use it? A. I think that the State should go no further in the matter of education than giving a good education—into what is called the three "R's"—and that the rest should be left to private enterprise, or some such a system. I think the present system of education in New Brunswick is more expensive than can be afforded by the circumstances of the people and the other resources of the country. I think the present system of education is higher than the country requires.

Q. And you think it tends to make too many professional men? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you ever given any thought to the subject of the grants given by the Government to the colleges and the higher grades of schools? Have you ever thought that if a portion of it was taken away and a part of it allowed to be given towards the printing of the school books in the Province that a greater good would be done

to the greatest number than by the present system? A. I have not; I cannot say that I have.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You would not be in favor of any system or plan that would tend to pauperize the people? A. Not by any means; I would like to see the workingman made as independent as possible, entirely independent. I know that in my own business I never ask for any subsidies or any protection, for I like to succeed on my own merits, so that I prefer to see every body else do the same; that is, in my private business.

THOMAS KINGSTON, Laborer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a laborer.
- Q. Do you work about the mills? A. I work about the ships.
- Q. When? A. In the summer time.
- Q. Do you find constant employment at that? A. No; not steady.
- Q. Do you work at loading lumber? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you work in the hold? A. Yes; in the hold.
- Q. What wages do you get in the hold? A. Two dollars a day when I am working.
- Q. Did you ever load any square timber? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you been holder or stager? A. Been a holder.
- Q. Do you get the same pay for square timber? A. Yes.
- Q. Do they ever use steam winches for loading timber on steamers? A. No; they might have done so, but I have never seen them.
- Q. How many hours constitute a day's work at ship-labor? A. Ten hours a day.
- Q. Do you do any night-work? A. Yes.
- Q. What is the longest number of hours you had to work at a stretch, day and night? A. Five hours is the longest we work at night.
- Q. Is there any Sunday work at loading vessels done here? A. No; we never work on Sunday.
- Q. When not engaged at the ship-labor what other means have you of obtaining employment? A. No other means; I am just a laborer.
- Q. Is there plenty of that kind of work to be done in the winter? A. No; for the town is not busy at that. They all go to the woods; every body cannot get there, and that makes more work at any little odd job around town for every body else.
- Q. Have you any idea about how many months' work you get in a year altogether? A. No; I cannot say exactly; I do not know.
- Q. Can you give us any idea of what is the total amount of your earnings in a year—on an average? A. It is difficult to do so; sometimes you earn more and sometimes less; some years work would be good in ship-labor, and you would earn \$150, \$160 and \$180, but that is not very often. Sometimes there would be a large lot of ships here, and you would earn as high as \$200.
- Q. Would \$200 be about the highest you earn on ships? A. Very nearly.
- Q. Would you be able to earn another \$100 in the winter time in the town? A. Yes; if I got work.
- Q. Are you able to do it as a rule? A. I am.
- Q. Can you manage to keep your family comfortably on the earnings you get? A. By my ordinary earnings—day's work—I could not.
- Q. How frequently are you paid in the summer or season? A. As a general rule, in the last few years we were paid every Saturday night on the ships, but last year we were not paid every Saturday night.
- Q. How frequently were you paid last year? A. Sometime after the ship was loaded—may be four or five days, perhaps three days; perhaps a week after it.

- Q. Then there was no stated time of pay? A. There was not.
- Q. Were you always paid in cash? A. No; not always this last summer.
- Q. When not paid in cash, how do you get your pay? A. We take it out of the store.
- Q. Are you obliged to do that in order to get work? A. No; I could not exactly say that; I could not swear that I was obliged to do it; it is a matter of my own free will.
- Q. Do you get orders on the store as the work goes on? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. Would not you prefer to be paid in cash? A. Yes.
- Q. How many of a family have you got to support? A. I have got three children.
- Q. Do you pay house rent, or is the house your own? A. The house I live in is my own.
- Q. What would a workingman pay in this town for a house, say of six rooms, with ordinary conveniences? A. I could not exactly say; he would pay about \$35 or \$36 a year.
- Q. What would he pay for a house of three rooms? A. It would be just according to what kind of building it was. He would pay what I have spoken of, if it was a common building, and if it was a good one he would have to pay more.
- Q. When you get orders on these stores can you get as good an article at them as you can anywhere else? A. Just as cheap as anywhere else.
- Q. Suppose they have not got the article you want, what do you do? A. Have to go somewhere else for it.
- Q. Will the other stores take this order at par? A. I do not think so; I never tried them.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q. Have you not always found that the store had the articles you wanted?
A. Pretty nearly always.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. There may be articles that you may want that were not in the store—what do you do then? A. Sometimes they may be out of articles for a little while; they may not have them just at present.
- Q. Have you got to wait for them in that case? A. You have to wait if they are not in the shop, or go to some other place for them.

ROBERT MATHER, Machinist, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. What is your business? A. I am a machinist.
- Q. Wood-working or iron-working? A. Iron-worker.
- Q. Are there many machinists in town? A. Yes; there are a few.
- Q. Do they find constant employment at the trade here? A. Not all the time, but most of it.
- Q. How much lost time do you generally have in the year? A. I could not say; for the last year I have had pretty constant employment; other years I have lost some time.
- Q. What wages do you get? A. Fourteen cents an hour.
- Q. Is that the average earnings of machinists in this town—do they earn \$1.40 a day? A. Some earn more, some less.
- Q. What would be the average, do you think? A. I could not say.
- Q. Are there many machinists who get \$1.75 a day? A. Not that I know of.
- Q. Are there many boys employed in the machine shops? A. Quite a number.
- Q. Are they taken on as apprentices? A. Yes.
- Q. How long do they serve? A. Four and five years.
- Q. Do they learn the trade in all its branches? A. I will not swear to that.
- Q. Do many of them stay here after their time is up? A. Not many.

JOHN MAHONEY, Laborer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a laborer.

Q. What class of work do you generally do? A. Piling deals is what I worked at for the last few years.

Q. Is that work done by the day, or not? A. By the day.

Q. What are the wages paid for that work? A. One dollar and thirty-five cents, this last year.

Q. Has there been any increase in the pay, or decrease? A. No; there has been a decrease.

Q. For how many months in the year do you find employment at that trade? A. Somewhere about seven.

Q. Is it pretty steady work? A. Pretty steady; somewhere about that time; no more than that; about that time.

Q. What would be the average wages that are paid to pilers? A. That is the average wages I got when I worked; I do not know what others get.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in obtaining employment the rest of the year? A. There is nothing to be done about the town, and though some go to the woods for a time it is not much pay you get for that.

Q. Can you earn sufficient in the season to live comfortably for the whole year? A. I suppose I can, because I have not much of a family—really no family, except a wife, to support.

Q. Do you think that the workingmen of Chatham, as a rule, are pretty comfortable? A. I could not say.

Q. Do you think they all find pretty steady employment? A. I know they do not find steady employment; they may in the summer, but they do not find steady employment all the year round.

Q. How many laboring men go into the smelt fishing in winter? A. I do not know; there are a great many of them.

Q. Can they obtain much from that source? A. I cannot say, for I have never worked at it; I do not know what they make at it; some may do very well and some not. Some do not pay their expenses.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay house rent? A. I do not.

Q. Do you own your house? A. Yes.

Q. Did you earn it out of your own wages? A. I did.

Q. Can a man live comfortably and support a wife and family on \$1.25 a day in Chatham? A. I do not know; I do not think so. If he had a family to support and house rent to pay I do not see how he could do it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. But they do do it? A. They do it, but it is unreasonable to think that they can pay rent and keep their families comfortably on that sum.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Speaking from your experience as a householder, can you tell whether the necessaries of life have increased or decreased in price? I could not say how it is with people in general; I do know that I find it hard, for my own part, to get along.

Q. Do you believe that the purchasing power of the dollar is as great as it was five years ago? A. I think it is; I get as much for my family for \$1 now as I did five years ago.

Q. And is the purchasing power of the dollar as good as ten years ago? A. I think so; I think you can get a little more than you could twenty years ago for a dollar; I know you can get more than you could twenty-five years ago.

Q. Have you any information that would be of benefit to the Commission—that

would be of any benefit to the workingman? A. I do not know much about it; I know that for my own part I get along very well.

Q. Did you ever work on corporation work? A. No, sir; I never worked outside of the Miramichi.

Q. Then you cannot speak with any authority with respect to the condition of the men who work for the town council here? A. There are only two of them.

WILLIAM FIRTH, Pattern-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a pattern-maker.

Q. Have you worked long in Chatham at pattern-making? A. About thirty-five years.

Q. What kind of patterns is it chiefly that you make—machinery or stove? A. We make general patterns.

Q. Have you made any iron patterns? A. No.

Q. Are they wood patterns? A. Wood.

Q. What are the wages pattern-makers earn here? A. Different prices—\$1.50 to \$2.

Q. What would be the general price? A. About 1.50.

Q. Do you find pretty steady employment at pattern-making in this town? A. Yes.

Q. How many hours a day do the pattern-makers work? A. Ten.

Q. Do they work the same in the winter as in the summer? A. There are only five days' work in the winter.

Q. Are you paid every two weeks? A. Partly.

Q. Only partly? A. Yes.

Q. What is the system of pay, then? A. You get paid every two weeks, and then you have to wait for the remainder till you get a settlement.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You mean, you are not paid up to the day? A. Yes

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How frequently are settlements made? A. I do not know; I have not got a settlement these six years.

Q. Is that a general thing for the men in your establishment? A. No; not always.

PETER TRAYNOR, Laborer, called and sworn.

Q. What is your business? A. I am a house carpenter.

Q. Do you work at house carpentering? A. I work at ship carpentering sometimes.

Q. Do you mean millwright? A. Yes.

Q. What pay would a millwright get? A. They get different pay.

Q. What pay would a good millwright get? A. \$1.50, \$1.60 and \$2.

Q. Do you find much steady employment at that business? A. I have for the last eight years.

Q. Are you able to speak of the wages that are given to good house carpenters who are good journeymen? A. They would get about \$1.60 a day in the summer season.

Q. What would the wages be in winter? A. About \$1.40 or \$1.50 a day.

Q. Can you give the reason why the wages are cut down in winter? A. I suppose it is because there is not so much work doing in winter. This is a kind of a frozen country, and there is not much doing at it in the winter time.

Q. That is, in your business? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know if you have any men come in the summer season who are handy men and take the place of carpenters? A. Not a great many during these last few years. Of late years there has been very little carpentering done here; there used to be a great deal of carpentering done here when the mills were all running.

Q. Do you know what wages carpenters are paid here when they are working? A. From \$1.40 to \$1.50, may be \$1.60 or \$2 a day.

Q. Do they get more on old work? A. Yes; they would get \$2 on old work.

Q. I suppose they have to do caulking, rigging and everything else? A. No; there is a class of riggers here who attend to that business, and a class of caulkers, but sometimes the carpenters caulk, too.

Q. Are there men here who get a living by caulking alone? A. I would not say that.

Q. Do you know what is paid to caulkers when they are employed at that business? A. I think he gets between \$1.50 and \$2 a day in summer, and he gets \$2 for old work.

Q. For how many months will carpenters find employment here in a season? A. Not many months—that is, of late years. Some find employment nearly all the year and some do not get more than six or seven months.

Q. Do they get work at any other business? A. Some of the carpenters get work at ships in the summer season, some go to the woods in the winter and some have gone to the United States.

Q. Do they come back this way again? A. Sometimes they do and sometimes they do not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there many men employed at house building in Chatham in the summer time? A. They are all doing something, but there are not a great many; some are not at this trade, as there is not much house building of late years; very little house or ship work is done.

WILLIAM CAHILL, Blacksmith, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a blacksmith.

Q. Do you find steady work at blacksmithing here? A. Yes.

Q. Is there a pretty good demand for blacksmiths here? A. I do not know; I think so.

Q. Do you do general blacksmithing? A. No; I work at mill work.

Q. What are the wages of a good blacksmith? A. One dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q. Do you work ten hours a day? A. Ten hours.

Q. What are the wages of helpers? A. I don't know; from \$1 to \$1.25, I think.

Q. Are there many blacksmiths in Chatham? A. There are five or six, I think.

Q. Would \$1.50 be the average they would get? A. Most of them are working for themselves, except one or two.

Q. Do you know if the other men who are journeymen get constantly employed? A. They generally work in their own shops—most of the blacksmiths, except the apprentices.

Q. Do they take many apprentices here? A. No; not many.

GEORGE SYNNOT, Laborer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your business ? A. I am a laborer.

Q. Do you work in the mills ? A. Yes.

Q. What part ? A. Generally on a gang—what we call a gang.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What are the gang-men paid ? A. They are paid different wages.

Q. What do head gang-men get ? A. \$1.25 ; \$1.75 and \$2, generally, are the wages.

Q. What are tail gang-men worth ? A. Sometimes they get \$1.50, and others \$1.30, and again \$1.40.

Q. How many hours a day do they work ? A. Ten hours.

Q. About how many months in the year do you get work ? A. I generally get work five and a-half or six months.

Q. What do gang-men do in the other months of the year ? A. Some of them go in the woods, some of them fish and some do not do much of anything.

Q. What do they get when they work in the woods ? A. From \$14 to \$18 a month.

Q. How often are you paid in the mill ? A. Every fortnight.

Q. In cash ? A. Yes.

Q. In full ? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are the men in the woods paid in cash ? A. Sometimes some of them are and some of them are not.

Q. Do they get store orders in the woods ? A. Yes ; some of them do.

Q. Such as orders for boots and clothes, I suppose ? A. Yes ; and provisions, too.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Is it understood before they go in the woods that they are to be paid in this way ? A. Some of them understand it, and some of them go without an understanding at all. Some think they are to get their money, and some of them do not get it till the lumber comes into the market.

Q. Do you know if many of them get due bills for work ? A. Not of late years ; for the last eight or ten years it has been so.

Q. Do you know why the system was changed ? A. I could not tell you, I am sure ; I suppose it was because times got a little better.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Is the payment of wages once a fortnight satisfactory to the men ? A. I could not say that, but as a general thing I think it is satisfactory.

Q. The men have not asked for any difference ? A. I can only speak for myself ; it is satisfactory to me.

JOHN COLEMAN, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your occupation, generally ? A. Well, of late years I have partly lived on farming and doing a little business as a trader—that is, for the last three years.

Q. What kind of trade do you do ? A. I followed up the ship carpentering work when it was good in this town, but of late years it is quiet in this town, and I had to turn my attention to something else.

Q. Have you a coaster of your own ? A. I have not got that far yet.

Q. Do you find much steady employment in the summer time on vessels ? A. I have not done anything at it for five or six years ; I am a trader in business.

Q. In what are you trading ? A. I am in a small line—a grocery.

Q. Do you know if any of the people of Chatham are paid with store orders ?

A. I could not say if there is a system of that kind going on; I think they are paid every fortnight. I suppose there are orders given that are needed for the houses of the men; I suppose that is part of the pay.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Are you a farmer? A. Yes.

Q. You do not live on your farm? A. No; I do not live on my farm; it is about half a mile from here.

Q. Do you generally sell the produce of your farm? A. Owners of farms around here are able to consume all the products themselves; it takes it all to live. Most of the farmers here are able to consume all their own produce.

Q. Are not some of these small farmers also fishermen? A. Yes; you have to do all sorts of things here to earn a living; you have to follow all sorts of employments to get a living—that is, in this county.

Q. Some people say that people are better off as farmers than as fishermen. Do you think so? A. If they had lands enough to till I suppose that it would be better for them to stick to their farms.

Q. In other parts of the country people say that those half-farmers and half-fishermen do not succeed. Do you think that is true? A. I do not know; I follow a little bit of fishing myself, in order to make a living, but in doing so I do not neglect my farming; I do not neglect my land.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Is there a demand for farm laborers in this section of the country? A. No; this is not enough of a farming country for that; it does not pay to hire farm laborers; some do hire a few laborers at haying time; but as a general thing it does not pay them to do so.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you have many immigrants come here to remain? A. They do not remain here long.

Q. Then you think this is a bad country to live in? A. I do not think this is a bad country to live in, but it is one in which a man has to follow many callings to earn a living.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. It is one in which it takes a man pretty nearly all his time to make a living? A. Yes.

Q. Can many of the workingmen save money out of their earnings in Chatham? A. I do not think they can save a great deal; some men may save money, but as a general thing they do not save much out of what they earn.

GEORGE GROAT, Machinist, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What is your business? A. I work at an iron machine in the summer, and a lath machine.

Q. Have you been long engaged at that industry? A. No; two years—two summers.

Q. What might your wages be? A. One dollar and eighty cents a day.

Q. Did you receive that sum at first? A. No.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten hours.

Q. Do you work any over-time? A. Yes; sometimes I do.

Q. Are you paid extra for the over-time? A. Yes.

Q. Are you paid extra at the day rate of wages? A. Yes.

Q. Are many men in Chatham employed in the same branch of business? A. No; I am just one in that condition.

Q. How often are you paid? Are you paid weekly, monthly or fortnightly?
A. I am paid once a fortnight.

Q. Are you paid in cash? A. Yes.

Q. And in full? A. Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. What do lath-pilers get? A. Sawyers?

Q. Yes? A. One dollar and thirty cents a day.

Q. What do tyers get? A. Lath-tyers get a dollar a day.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you work by the piece? A. No; I work by the day.

Q. Are you foreman of the place you work in? A. Yes.

Q. Have you got men to work under you? A. Yes.

Q. How many? A. Between thirty and thirty-five—that is, boys and men.

Q. How much are the boys paid? A. They are paid ranging from 30 cents to \$1 a day.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What age are these boys? A. Sometimes they are as young as twelve years of age, but not often.

Q. How old do you call a boy? A. Sixteen or seventeen; a chap that gets \$1 a day is sixteen or seventeen.

Q. Are many of these children who are working in your place only twelve years old? A. No.

Q. Is the work heavy? A. No.

Q. Do they work the same hours as the men? A. Yes.

Q. If there is any over-work at night do they have to come back? A. If they do they are paid for it; they do not have to come back unless they like; there is no force about it.

HENRY KELLY, Stevedore, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. Stevedoring and laboring, and other general work; I do whatever comes along.

Q. As a stevedore, do you find pretty general employment in the summer season? A. No; I do not.

Q. When working at the loading of a vessel do you take her by so much a standard? A. I generally take the vessel that way.

Q. How much does it cost to load a vessel in Chatham by the standard? A. It depends on chances, generally; we can load them from \$1 to \$1.50.

Q. Is all the loading of vessels done from the wharf? A. Yes; pretty much; there are some loaded from scows.

Q. Does it cost less to load a vessel off a lighter than off the wharf? A. If the lighter was brought to the vessel it would cost less.

Q. Do you load any square timber? A. We do.

Q. What do stagers get? A. A good stager gets about \$2 or \$2.25 a day.

Q. And what do swingers get? A. They get about the same.

Q. What do you pay holders? A. The same—about \$2.

Q. Do the holders get as high wages for loading deals? A. Just about the same wages; they all get about the same, so far as I know.

Q. Do you load any longitudinals? A. Yes; sometimes.

Q. What do you get for loading them? A. I get 50 cents and 40 cents a load.

Q. How much will there be in a load? A. Fifty square feet; I am speaking of birch.

Q. Do you get the same for longitudinals? A. There is not much of it here that I know of; it is very seldom loaded.

Q. Do you ever have any accidents take place when you load square timber? A. No; I never have.

Q. Did you ever see it loaded by steam? A. No; I have never seen it loaded by steam.

Q. When working at loading vessels are you always paid in cash? A. Yes; so far as I know of.

Q. Do you find other employment easy to be had when not loading vessels? A. No; it is not so very easy; sometimes you will get employment all right, perhaps in the woods; it all depends on the season of the year.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is timber loaded by hand winches? A. Yes; most of it by hand winches—hove-att.

Q. Does the stevedore supply the tackle, and all that kind of material? A. Sometimes; it just depends on the bargain that is made with the captain of the vessel. The stevedore generally finds the winches and the tackle, whips and swings, &c., and the captain finds the rest.

Q. In loading vessels is there much broken time? A. There is a great deal of broken time, sometimes.

Q. The men do not get anything for idleness? A. No; you are hired by the day and you are paid for the time you make.

Q. What other labor have you worked at? A. I have been at a little of everything; I have been fishing smelt, and I have worked at laboring work on ships; and, when I can get it to do, carpenter work, sometimes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Is there much money earned at smelt fishing here in the winter? A. I do not think there is a great deal; it depends on the haul.

Q. Does it not also depend on the price? A. Yes.

Q. Do you find a ready sale for all you can catch? A. Yes; we are not badly off in that respect, if you can get the fish, but if you cannot you are.

Q. When the stevedore engages the crew to load a vessel at any time do they ever have to wait for deals? A. Not in any that I have been working on; they might have to wait a couple of days or so.

Q. But there would not be much time lost through waiting? A. Not in any that I have loaded.

WILLIAM CHERRY, Stevedore, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a stevedore.

Q. Did you hear the evidence of the last stevedore? A. I did.

Q. Do you approve of what he said? A. Yes.

Q. Have you got anything to add to his statement? A. No; I cannot say that I have much to add.

Q. Is there as much business doing in that line in Chatham as there formerly was? A. There has not been so much for the last year or two.

Q. Do you know the cause of it? A. I suppose it is the depression in the lumber business; lumber is not so high in price now as it was.

Q. Do you know of anything else? A. I know of nothing else for the last ten years.

Q. Can a stevedore in Chatham earn sufficient during the season to keep him all through the year? A. I do; I can only speak for myself.

Q. Can you tell us the average earnings of a stevedore for the season? A. I should say if he had steady work during the season he should make from \$500 to \$1,000 in a year.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. That is the stevedore who makes that sum? A. Yes.

Q. Would the laborer make as much as that? A. No; the laborer would not make so much.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Can you tell us what would be the average earnings of a ship-laborer for the season? A. I could not say; if he has steady work he will get \$150, perhaps \$200.

Q. That is the holders? A. Yes; and \$1.25 and \$1.50 outside.

Q. Could you not make an average of the earnings of a ship-laborer for the last three years? A. No; I could not; it all depends on how much work he would have to do; the work is not steady.

Q. Would you consider that \$200 would be a big average? A. He could earn \$300.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Would he earn that in the summer season? A. I do not know.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. You mean that the laborer could earn that if he got a chance, but he does not earn that on an average? A. I think so.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. How many months in the year do you work? A. Five.

Q. And twenty-six working days in a month? A. Yes; but we do not get steady work all that time; we have not got steady work at ships for the last two or three years.

Q. If a man were working every day for five months, at \$1.50, would he be able to support his family on what he earns? A. I could not say.

Q. That would give him 130 days? A. Yes.

J. C. LOGGIE, Fisherman, called and sworn.

Q. What is your business? A. I am a fisherman, and anything else I can get to do.

Q. How many months in the year do you find employment at fishing? A. Two and a half at salmon and about the same at smelt fishing.

Q. Then you would be busy for five months in the year? A. Yes.

Q. Do you fish on your own account or for other people? A. I fish on my own account.

Q. Can you tell just about how much a man can make during the fishing season? A. I can only speak for myself; I know I average about 300 salmon.

Q. I meant, how much could you earn in the season, taking one season with another? A. About \$350.

Q. Do you think that would be a fair estimate to allow for other people? A. I suppose it would.

Q. Do some of them earn in that neighborhood? A. Yes.

Q. Do you go outside to do any fishing at all? A. No; I do not do any deep sea fishing.

Q. Do you do any inshore fishing along the coast? A. It is outside of the coast; I do fishing by net.

Q. Can you give us an idea of what the earnings in fishing are? A. No; I could not.

Q. Do you know whether there are many engaged in the lobster fishing in this place? A. There are a good many.

Q. Can you give us an idea of what the earnings in that kind of fishing are? A. No; I do not fish where they are.

HENRY EDDY, Engineer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am an engineer.

Q. Did you serve your apprenticeship to the business? A. Yes.

Q. Have you got your certificate? A. No; I have not.

Q. What are the wages generally paid to good engineers here? A. They are paid all the way from \$50 to \$80 a month.

Q. Would that be for a stationary engineer? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Speaking as a practical man, do you think that engineers should be obliged to undergo an examination before going to work? A. I do.

Q. Would you be in favor of such an examination? A. Yes; I would; it is not necessary for stationary engineers, but they would be better for having undergone the examination.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do not marine men have to undergo an examination? A. They do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you think there is much danger from not having water in the boiler? A. There is; but when you are on land there is not so much danger as on water.

Q. How often are the boilers of engines inspected? A. They are inspected thoroughly once a year.

Q. By whom? A. The stationary boilers are inspected by the man who takes care of them—the man who runs them.

Q. Do you approve of a Government inspection of the boilers for stationary engines? A. So far as I am concerned, it would be satisfactory.

Q. Do you know if there are many boilers in this place that are in a dangerous condition from the want of inspection or repairs? A. I do not know of one.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Have there been any accidents caused by the explosion of engines here lately? A. No; not that I am aware of.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do engineers get pretty steady employment at the wages you have stated? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do they, as a general thing, do their own firing? A. They do not.

Q. What are the wages of firemen in this place? A. \$30 to \$35 a month.

JAMES CURRAN, Ship-carpenter, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a ship-carpenter.

Q. Do you find plenty of employment at that business? A. No; not at that business.

Q. As a rule, do you work at ship-carpentering in this town? A. Yes; whenever there is any work of that kind going on.

Q. What wages does a ship-carpenter earn here? A. There is a difference in the wages; at old work it averages about \$2, and at jobs in the winter it runs from \$1.20 to \$1.30, and up.

Q. Do you get as much on new as on old work? A. No.

Q. What is the difference? A. We get \$2 on old work, and then there is a cut down to \$1.50 in winter.

Q. When not engaged at ship-working what do you do? A. Any job that turns up in house-carpentering.

Q. What do you earn at house-carpentering around here? A. We do not earn a great deal; there is not very much doing in that line just now.

Q. Do you have much lost time in the year? A. There is a great deal of lost time.

Q. About how many months' work would you make in a year? A. I suppose I average about ten months; some years less.

Q. There is not much ship-building done here now? A. No; except some little boats and scows.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are ship-carpenters paid by the day or by the hour? A. They are paid by the day.

Q. Do they work ten hours a day? A. They work ten hours a day.

Q. Can you put in ten hours a day in winter? A. We cannot make ten hours in the months of December and January.

Q. Is it on account of the shortening of the hours that the wages are decreased in the winter? A. I suppose it is because there is not much doing in the winter.

Q. Can a man work at ship-carpentering and make as good a job in the winter as in the summer? A. Some parts of it he can.

Q. The reason why the wages are decreased in winter is on account of the shortening of the hours? A. That is one reason; another is because there is nothing to do.

Q. And the employer takes advantage of the unemployed surplus labor—is that it? A. I suppose you can put it that way.

Q. Do the employes ever take advantage of the scarcity of labor to raise the wages? A. Not in my business.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. If there was plenty of work, and no hands, you would try to get better prices? A. We would.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How often does that happen—once in a lifetime? A. I think it happened once in my time; that was years ago.

Q. It happens more often the other way—it is more often that advantage is taken of the unemployed surplus labor. It happens every year that way, does it not? A. I could not say it happens every year, but there is always a little trouble.

THOS. KELLY, Ship-carpenter, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a ship-carpenter.

Q. Have you heard the statement of the last ship-carpenter witness? A. I have.

Q. Have you anything to add to it? A. I have not anything to add, except that I do not get steady employment in my work.

Q. Do you make ten months a year? A. I do not.

Q. I suppose there is not much other work for you in town? A. Very little, unless I make my own work; I may be able to get work, or try to.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you own the house you live in? A. Yes; but I got it from another business; I got the money and put up the house I live in.

Q. Do you think you could erect a house from your own earnings here? A. No; I do not, and I have been working at the business for thirty-four or thirty-five years.

Q. Have you been living long in Chatham? A. Yes; except I was out of it for eight or nine years, I have been here all my lifetime; I was out of this country for eight years, and it was then that I got the money to build the house with.

Q. Would a workingman who has a family of five or six support himself economically and live at the same time from the earnings of his work? A. He could not do it under \$7 a week.

Q. Could he pay house rent, provide for sickness, and get himself the necessaries of life on his wages? A. He could not do it less than \$7 a week.

Q. Could he do it on less than \$7 a week? A. No; I do not think so; I cannot speak from experience, but I do not think he could.

NICHOLAS McLAUGHLAN, Ship-carpenter, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a ship-carpenter.

Q. Did you hear the testimony of the last witness, Mr. Kelly? A. I did.

Q. Have you anything to add to his statement? A. Nothing extra, except that ship-carpenters got \$1.40, or \$1.50, or \$1.60 last year.

Q. Do none of them get \$2 a day? A. They do at old work, for five, or six, or seven weeks; that is in the summer time.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Have the wages of carpenters increased within the past ten years? A. No; they did not increase.

Q. Have they decreased, or have they remained stationary? A. It is decreasing; it has decreased from \$1.60 down to nearly \$1 a day.

Q. Is that the rate of carpenters' wages at the present time? A. I think that is the rate of carpenters' wages now.

Q. Have you any information to give the Commission in connection with your trade that would be of benefit to us? A. I did not work at the business for the last two or three years.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What business are you engaged in? A. I do a little bit at house work, but that is only an excuse for work just now.

Q. Do you know of any men being paid with due bills? A. Well, a poor man has to take them sometimes; he is almost always in debt, and he has to draw out of the store; that is the way the thing works.

ALEXANDER FRASER, Machinist, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am engaged in the machine business.

Q. What are the wages of good machinists in Chatham? A. I should judge from \$1.40 to \$1.50.

Q. Does the matter of the wages of a machinist depend upon what class of work he is engaged at? A. A great deal depends on the class of work.

Q. What does a man on the lathe get? A. Probably \$1.50 to \$1.75; a great deal depends on the amount of work he will put out.

Q. Do they work piece-work? A. No.

Q. What will a man working on turning get? A. Just working at a vertical?

Q. Yes? A. Probably \$1.30.

Q. Are there many machinists employed in Chatham? A. There are a good many.

- Q. Do they get pretty steady work? A. Yes; of late years.
 Q. How frequently are they paid? A. They are generally paid once a fortnight.
 Q. Are they paid in cash? A. Well, yes.
 Q. Are they paid part in cash and part something else? A. They are.
 Q. Are they paid up in full every fortnight? A. Some of them are, I guess.
 Q. And some are not? A. Some are not.

G. R. JOHNSTON, Lumber Surveyor, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a lumber surveyor.
 Q. What wages do lumber surveyors earn in this part of the country? A. From \$1.50 to \$2 a day.
 Q. I suppose that the matter of wages all depends upon the bargain he makes?
 A. Yes.
 Q. Is it the prevailing rule in this section of the country that the surveyor must be chosen by the seller and the buyer? A. No.
 Q. You say it is not the rule? A. No.
 Q. Who is it that generally employs the surveyor? A. The merchants.
 Q. The merchant? A. The shipper of the lumber.
 Q. Do lumber surveyors get much work through the year in this section of the country? A. Sir?
 Q. Do they get constant employment through the year? A. They do for a part of the year; they do through the summer months.
 Q. Do you go to any other work when you are idle at surveying? A. Yes; I am working out on the railroad just now, and have been all winter.
 Q. What position do you occupy on the railroad? A. I am delivering and receiving the freight.
 Q. Are you paid by the month on the railway? A. Yes.
 Q. Are you compelled to belong to any insurance society on the railway? A. No.
 Q. Do you work on the line that runs from the Junction into the town of Chatham? A. Yes; the Chatham Branch Railway.
 Q. What wages per month do you receive in your position of shipper and despatcher? A. Twenty-five dollars.
 Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. From nine to ten; some days I work nine hours and some days ten.
 Q. Do you ever have to work over-time at night? A. No; only the last day of the month, and then only for an hour or so.
 Q. Are you paid up in full at the end of the month? A. Yes; always.
 Q. And in cash? A. Yes.

WILLIAM McGRATH, Ship-carpenter, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. What is your business? A. I am a ship-carpenter.
 Q. Did you hear the evidence given by the last ship-carpenter? A. I did.
 Q. Do you find pretty steady employment at ship-carpentering? A. Yes.
 Q. What wages can you earn at the business—on new and old work? A. In the winter time, \$1.25; in the summer time, \$1.40; and old work, \$2 a day.
 Q. Do you get \$2 a day on old work? A. Yes; whenever I have had it to do, but I do not follow it up much.
 Q. Do you do caulking as well as carpentering? A. I do.
 Q. Do you get the same wages at that? A. Yes.
 Q. Is there much ship-building done here? A. There is none.
 Q. The work is just repairing? A. Yes; only a few flat-bottom boats in the river; in the summer I work at the station at carpenter work.
 Q. What do you get when working at carpenter work? A. One dollar and forty cents.

GEORGE E. FISHER, Agent New Brunswick Trading Company, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am the agent of the New Brunswick Trading Company, in the lumber business.

Q. Do you employ many men? A. During the summer season we employ about 150 men.

Q. Do you engage any men in the winter? A. No.

Q. Do you get your lumber from the woods? A. No; we do not lumber ourselves; we get or buy it from the other contractors.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What is your business? A. Lumber and shipping.

Q. Do you own the concern? A. I am merely the agent of the New Brunswick Trading Company.

Q. Can you give us an idea of the wages paid the operatives—the gang-men; circular and lath-men? A. Our laths and palings we sub-contract.

Q. By the thousand? A. Yes; by the thousand.

Q. Do you know what the different classes of men are paid? A. No; I do not.

Q. What are gang-men paid? A. \$1.40 to \$1.50—that is, tail gang-men; we pay our head gang-men \$2, or thereabouts.

Q. Are the tail-men able to take the place of the head-men? A. No.

Q. Have you any middle gang-men? A. No.

Q. What are circular-men paid? A. They are paid about the same as the gang-men—\$1.40 or \$1.50.

Q. What do you pay your bed-men? A. About \$1.25; from that to \$2.

Q. What do you pay your filers? A. Two dollars.

Q. Do you have yearly men, or are they paid by the day? A. By the day.

Q. Is your engineer a yearly man or is he paid by the day? A. By the day.

Q. What does he get? A. Two dollars a day.

Q. Do you manufacture deals altogether? A. Yes; in the mill we are running timber.

Q. Do you make mostly laths or palings—do you make more laths? A. We make more laths—no palings; we get out more laths.

Q. Do you ship your laths to the old country? A. No; to the United States.

Q. Do you find you can sell them there to better advantage? A. Yes; we generally send them in scows to St. John, and load them alongside of the vessels there. We do not have much to do with them ourselves; we send them to St. John, and Scammell Bros. ship them.

Q. What hours does the mill work? A. We start at six o'clock in the morning in the long days; we generally work till six at night, making ten hours.

Q. About how much time does the mill make in the year? A. She will make from the 1st of May till the 1st of November—six months.

Q. Is that the best you can do on this side of the river? A. Yes; that is the best we can do, but we employ a lot of men from the middle of March till September.

Q. Do you ever get started before the 1st of May? A. Very seldom.

Q. Does your concern go to the stump? A. No.

Q. Do they purchase their lumber? A. Yes.

Q. In the arrangement of your logs, when you buy logs do you choose the surveyor, or does the seller choose him? A. The surveyor is mutually agreed upon by the parties.

Q. Does the purchaser pay the scaling fee? A. Yes; the purchaser pays it.

Q. Do you pay your men every Saturday night? A. No.

Q. How often do you pay them? A. Every fortnight.

Q. What day in the week do you pay them? A. On Monday.

Q. Was that asked for by the men, or was it your own will? A. It is an old custom handed down from Guy, Bevan & Co. to the Trading Company, and it seems to suit every body.

Q. Do you pay your men in cash? A. Some we do; others of them take goods from the store; but it is not compulsory for them to do so.

Q. Is it a matter that is left optional with the men? A. Yes.

Q. Can they take goods or cash as they like? A. Yes.

Q. I suppose they are paid in full every fortnight—that is, their accounts are wound up? A. They are paid in full.

Q. Have the men ever asked to be paid more than once a fortnight? A. No; never.

Q. Have you ever had any trouble about it? A. No.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles with your men? A. No.

Q. Are the wages of the men fixed by yourselves, or by consultation with the men? A. The wages are fixed by the foreman of the mill.

Q. Have you many boys engaged? A. Yes; we have twelve or fifteen small boys.

Q. About what would be the age of the youngest? A. The youngest would be fourteen years, I think—twelve or fourteen years.

Q. What wages would a boy of fourteen years receive? A. Forty or fifty cents a day.

Q. What does he do—carry edgings? A. No; that would be for the older boys; he would be engaged sweeping up the dust from about the mill.

Q. Do you run in the mill any machine besides the picket and lath machine? A. We run a box machine; that is all outside of us. We have a man who takes the contract to do that.

Q. Are there any boys employed at that? A. Quite a number of boys.

Q. Have you had any accidents in your mill? A. No; we had only one last year.

Q. Did it amount to very much? A. No; a fellow cut his hand, which laid him up a short time.

Q. How are your edgers protected? A. It is an ordinary edger.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Can you tell us what is the age of the boys who are engaged in the box factory—the oldest boy? A. He is making box-shooks; they merely carry them; the refuse deal, when it is taken from the merchantable deal, is cut off and saved for this box machine.

Q. How old would these boys be? A. Fourteen years.

Q. I mean in the box factory? A. Yes; in the box factory.

Q. Are these the same boys that you spoke of before? A. Different boys.

Q. How long has it been customary with you to pay the men with due bills? A. We never did it; know nothing about it.

Q. Does the company own stores? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any other places where the men can buy their goods? A. There are two places—not ours, though.

Q. Will the company's paper be taken at the other stores? A. I do not know; we give the men money and know nothing about that.

Q. Suppose you would give them due bills? A. The men might go to another store.

Q. Would they take your orders in another store? A. I presume they would; we have never given them orders on other stores.

Q. Would it not be just as easy for you to pay all the men in cash? A. Yes; but sometimes it is an accommodation to the men to get goods from us; we sell the goods just as cheap as any body else.

Q. Would it not make the men more independent to be paid in cash? A. Not a bit.

Q. Do you know if any of the men prefer to take orders on the store to being paid in cash? A. No; I do not; I think they would prefer taking orders on the store, and for this reason: In the winter a great many people leave us and go to

get employment in the woods, and in the summer time they have work. While they are in the woods we have to feed their families, and of course they would rather deal with us than any body else.

Q. Have you ever asked the men whether they would prefer to take orders on the store instead of cash? A. I have not.

Q. If a man refused to take an order on the store, how then? A. He is given his cash.

Q. Would he be discharged from the company's service if he refused to take an order? A. He would be given his cash.

Q. Would he be discharged from the company's service if he refused to take the order? A. No; he would be retained.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Is he compelled to deal with you in that way? A. No.

Q. Is the edger you use a Waring edger or a common one? A. It is a common Miramichi edger.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q. In the spring of the year, when you make arrangements with your men, does the foreman consult with the other men about the rate of wages? A. No; he does not.

Q. What hours is your mill supposed to run? A. Ten hours.

Q. Do you run at night the same hours? A. Yes; we have not being running at night during my stay here, so I could not say.

Q. What wages do you pay your planers? A. From \$1.35 to \$1.50.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. How many would there be in a gang at that rate? A. There would be, I suppose, twenty-five or thirty.

Q. Is it altogether owing to the length of the carriage? A. Yes; if it were a short carriage there would not be so many.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do you employ your own stevedore? A. No.

Q. Do you load by the standard? A. No; we have nothing to do with the loading of our ships at all.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do these men ask for orders in preference to cash? A. They do not get an order at all; the store is right alongside of the mill, and they will go there and get all they want on their account, which is kept by the storekeeper; he always assists the foreman in keeping the time.

Q. They get credit, like? A. Yes; and often they are in debt so much that when the fortnight's pay comes around we take a certain per cent. from them.

Q. Do you think that this credit system would be going on if the men were paid weekly in cash? A. I think so.

Q. Do you think the same amount of credit would be given as now? A. I do think so; I think it would be just about the same thing.

Q. Have you ever suffered any losses from these men who get goods in this way? A. Quite frequently, but not to any great extent; in some cases some fellows will skin out at the end of the year with \$3 or \$4 of yours with them.

NEWCASTLE, 19th April, 1888.

JOHN RUSSELL, Spool Manufacturer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am engaged in the spool manufacture.

Q. How many men do you employ in the spool manufacture? A. On an average we employ fifty for the twelve months.

Q. How many of the employés would be boys? A. About fifteen—no; there are ten boys and five girls.

Q. How many of your employés would you consider skilled hands—that is, skilled at the branch of the business they are engaged at; or are they all skilled at their separate branches? A. No; about twenty-four or twenty-five are skilled.

Q. Can you tell us what the wages of skilled men would be in a week—the men making the spools? A. They average from about \$1.50 to \$2.25 a day; about \$1.75 would be the average.

Q. How many hours a day would they have to work to make those wages? A. They have to work ten hours.

Q. Would they have to work six days in the week? A. Six days in the week.

Q. What would be the earnings of the boys? A. From 60 cents to \$1.

Q. Do you mean a day? A. I do.

Q. Do the wages depend on the class of their work? A. With the exception of a few, the salaries of the boys are 60 cents to \$1 a day; these few make 50 cents.

Q. Can you tell us the ages of the youngest boys and girls you have to work in the factory? A. The youngest about twelve years old.

Q. How long would they be working in the factory before they would make 50 cents a day? A. Probably a fortnight.

Q. What would be the earnings of the girls who are employed in the factory? A. Fifty cents.

Q. A day? A. Yes.

Q. Do any of them earn more than that? A. Some days.

Q. But the average would be 50 cents? A. Yes.

Q. Do you have any difficulty in getting skilled labor for your work? A. We have had a great deal of trouble; we have had to send for skilled hands to the other side.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Where do you call the “other side”? A. I mean Great Britain.

By Mr. HEAKES .—

Q. What would be the earnings of the unskilled labor you have engaged—the men helpers? A. The winders earn about \$1.25 in the summer.

Q. Do you make a difference between the summer and the winter wages? A. We do.

Q. Is that done on account of the shortness of the days in the winter? A. Partly from that cause, and partly from the fact that we have to contend with more lost time.

Q. Would it be done on account of the surplus labor on the market? A. No; I do not know as it is.

Q. Are your employés paid in cash? A. No.

Q. Can you tell us what the system of payment is? A. We pay by an order on the store, and whatever is coming to them at the end of the month they get in cash; if they need it at any time they can get it.

Q. Is it understood when they go to work that they will get orders on the store for their pay? A. Lots of them do not get any orders.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. The question is: is it understood between you and them, when they go to work, that they will receive orders on the store in pay? A. Yes; it is understood.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. If they prefer to be paid in cash do you pay them in that way? A. Yes.

Q. Is it a matter of accommodation—the giving of orders? A. It is a matter of accommodation to the men.

Q. How frequently are your hands paid? A. Once a month.

Q. Have your hands ever expressed a desire to be paid more frequently? A. Not of late.

Q. Have they ever done so? A. They did when we introduced the monthly payment.

Q. If the hands were paid more frequently than once a month would it not do away with the orders on stores? A. I do not think so.

Q. Do you think that a person can buy as cheaply with orders on a store as if they had the cash in their pocket? A. As far as I know, our hands get their articles at cash prices.

Q. Do you not think that a man would be more independent if he had cash instead of an order to buy with? A. That is the natural course for a young man with a family to feel; there is no trouble about that.

Q. Why did you change from your system of fortnightly to monthly payment? A. Because we are paid monthly, and that mode of payment helps us along more than anything else.

Q. Yours is a new industry, is it not? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. You are not wealthy? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. You get your remittances once a month? A. No; the remittances are drawn against our concern for a period.

Q. Where does your output generally go to—Great Britain? A. Principally Paisley, Scotland.

Q. When the mill was started in the first place it was a failure? A. It was.

Q. And when it was started the second time it was found to be a success? A. Yes; so far.

Q. You say a success, so far? A. Yes.

Q. Is your business on the increase? A. Yes.

Q. It is on the increase? A. It is.

Q. Have you had any accidents in the mill? A. Yes.

Q. Is all the machinery guarded that can be guarded against accident—such as the circular-saws? A. So far as we know, they are.

Q. Do you ever do any over-time at night-work? A. Yes.

Q. Are the hands paid extra for that over-work? A. With the exception of the foreman, they are.

Q. Do the small boys go back to work at night—the younger hands? A. No; not unless they like to.

Q. Are the hands paid extra for the night-work—at the day rate of wages? A. They are not paid by the day; it is piece-work.

Q. Do they do piece-work? A. Altogether.

Q. Is Great Britain your principal market for the output of your goods? A. It is for our spools. The excelsior which we manufacture is shipped to Canada.

Q. You say you ship your excelsior to Canada? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. What part of Canada—Ontario? A. Different parts of Canada—Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; we ship it to Canada as a whole.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you find the wood for making your excelsior in this vicinity? A. We find it here.

Q. Do you find that the making of excelsior pays? Is the product of the excelsior on the increase? A. No.

Q. Can you tell us the name of the wood the excelsior is made out of? A. We make it out of poplar wood.

Q. Is that the only wood excelsior can be made out of? A. That is the only wood we make it out of; in the States it is made out of basswood.

Q. Do you find any competition in the making of the excelsior from basswood on the other side? A. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN.—What do you mean by the “other side”?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—From the United States.

Q. Is there much excelsior imported from the United States? A. Yes; very much.

Q. Do you find it a draw-back to the Canadian article? A. On account of the railway rates we do. The railway charges us first-class rates for excelsior, and we find that to ship it to any distance we cannot compete with the Americans.

Q. If you had not this American competition to contend with would you find means to extend that line of your business? A. Yes; we would.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What class do you think the railway ought to charge you, instead of first-class? A. I think fourth-class.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is the article you make just as good as that made in the United States? A. Better; I have a letter in my pocket offering me \$5 a ton more for our article than the American.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What prices do they charge? A. Eighteen dollars.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you ship any of this article up through the upper Provinces? A. We do, as far as Toronto.

Q. And can it only be made out of poplar? A. Yes; we find it is the best. It can be made out of any wood, but it is not so good when made out of other wood.

Q. You mean there is not spring enough in the other woods? A. It is not so light.

Q. Where do you get your spool wood from? A. From the country.

Q. Do you get it in this vicinity? A. Yes.

Q. Do you get it in the Province? A. Yes; in the county of Northumberland.

Q. Do you find the wood you get here is more easily worked than other woods of a harder nature? A. We do.

Q. Do you find that it is an advantage, as regards the sharpening of tools? A. Yes.

Q. If it were made out of harder wood you would have to sharpen your tools much oftener? A. Much oftener.

Q. Have you ever tried to make a Canadian market for your spools? A. We have.

Q. Have you succeeded to any extent? A. We have not.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. What do your employes pay for house rent—what is the rate of house rent in this town? A. It is as low as \$3 a month; \$2 a month is about the lowest.

Q. What kind of a house would you get for \$3 a month—how many rooms would there be in it? A. I think three rooms.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. But you are not sure about the number of rooms? A. I am not sure.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q. Do many of your men own their own houses, or are there any of them that own their own houses? A. There are only one or two that I know of who own their own homes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do you furnish your employés with work all the year around? A. We do; most of our hands are unmarried.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q. Would you prefer to employ your men at the same rates winter or summer; or is the rate optional with the men? A. Yes; it is optional.

Q. Do they insist on having a summer and winter price? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do the men insist on making less in winter than in summer? A. No.

Q. But they do not get more? A. They insist on having more in the summer than in the winter.

Q. Do the men make a better article in summer than in winter? A. Do you mean our skilled men?

Q. Yes? A. They make the same all the year round—from \$1.50 to \$2.25 a day.

Q. Do you have any unskilled men? A. Yes; for knocking about.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q. Do you have a man to run your engine? A. Yes; the man that runs our engine gets \$1.30 a day all the year round.

Q. Is he an unskilled hand? A. He is not a machinist; he is a handy man; he is not a practical machinist.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. How long have you been running this mill? A. Since 1882.

Q. Do you find any increase in your output? A. Yes; we have increased our business considerable.

Q. Have you many factories of the same kind in Canada to compete against? A. There are two others that I know of—three others, I should say; there is one in this Province.

Q. Are there any in Quebec? A. There are two or three in Quebec—two, I think, that I know of; there might be more.

Q. Do you think that your European market will increase in its demand for goods? A. If we give them good work it will.

Q. Is that with regard to spools? A. Yes; I do not know what the per cent. of the increase will be, for it appears to be going down.

W. A. HICKSON, Saw-mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am engaged in the milling business—saw-mill.

Q. Do you run lumber mills? A. Yes.

Q. About how many men do you employ? A. About seventy-five in the summer; we only run in the summer.

Q. How many months do you work in the year? A. Six.

Q. You work six months? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay gang-men? A. One dollar and sixty cents.

Q. What do you pay tail gang-men? A. One dollar and fifty cents; we use three gang-men.

Q. What do you pay them? A. \$1.10, \$1.50 and \$1.60.

Q. What do you pay to your head circular-men? A. One dollar and fifty cents.

Q. Do you use a machine-edger? A. Yes.

- Q. What do you pay pilers? A. One dollar and fifty cents.
- Q. What do you pay engineers? A. We have got one we pay \$2 and one we pay \$2.50.
- Q. I suppose they are paid that all the year round? A. Yes.
- Q. Are they engaged in the winter doing repairs? A. Yes.
- Q. What do you manufacture? A. We make chiefly 3-inch deals, boards, scantling, shingles and laths.
- Q. Do you manufacture laths? A. Yes.
- Q. What do you pay lath-sawyers? A. We saw laths by the thousand.
- Q. About what are the lath-sawyers able to make in a day? A. About 7,000 a day.
- Q. What wages do they make? A. I think they make from \$1.40 to \$1.50 a day; they make according to the work they do; I could not say exactly what they make; I should say that they make from \$1.25 to \$1.40.
- Q. Do you make many laths? A. Yes.
- Q. Where do you find a market for your stuff? A. In the United States.
- Q. And the other goods go to the English market. A. Yes.
- Q. What do you pay your surveyors? A. About \$1.70.
- Q. They are not paid by the thousand? A. No.
- Q. Do you pay your men once a week? A. No; once a fortnight.
- Q. Are they paid in cash? A. Yes.
- Q. Altogether? A. Altogether.
- Q. Do you pay every pay-night up in full? A. We pay in full every time we pay.
- Q. How many hours a day do your men work? A. Ten hours.
- Q. Have you ever had any trouble with your men? A. No.
- Q. Have you had any strikes? A. No strikes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. What becomes of those men who work only six months in the year? A. If they choose, after our work is done they can go to the woods, and a number of them do go to the woods to work at the lumber.

Q. What wages do the men get in the woods? A. They get from \$14 to \$18 a month, according to the work they do, and can board.

Q. Do you hire any of these men to go to the woods? A. No; I do not; I am not engaged in lumbering in the woods, but Mr. Richards, who has an interest in the mill, does lumbering in the woods; he does it for himself.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How frequently are the men paid who go to the woods? A. They are generally not paid till they come out, and then they are paid cash.

Q. Are they paid all in cash? A. Yes; they are paid all in cash when they come out of the woods.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are they always paid in cash? A. Yes; in all cases; but in some cases they get an order on the store, and when we have not goods in our own store we send and get them for them.

Q. Do you, in some cases, give the men orders? A. Yes.

Q. Do you give the orders on any particular store? A. We give them on any store.

Q. Is there any discount taken off them in any of the stores? A. No; none.

Q. Do you give any preferences to any stores? A. No; we do a cash business altogether.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Do any of your hands own their own houses? A. A great many of them do.

Q. What is the percentage? A. Of the married men who live in the town, I could not say how many of them own their own houses, but I know there are some of them who do own their houses.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Do you know whether it is the system in this district or in any part of Newcastle to pay workmen with due bills or with orders on stores? A. There are no due bills issued in Newcastle.

Q. Has it been customary to do so? A. It was formerly—a number of years ago.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. A number of years ago were not almost all the workmen paid with due bills? A. Yes.

Q. I was here forty years ago and I thought all the business was done that way? A. I have seen it done myself; I have been paid with due bills.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. How much would a workingman pay for a nice house, say of five rooms, with ordinary conveniences—how much rent would he pay a month? A. He would probably pay \$4 a month; that would be a house suitable for a workingman.

Q. Would it be a nice house? A. A great deal depends upon circumstances. Many of the houses that are rented are not very nice houses, but it just depends on the man himself; there are good, comfortable houses to be rented in Newcastle, and if a man's family are careful they can always rent a good house.

Q. How much will they pay for such a house? A. I think probably \$4 a month would get a respectable house.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. And if the family are careful the rent can be paid? A. It will.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. What do you mean by the word "careful"? A. Some families will destroy property more than others.

Q. Will a man get a nice, respectable-looking house, in a respectable neighborhood and within easy access to his work, for \$4 a month—I mean a house of four or five rooms? A. I could not say what you consider respectable houses.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Are they not all respectable houses in Newcastle? A. Yes; there are quite a number of houses in the upper part of the town for which, I understand, people pay from \$3 to \$4 a month, but I have no idea how comfortable they are.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Would these houses at \$4 a month be on the back lanes instead of the principal streets? A. Yes.

Q. They would be away off on the back lanes? A. The town is not so large as to call any of the streets "back lanes."

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. You consider all parts of the town main streets, and near enough to the work for the workmen? A. Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q. What would a man pay for five acres of ground? A. That would depend on the ground.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. In some parts the ground is cheap enough? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are there any building lots in Newcastle held for speculative purposes? A. I have no doubt there are, but there are none that I know of at present. Of course, there are lots of land held around here that would be saleable for building lots if the people really wanted them for that purpose.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. But there is really no demand for them? A. I think the demand is fully supplied; still, there are no vacant houses in the town.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. How much would you have to pay for a cord of good birch or maple wood? A. I think about \$2 or \$2.50.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Would that be for beech and maple? A. Yes; and birch, too.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Can you tell us what is the price of flour per barrel? A. I think you can get the best flour for \$5—may be a little less; I do not know much about flour.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do many of the workingmen of Newcastle go fishing in the winter time? A. Very few of them; the fishing privileges are not so great here as they are further down the river.

ALLAN RITCHIE, Lumber Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am in the shipping and milling business.

Q. What is the rate of wages that you pay your men? A. We pay different men different wages; we pay gang-men about \$1.40 and \$1.50; we have three men in a gang.

Q. Do you employ them the whole year round? A. We run the mill about six months in the year, but the bulk of our men are employed for the six winter months.

Q. Do you take your lumber from the stump? A. Yes. All our men, except the boys, our principal men are employed in the winter time.

Q. How much do your men get when they are in the woods? A. \$14 to \$18.

Q. And do you board them? A. Yes.

Q. That is a month? A. Yes.

Q. How often do you pay your men in the woods? A. They do not get paid until they come out of the woods; whatever they want in the store any of them that have families can get it.

Q. If they want cash can they get cash? A. Yes; they can get cash if they want it.

Q. Is this a much better custom of going on than paying cash? A. Some men take a great deal from the store and some do not take any.

Q. Do the men, while they are in the woods, receive orders for their families on stores while they are away? A. They do not require any order there; they deal in the store without an order.

Q. Can they get these goods in the store just as cheap as if they had cash and dealt in another store? A. Probably they do not; I could not say as they do.

Q. Suppose a man gets an order on the store, and the article he wants is not in the store? A. He will have to do without it.

Q. In such a case, will you go and get the goods in other stores? A. We will send out and get them; that is as far as we can do; we will get the man what he wants; I cannot speak for others in the same line of business.

Q. Is it optional with the man whether he gets orders or not? A. It is.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. When these men engage with you is it understood that they are to take part of their wages out in orders on the store? A. Not at all.

Q. Would you give a preference to the man who would deal with you in the obtaining of work? A. Yes; we would.

Q. Can you give us an idea of the cost of an article when paid for in cash or if paid by an order on the store? A. I do not know as there is much difference that way; there might be 5 per cent., or something like that; we might make a difference of 5 or 10 per cent. We do not compel the men to take store orders, for when their work is through they can take cash if they like.

Q. Then, when a man is working for you he will have to pay 5 or 10 per cent. more for his goods than if paid in cash? A. No; not in the summer, for then they are paid in cash.

Q. If your men were to say, "We will not take orders on your store," would you pay them in cash? A. Yes; we have always done so.

Q. Then, it is just an accommodation to the men that you give them orders? A. Yes; it is just an accommodation.

Q. Then, they are very foolish that they do not ask for cash? A. They can get it if they ask for it.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. How many clerks do you employ in your store? A. We have four in our store, with my brother and myself; there are six all told.

Q. What wages do the clerks in your store get? A. They get \$400; two get \$200 each; the book-keeper gets somewhere about \$900 or \$1,000.

Q. Does he tend on the store? A. He tends to the books; I am not sure whether at times he tends on the store or not.

Q. Does the book-keeper attend to the books and orders? A. He is the book-keeper.

Q. Do the clerks take any part of their wages out in orders on the store? A. A clerk can take out his salary in orders on the store if he likes.

Q. But they do not have to do it? A. No.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. Do you make any difference in your prices of selling to the general public and to your men? A. No.

Q. Then you have one price for every body? A. Yes; that is, as far as the laboring men are concerned; we have a lumbering supply bill.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Would you be kind enough to explain what this lumbering supply bill is? A. When a man makes a contract for the getting out of logs we specify what prices we will charge him for his pork, beef and provisions, and we guarantee to supply him for the prices agreed upon; and when the contract is closed so much is taken off the bill for pork, beef and provisions.

Q. You guarantee that the contractor will take so much from you in store orders? A. No; I did not say that. We fix the price for his pork, beef and provisions, but we do not compel the man to take it from us. He requires to have those goods to get out the lumber, and as we have them he gets them from us. We do not compel the man to take them from us.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. There is an agreement made between you and the man? A. There is.

Q. And he charges you accordingly? A. He has his charges for his logs and we ours for our supply.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is that understood in the agreement? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. That is part of the contract? A. Yes; he guarantees to do a certain thing and we a certain other thing.

Q. Do you charge the contractor anything on advancement? A. We charge him for advances of money—that is, if he takes cash.

Q. Do you charge him so much per cent? A. Yes; that is for cash. The goods are taken at a certain price.

JAMES MURRAY, Foundryman, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q. What is your business? A. I have a foundry.
 Q. Have you many men employed in the foundry? A. No; I have only one.
 Q. Are you engaged on stove or machinery-moulding? A. He is engaged on moulding.
 Q. Do you do stove-moulding or machinery-moulding? A. Machinery and plain moulding, and the like of that.
 Q. Can you tell us what the earnings of moulders are in Newcastle? A. We pay our man \$1 a day.
 Q. Is he a good, skilled moulder? A. He is a fair moulder—a good moulder.
 Q. Do you give him constant employment at these wages all the year round? A. No; I have not given him work for some time; I have not cast four times since New Year.
 Q. What does the man live on? A. The money I pay him.
 Q. And you have only cast four times since New Year? A. I have.
 Q. What do you pay your furnace-man? A. I have not any.
 Q. Do you have any laboring men about the foundry? A. No.
 Q. Do you have any pattern-makers? A. No; I do that myself.
 Q. Do you take on any apprentices? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q. Do you ever do any stove-moulding? A. Yes.
 Q. Do you pay a stove-moulder by piece-work? A. The same man does that work.
 Q. Does he do it by piece-work? A. He does not.
 Q. Do you pay him by the week? A. Yes; whatever I want him to do he does at \$1 a day.
 Q. Is he a skilled hand? A. He is a very good moulder.
 Q. Do you take any apprentices to learn the trade? A. I do not.
 Q. Are there many moulders in Newcastle? A. I believe there are two others besides my man; that is all I know of it.
 Q. Do they live throughout the year on what they earn at their trade? A. I do not know anything about the other moulders in the business.

JAMES P. MITCHELL, Inspector of Lights, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

- Q. What is your business? A. I am the Inspector of Lights just now.
 Q. Are you the Government Inspector? A. Yes.
 Q. Of the lights in this county? A. Yes.
 Q. Have you many men employed to assist you? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

- Q. Have you many men in the different light-houses? A. There is one man for every light-house, and on the fog-alarm there are two.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q. Are you engaged at any other business than the Government inspection of lights? A. I have a small farm, which I farm for amusement, sometimes.
 Q. Are you engaged in any manufacturing pursuit? A. No.
 Q. Do you know if the system of paying the work people in orders on stores is prevalent in this part of the country to any extent? A. I do not think it is; so far as I know it is not. There are some cases, I suppose, where it is done, but I think the people in the summer time almost always get their wages in cash.
 Q. Do you know if the system of payment in due bills for work has been done

away with entirely? A. I really do not know, but I think it is; I do not see any now, and I used to see them all the time.

Q. How long have you lived here? A. Only sixty-two years.

Q. Then you ought to know pretty well what is going on here? A. I ought to—that is a fact.

Q. Do you think that if a man is paid with due bills or orders on stores that he is likely to get the full value for his due bill or orders? A. I think the cash would be preferable.

Q. Do you, in your opinion, think that the people could live cheaper if they got cash for their work? A. They might; I rather think so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. During your residence here have you given any attention to the management of the public schools? A. No; I have not.

Q. Then you cannot tell us how old the sons or children of the working classes are when they are taken away from school and put to work at some kind of business? A. I know that there are some of them who go to work very young indeed.

Q. How young do you think they go to work? A. I think some of them go to work at as early an age as twelve or thirteen years.

Q. Do you think that house rent in Newcastle has increased during the past five years? A. No.

Q. Has it decreased? A. Yes.

Q. From your experience and your acquaintance with this neighborhood during these past years, can you say whether the necessaries of life are cheaper—can you say whether the purchasing power of the dollar is as great as it was ten years ago, or greater? A. I think it is; I think goods are cheaper.

Q. And you think that house rent has not increased in this time? A. I think it has not.

Q. As a whole, do you think that the wages of the working classes in this neighborhood have increased in the last ten years? A. I think they have kept at pretty nearly the same figure.

Q. You think that they are pretty nearly about the same figure as they were then? A. Yes; I think so; I do not employ any hands myself.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. The whole difference lies in the fact that the working people are paid in cash? A. Yes; as far as I know they are paid in cash.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are the working people paid more in cash than they were ten years ago? A. Not more in cash than ten years ago, but they are paid more in cash than they were twenty years ago.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is the farm produce which is raised in this neighborhood used here? A. So far as oats and hay are concerned, I think so; the lumbermen generally buy them.

Q. Are the potatoes raised here consumed in this neighborhood? A. Some of them were exported the last two or three years.

Q. But is it consumed here, as a rule? A. Yes; farm produce is generally consumed here, but some of it is taken to the States.

Q. How are the farmers of this neighborhood placed concerning their circumstances? A. A man who tends his farm in this neighborhood, and tends to nothing else, can always make a decent living.

Q. And those who are half-farmers and half-fishermen do not? A. They generally go behind hand, so far as I have ever known of them.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are many of the potatoes that are raised here sent to the other Provinces? A. Not a great many.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. You think the price will have to be very high to pay the railroad fare of sending potatoes to the upper Provinces? A. Yes; I think they pay \$1 for them here.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you mean \$1 a barrel? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Some forty years ago, was not the system of paying in due bills the universal system of doing business in this part of the country? A. Yes.

Q. And some of them were supposed to be wealthy farmers that gave them? A. Yes.

Q. And some of them were supposed to be wealthy lumbermen? A. Yes.

Q. As a rule, how do you think that the lumber dealers have succeeded, so far as wealth is concerned—I am not speaking of the present generation? A. I do not really know. My experience is that some of the lumber dealers are holding their own, and some of them have gone to the wall.

Q. Without reference to the present, is it not a fact that the great majority of the lumber dealers, who were supposed at one time to be rich, did go to the wall? A. Yes; I think so.

Q. Even the firm of Cunard & Co., who were supposed to own all they possessed? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Do you not think that the laboring people of this district are in a better condition than they were thirty years ago? A. Yes; they are.

Q. Do you not think that the lumbering people in this district are in a better condition, too? A. Yes.

Q. While the older operatives failed in business the lumbermen have steadily increased? A. Laboring men, lumbering men, and all the men engaged in the business for the last few years, are much better off—that is, those who attended to their business.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. And this success is due to the fact that the men are paid in cash rather than in due bills? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do the men find much more employment now than they did thirty years ago? A. As for employment, I do not know. I know that they do not get very much employment after the mills shut down, for then there is generally a slack time for the men, and quite a number of them go to the woods; those that care to go do go to the woods.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Is it not a fact that forty years ago, when these large firms, like Cunard & Co., were in operation, that there was more business done than now? A. I do not really know how to answer that question exactly, for in those days there were only three or four firms engaged in the lumber business, and now there are quite a number.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q. Has business in Newcastle improved in the last twenty years? A. It has improved until within the last three or four years.

Q. Has it improved within the last three or four years? A. Not a great deal.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. The lumber trade is declining? A. It is.

Q. And that is the chief business of this neighborhood? A. Yes; lumber and fishing.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Taking the average of the lumbering men in the district and the average of their earnings in the year; how many of them do you think can save money for their old age? A. That is a matter that depends on the character of the man altogether.

Q. We will take the average man and the average earnings? A. There are not many of them that can lay up very much. Some very enterprising men, that is, some men who have a little ability in that direction and skilled about the work they undertake to do, may make a little money, and others of them again do not save a dollar.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is not this a matter in which the wife has a great deal to do? A. I suppose, as far as the expenses of the family are concerned, she does have a great deal to do with this matter.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. If a man has four of a family, besides his wife and himself, how much wages ought he earn in a day in order to pay the necessary expenses of the household, live comfortably and economically, and provide for a case of sickness? A. I could not say; I have had a man working for me for the last four years on the farm, and he has a small family; I have paid him \$240 a year, and he has \$70 or \$80 a year to lay by; but he has had this advantage, that I give him a free house, free fuel and a cow.

Q. As regards the working classes as a whole, how much ought a man with four of a family, not counting himself and wife, earn in a day, in order to live economically and comfortably, and lay by a little for a rainy day? A. I suppose he would require, at the very least, \$1.30 or \$1.40 a day.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. How many paupers have you in this parish? A. I think there are about twenty-five in the poor-house; I do not know the exact number.

Q. Would that be in the poor-house in Chatham? A. Yes; that is the poor-house for the whole county; and the number I mentioned covers the paupers for the whole county of Northumberland.

JOHN PATTON, Spool Factory, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am the foreman of the spool factory.

Q. Do you work in the spool factory in Newcastle? A. Yes.

Q. Do you do all piece-work in that factory? A. Mostly.

Q. How many turners have you employed? A. Seven.

Q. What do first-class hands earn in a week? A. About \$1.50 a day.

Q. Would that be the outside that they would make? A. Sometimes they will earn a couple of dollars a day, but there are other days that they will run far below that, and on the average they will not make more than \$1.50.

Q. How long does it take the hands to become experts at the business? A. We allow our hands three years to learn their trade. We are conducting the place on the same line as they do in Scotland, where they make the apprentices serve three years. After a short time they receive reduced wages—I mean, they receive reduced wages after they have been a short time working, and these wages go to the journeymen, and after their time is up they receive journeymen's wages. The employer gets no benefit from the apprentices' wages, as it all goes to the journeyman.

Q. What will an apprentice earn while he is learning his trade? A. Thirty dollars a month.

Q. Will he earn that amount when he first starts? A. No; when he has been a year and a-half at the business.

Q. What will he get when he first starts ? A. He will earn from \$18 to \$20 a month.

Q. How many hours will he have to work ? A. Ten.

Q. Would that be a day ? A. Yes.

Q. Do you ever work any over-time in your factory ? A. We do sometimes when we are pushed for orders.

Q. Do the hands get anything for this over-time ? A. They get whatever they can make.

Q. Do they get anything extra from the day rate of wages ? A. No ; it is all piece-work right through the factory.

Q. Do you employ any girls in the factory ? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do the girls get ? A. They work piece-work, like the rest of the hands.

Q. What are the ages of these girls ? A. They are from fifteen to eighteen years old.

Q. What work are they engaged at ? A. Threading the spools.

Q. How much can they earn ? A. I think about 30 cents a day ; sometimes they only work an hour or two in the day, and other days they work seven or eight hours. They get paid according to the work they do.

Q. Then theirs is not constant employment ? A. No ; they work whenever there is work for them to do.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q. How do the wages in your factory compare with the wages given in the same line of work in Scotland ? A. The wages here are better than in the old country ; when they go to finish in the old country they get \$3 a week, or about that, and some of them get less.

Q. How are journeymen—skilled hands—paid ? A. In the old country, from 30 shillings a week up.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q. Do you consider that they are better off here than in the old country—I mean, the operatives generally ? A. Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q. Do you consider that you are better off here ? A. I am better off as regards pay.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What about the living ? A. Living is very fair—something like the old country.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Are you a married man ? A. Yes.

Q. How many children have you ? A. Seven.

Q. Do you think that your children are better off here, in the matter of education, than they would be in the old country ? A. I believe they are ; I believe they are better off here than in Scotland.

Q. Do you not think that is an important item for a man of family to consider ? A. I do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. What part of Scotland have you reference to when making your comparisons ? A. Paisley.

Q. In making your comparisons between the wages and the rate of living here and in Paisley, do you consider that a mechanic is better off here than in the old country ? A. I do ; I have been in different parts of Scotland and I have been in England, but I have not been employed in England ; but from what I know of the old country I am of the opinion that a mechanic is better off here in this country.

Q. Do you mean he is better off here than in the three islands? A. No; England and Scotland; I have been in England, but I have not been employed there.

Q. But you think that, take it all around, the mechanic is better off here than he would be in the old country? A. Yes.

Q. If he is out of a situation are his chances much better here than in the old country? A. No.

Q. Would his chances be much better to get a place in the old country? A. Yes; places are more plentiful there, and so a man stands a better chance of employment when out of work.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Did you come out to this country on speculation? A. No; I was engaged in the old country.

Q. Were you engaged for any length of time? A. I was engaged for a year, but I have stayed on from year to year, as my employers were satisfied with me and my work; I am in this place three years.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. You feel a little more independent here than you did in the old country? A. I was always troubled that way, in the old country as well as here.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you ever heard the employes express any dissatisfaction at being paid monthly? A. I have heard it spoken of often; I have heard them speak of being paid monthly. For myself, I do not see much difference in being paid monthly or fortnightly.

Q. Would they prefer being paid fortnightly to monthly? A. Yes.

Q. Would they prefer to be paid in cash? A. Some of them; they can get cash.

Q. Would they prefer to have their pay weekly? A. Yes.

Q. In cash? A. They would prefer it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. If the hands were paid weekly would they be better off? A. Yes; for they would always have a little cash on hand.

JOHN NIVEN, Tanner, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What business are you engaged in? A. I am doing a little tanning, but very little now, for times are dull.

Q. Do you employ many men? A. One, two or three, but the business has gone down so that there is nothing in it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. You are engaged in tanning? A. Yes.

Q. About how much can a man earn in a week at tanning? A. Tanners are generally hired by the month; when I hire a man I hire him by the month and find him in the house. This I do, except with some boys or men that I occasionally want.

Q. How much can they earn a month? A. I pay them \$16 a month.

Q. And their board? A. Yes; and their board; some of them get less. Some that are old men, and others who are not practical workmen, do not get that much.

Q. Do they obtain work all the year around at those rates? A. Yes; good men get work all the year around.

Q. What class of leather do you manufacture? A. Calf, kip and harness leather; we ship some of all kinds; I do not go into the making of any sole leather.

Q. What wages can a currier earn? A. I am talking about curriers. Curriers cannot get steady work at currying all the time, so have to do some of the other

work; some of the carriers do nothing but currying; it is a business by itself, but it is not so in this part of the country.

Q. Do you principally use green or salted hides? A. I use all green hides making leather, but I have used dry salted hides.

By MR. McLEAN:—

Q. Where do you find a market for your leather? A. I have shipped a great deal to Montreal. St. John used to be a pretty good market, but it has all gone to pot now, and Montreal has got glutted out of sight. You have to sell there on four or five months' time, and when your note is due the fellow to whom you sold drops out of sight and you have to pay up.

By MR. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Where do you get your hides from? A. I get them all here; I ship lots of green hides.

Q. Where do you sell them—in Quebec? A. I have sold some in Quebec.

Q. Do you send any up to Ontario? A. Yes; I have sent some to Barrie.

Q. How do your wages compare here with those in the Province of Quebec? A. I have never worked in Quebec, but I think they are pretty near the same, or about the same. They do a great deal of piece-work there; there is money in the business there, but very little here.

J. McLAGGAN, General Merchant, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What business are you engaged in? A. I am a general merchant.

Q. Can you tell us what were the prices of provisions—teas, sugar, molasses and butter—in Newcastle, in the month of July, in the years 1882, 1885 and 1887? A. I can, and you will find them in the statement I have made up, and which I present to this Commission.

Q. Do you say that this is a correct statement of the prices of those articles for the years you have mentioned? A. It is.

(Statement produced and handed to the Chairman.)

MEMORANDUM of *Prices of the following Goods during the month of July, in years named.*

ARTICLES.	1882.	1885.	1887.
Flour.....	\$ 6 25 @ \$ 7 00	\$ 4 75 @ \$ 5 50	\$ 4 00 @ \$ 5 00
Cornmeal.....	4 75 @ 5 00	3 50 @ 3 75	3 00 @ 3 25
Oatmeal.....	5 75 @ 6 00	5 00 @ 5 25	4 25 @ 4 50
Beef.....	20 00 @ 22 50	13 50 @ 16 00	11 00 @ 13 00
Pork.....	23 00 @ 27 00	14 00 @ 17 00	15 00 @ 18 00
Tea (wholesale).....	0 18 @ 0 30	0 18 @ 0 30	0 18 @ 0 30
“ (retail).....	0 25 @ 0 40	0 25 @ 0 40	0 25 @ 0 40
Sugar.....	0 07½ @ 0 10	0 05 @ 0 07	0 05 @ 0 07
Molasses (wholesale).....	0 46 @ 0 50	0 33 @ 0 36	0 27 @ 0 30
“ (retail).....	0 55 @ 0 60	0 40 @ 0 45	0 35 @ 0 40
Butter.....	0 15 @ 0 22	0 17 @ 0 25	0 17 @ 0 25
Kerosene (wholesale).....	0 22 @ 0 32	0 18 @ 0 28	0 17 @ 0 27
“ (retail).....	0 30 @ 0 40	0 25 @ 0 35	0 25 @ 0 35

The above is the statement referred to in my evidence before the Royal Labor Commission this day.

JOHN McLAGGAN.

NEWCASTLE, 19th April, 1888.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are the prices in your statement wholesale or retail prices? A. That is what I want to explain: you asked me for wholesale in pork, flour and oatmeal, and there is some little difference between the wholesale and retail in some things, so I have put down the two prices in my statement. I have put down the two rates in some of the articles, and in others I have not.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Are you engaged in business in Newcastle as a general merchant? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any interest in the saw-mills in this vicinity? A. I have not.

Q. Do you know whether it is the practice of the employers of mills in this vicinity to pay their employées with orders on stores? A. I cannot tell you anything about that.

Q. Then you do not receive any orders in your store? A. No.

Q. What are the hours that clerks have to work in the stores here? A. Clerks' hours are generally from about seven in the morning till seven at night.

Q. What would be the earnings of clerks in general stores? A. Do you wish the average?

Q. Yes—the average wages of a clerk in a general store? A. The average salary of a clerk in a general store would be about \$30 a month.

Q. Did you say \$20 a month? A. No; \$30 a month.

Q. Are there any females employed as clerks in Newcastle? A. There are not many.

Q. Are you able to tell us what the earnings of female clerks would be in this town? A. No; I could not tell you that.

Q. Do you make any clothing? A. I do not.

WILLIAM SUTHERLAND, Foreman Frenchfort Quarry, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am the foreman of the Frenchfort quarry:

Q. That is the quarry down in the "Cove"? A. Yes.

Q. Do you employ many men at work in the quarry? A. We employ from 60 to 100.

Q. Do you employ many as stone-cutters? A. Yes.

Q. How many stone-cutters do you have to work? A. We do not employ many whole stone-cutters; they are mostly half stone-cutters.

Q. What wages do these stone-cutters get? A. The laborers get \$1.10, \$1.20 and \$1.35 a day, and the quarrymen from \$1.30 to \$1.75.

Q. Would \$1.30 be the highest you pay to the men who dress the stone? A. No; those are laborers who get that sum; the quarrymen and scavellers are paid from \$1.30 to \$1.75; stone-cutters get from \$2 to \$2.50.

Q. How many hours a day do these men have to work? A. Ten.

Q. How frequently are they paid? A. About the 20th of the month, or along there.

Q. Then they are paid monthly? A. Yes.

Q. Are they paid in cash? A. For the most part they are paid in cash.

Q. When they do not get cash how do they receive their pay? A. The proprietor of the quarry is a storekeeper, and he supplies some of his men. Some of the quarrymen deal with him, and those who do not deal with him are paid in cash.

Q. Is it understood that the men are to deal in the store with the proprietor? A. No; it is optional with the men whether they deal in the store or not.

Q. Will a man who is dealing in the store with the proprietor get a preference in the matter of the work over other men? A. No; he will receive none at all.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do the men ask for these store orders, or are they offered in part payment to them? A. I do not know whether the men ask for these orders or not; I am sure I could not tell you.

Q. Suppose a man states that he wants cash instead of an order, will he receive the cash? A. Yes.

Q. Will he have to wait a week for his money? A. No.

Q. How long will he have to wait for it? A. As a general thing, in such cases there is an order written out for the man.

Q. Does he get cash on the order? A. Yes; very often; he gets cash in the bank.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q. Are those orders which are given matters of speculation on the part of the proprietors or an accommodation to the men? A. They are a matter of accommodation to the men.

Q. Do the men look upon the orders as a matter of speculation or not? A. I do not think so. The man gets a cheque on the bank if he wants it, or is paid in cash.

Q. Suppose the man wants a certain article of goods, and has an order for it, and there is no article of that kind in the store, will he get the article in another store on the order? A. Yes.

Q. Will the other stores take the order at par? A. Yes; I have know them to go out for goods that they had not got in their stores and get them for the men.

Q. Do you think that the men get these articles as cheap as if they had the cash? A. I cannot say; I think so; I have nothing to do with that part of the business.

Q. How often are the men paid? A. Every month, once a month.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q. You are busier this summer than ever before? A. The prospects are that we will be busier this summer than we ever were.

Q. Where do you sell your stone? A. For the last three seasons we have sent stone to Ottawa.

Q. You say you have sent stone to Ottawa for the last three seasons? A. Yes; stone for the new departmental building. We have been sending some to Hamilton for the city hall they are building there, and we are sending grindstones to Montreal and the States. We are also sending box-stone to Montreal.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are you sending any stone to Toronto for the new Parliament building? A. No; we did send some stone to Toronto last summer; we sent it to a place out of Toronto—a short distance out of Toronto; I forget the name of the place.

Q. Have you sent any stone to be used on the new departmental building in Toronto? A. No.

Q. Are the stone-cutters kept busy all the year round? A. No; the stones are not cut here ready for laying; they are simply quarried—scraveled.

Q. Are the stones dressed here in the quarry? A. None, except shoddy; shoddy is dressed.

GEORGE BROWN, Builder and Carpenter, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am builder and carpenter.

Q. Are you in business for yourself? A. No; I build by contract for parties, when I get the chance to do so.

Q. Have you many men employed just now? A. I have none just now.

Q. What are the ruling wages for good general carpenters and joiners? A. About \$1.50 a day; I give good journeymen \$1.50 a day.

Q. Are they plentiful in this market? A. No; not just now; good men are not plentiful here; there are hardly any here now; they have all gone away to the States, or nearly all; there are some good hands to be got here; I know of one or two good finishers in town now; that is all there are in town now.

- Q. Is there much employment for the men here the year round? A. No.
- Q. Do you do general building—brick and stone-work, and plastering? A. No; I have never done anything at stone or brick-work; it is generally wood-work that we do here. There has only been one brick building built in this town since I have been in the business.
- Q. Do you know what wages plasterers get? A. About \$2 a day.
- Q. Do they have pretty steady work? A. They have pretty steady work in the summer in the town; between the town and the country together they get a pretty fair run of work.
- Q. Do they find steadier work than the carpenters do? A. Yes.
- Q. What hours do they work here a day? A. They work ten hours.
- Q. How frequently are they paid on buildings? A. They are generally paid once a fortnight; I always pay my men that way.
- Q. Do you board your men? A. No; I do not board the journeymen.
- Q. Do you keep many apprentices? A. Yes; I generally have two; I have just one now; I got him the other day.
- Q. What are the terms of apprenticeship in Newcastle? A. I give them \$40 a year, and board them.
- Q. How long do they have to serve? A. For three years.
- Q. Do you have any difficulty in keeping the boys till they learn their trade? A. Sometimes I do; it is all according to what kind of a boy I get hold of. I had two a couple of years ago, and one stayed with me about a year and a-half and the other one about a year; then they both went away.
- Q. Do you bind your apprentices in any way? A. No; I would not bind a boy, for I was bound myself for seven years, and know all about it.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you say you were bound for seven years? A. Yes; I was bound for seven years.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. Were you bound in the old country? A. No; in this very town.
- Q. Do you think that a boy can learn the carpenter business thoroughly in three years? A. No; I do not think so; I never saw a boy yet that learned his trade thoroughly in that time. Some of them will learn pretty well in three years, but the majority of them are not much as carpenters at the end of their three years.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How long do you think a boy should serve before he can be called a good journeyman? A. He ought to serve five years, for it would be better for himself if he wants to do anything on his own account. I think that every boy going to learn the carpenter trade ought to serve five years; but as a general thing they do not want to do so, so I take a boy for whatever length of time he wants to stay. I think five years is little time enough to learn the trade thoroughly. I know if I was going to learn the trade again I would not ask any man to take me for less than five years.

JOHN BUCKLEY, Blacksmith, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. What is your business? A. I am a blacksmith.
- Q. Are you engaged in business for yourself? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you employ any hands? A. No.
- Q. Can you tell us what are the wages of journeymen blacksmiths in Newcastle? A. It is so long since I have seen a journeyman blacksmith work in this place that I could hardly make a calculation of what his wages would be.
- Q. Do you keep any apprentices? A. No.
- Q. What wages do your helpers get? A. I have not got any helper; the times are so dull I cannot afford to hire one.
- Q. Then, blacksmithing is not very good in this part of the country? A. Well, I have seen it better, although I have no reason to complain.

THOMAS HOLLERIN, Stevedore, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a stevedore.

Q. Do you work on your own account, or are you employed by other people?
A. I work on my own account.

Q. Do you load deals in Newcastle by the standard or by the day? A. We load them by the standard. I am employed by the merchants to load their deals, but when I am loading them I do the work on my own account, and I load them by the standard.

Q. How much a standard do you get for loading deals here? A. Last summer we got from \$1.20 to \$1.25; that was the general rule, but in some cases vessels were loaded under that rate.

Q. Would that be for loading off the wharf? A. Yes.

Q. What do the holders get in loading deals? A. Did you say holders?

Q. Yes—the men who work in the hold? A. They get \$2 a day.

Q. What do you pay the men who work on the wharf? A. They get from \$1.50 to \$1.60 a day.

Q. How many months in the year will they get work at that rate of wages?
A. I do not think, taking all the time they work on vessels together, they could get more than three months' work.

Q. You do not think they could get more than three months' work? A. Not when all the time is put together.

Q. Can you give us an idea of what a man would make at that work in a season?
A. He would make between \$150 and \$175.

Q. Would \$175 be the limit? A. I think it would.

Q. When you start to load a vessel do you work night and day at it till the vessel is finished? A. No.

Q. You just work day shifts? A. Sometimes we may work a quarter at night—that is, when we want to finish a vessel and get her loaded by a certain night.

Q. Do you ever do any Sunday work? A. I never did any Sunday work.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in getting good men for your work? A. I do not.

Q. Are there plenty of men to be found about here? A. Yes; except in the spring of the year, when the vessels come in too fast—four or five of them at a time—then we may find a little difficulty in getting good men to do the holding.

Q. When do you get paid? A. When the vessel is loaded.

Q. Just as soon as the vessel is loaded do you pay the bills? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay in cash always? A. Yes.

Q. Are the men paid in cash? A. Yes.

Q. Do you load any birch here? A. I have not had anything to do with a stick of birch going into a vessel this last eight years.

Q. Do you load any square timber here? A. I have not, but there is some loaded here.

Q. Can you tell us what staggers and swingers get? A. No; I could not tell you.

JOHN HEARN, Mill Foreman, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a mill foreman.

Q. Are you foreman of a saw-mill here? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been engaged in that business? A. I have been in the business twenty years altogether.

Q. Do you find constant employment? A. Yes.

Q. Are you employed all the year around? A. Yes.

Q. How many months in the year do your men find employment? A. Some five or six months—five months generally; but of late years five months, I think.

Q. During the season that the mill is closed down do all these men find employment? A. Most of them do; the great body of the men do.

Q. Is it a difficult matter to obtain employment at home when not at work in the mill? A. No; it is not; you can always get work in the woods, and all the men that are able to go there do so.

Q. When not going to the woods is it difficult to obtain work here? A. It is in the winter time in the town.

Q. How are the men in the mills paid? A. By the boss.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. How often are the men paid? A. They are paid in cash.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Are the men always paid in cash? A. Well, the thing works this way: the company pay the men off once every fortnight—that is, the balance that is due them. During the fortnight they can go to the store of the company and get whatever they want, and at the end of the fortnight whatever portion of their wages they do not take up in goods they are paid for in cash.

Q. Is it optional with the men whether they take goods out of the store or not? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. They can take goods out of the store, or not, just as they like? A. Yes; certainly; they can do as they like about it.

WILLIAM ROBINSON, Carriage Manufacturer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a carriage-maker.

Q. Are you engaged in that business in this town? A. Yes.

Q. Do you employ any hands in your establishment? A. I do.

Q. What wages do carriage-builders earn in this town—I mean, in the wood-working department? A. We have different wages for different departments of our business.

Q. What wages do body-builders earn? A. \$1 to \$1.50 a day. We have different grades of body-builders.

Q. What are the wages of a good carriage blacksmith in this town? A. One dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q. Have you any carriage painters employed? A. I employ one carriage painter.

Q. What wages does he earn? A. One part of the year he gets more than another, and I think he averages, take the year round, \$2 a day. He is a very good painter and he is well paid; we value his services highly and we are willing to pay him his prices.

Q. Do these men who work with you get steady employment all the year round? A. They do.

Q. How many hours a day do they work? A. Ten.

Q. Do they make full time in the winter? A. They make full time.

Q. Do you find a good market here for your manufactured goods? A. No; it is a slow market.

Q. Do you meet with much competition in your business from outside places? A. We meet with a very great deal.

Q. What class of competition have you got to contend with from outside—what class of work? A. We have a good deal of competition from Ontario; there are lots of carriages brought in here from different parts of the Dominion. There is a concern in Ontario that sends a great part of the carriages that come to this place.

Q. Do they send the carriage in complete, or only just partially made? A. They send it in complete.

Q. Do you know whether any prison-made goods come here from the Montreal Reformatory? A. I never saw any of them; there is none comes here, that I am aware of.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG—

Q. Do you import any portion of your goods from the United States? A. I have imported some of my goods from different places.

Q. Do you import any from the United States? A. No; I have imported some from Canada.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you import from Ontario or Montreal? A. Not from Montreal, but away up in Ontario.

Q. Where do you get your springs from—Ontario? A. I get nearly all my springs from St. John; I consider them to be the best.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you get your hickory from Ontario? A. Yes; we do, some of it.

WILLIAM RYAN, Lumberman, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am pulling lumber down the river.

Q. Are you running logs down the river? A. Yes.

Q. What are the wages given to the men at that work? A. From 90 cents to \$1 a day.

Q. Then you are not paid by the thousand? A. I am paid by the thousand, but what I have stated is what I pay the men.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you find the men? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is the running of logs done by the current or by steam power? A. It is all done by the current—that is, all the logs I run.

Q. Where do you take the logs from? A. From the piers.

Q. Is it above the bridge? A. Yes; away above the booms; we call that up.

Q. What is the contract price charged here on the delivery of the logs? A. It is 10 cents on logs from there to Newcastle.

Q. What is the charge further down? A. Further down you get more money.

Q. What is the charge when you get to Chatham? A. Down to Chatham you get about 15 to 18 cents.

Q. Are the logs all bracketed and rafted for you? A. Yes.

Q. If there is anything of information in your trade that you can give us, the Commission would be glad to hear it from you? A. I have given you about all the information I have. I make arrangements with the man who owns the mill to run his logs down the river for 10 cents a thousand, and I pay my men 90 cents a day.

Q. How many men have you employed? A. Three besides myself.

Q. How long does the season last? A. About six months.

Q. Are there many engaged in that business in this part of the country? A. There are a great many.

Q. Do they make many trips in a day, or does it take them all day to make a trip? A. They are working all the time.

Q. Do you make one trip and go back for another? A. Yes; sometimes we do.

Q. Do you use any steamers? A. No; it is a row-boat that we use.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. How many thousand can you bring down in a day? A. We generally take

two days over bringing them down; we cannot make two trips a day, except in freshet time. We bring about 200 or 250.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you mean 200 or 250,000? A. Yes.

Q. That is a pretty good raft? A. Yes.

Q. How many men have you engaged? A. There are three men besides myself; I count myself one man, or at least I ought to.

Q. How frequently are the men paid? A. They are paid every month.

Q. Are they paid in cash? A. Yes.

Q. Have they ever expressed a wish to be paid oftener? A. No; not to my knowledge.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Do the men board with you? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you give them the wages you have mentioned, and find them? A. Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. What can a man get board for? A. He can get board for 50 or 60 cents a day, I suppose.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. With his board included, then, I suppose a man gets from \$1.40 to \$1.50 a day? A. Yes; he gets about that sum, all things counted in.

Q. Do they have to work without any reference to hours? A. Yes; there are no hours mentioned in the bargain; a man has to work as the tide runs, night and day; when the tide runs down he has to get up and go to work.

Q. The tide will not wait for him, I suppose? A. No; it will not. Time, tide and wind wait for nobody.

C. E. FISH, Proprietor Frenchfort Quarry, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am in the grindstone business—quarrying.

Q. Do you work in the Frenchfort quarry? A. Did you ask me did I work in the quarry?

Q. Yes—I did. Are you engaged in business in that quarry? A. Yes; I am the owner of the quarry.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Are you the proprietor of the quarry? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. That is the quarry down the “Cove”? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had any difficulty with your men? A. No; we have never had any difficulty with our men.

Q. Are the relations between the employer and employés in your quarry friendly? A. Yes.

Q. You pay your men once a month, do you not? A. I pay the men once a month.

Q. Is there any arrangement between you and the men for accommodation in store orders, between pay-day? A. Yes.

Q. Will you please explain it to us? A. We have arranged with the men to give them either money or orders for provisions, just as they want them, and we generally give them either. We give them whatever they want in money, or orders

for provisions. That is about all they want, for they generally buy their dry-goods and all the clothes they want on pay-day.

Q. If any of the men should require money between pay-day, instead of orders, could they obtain it? A. Yes; we always give it to them right on the spot; we always give it to them on their finishing their work.

Q. Do the men ever express a wish to be paid more frequently than once a month? A. No; not our men; many of them do not take their pay at all till the end of the season.

Q. Do you board the men? A. No; I do not board them; their board bill is supposed to be paid; but after that is paid whatever is due they let it remain with me till the end of the season, and then they get it all in a lump.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q. How long have you been in this business? A. Three years.

Q. Do your men generally remain with you? A. Yes.

Q. Do the men who work for you own their own houses? A. Yes; a few of them do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. How many men have you got employed altogether? A. That is a matter which depends on the orders I have on hand; sometimes I have fifty hands employed and sometimes over 100. I have had over 100 employed at times, and other times just an even 100. My average working force would be fifty.

Q. Are the men who own their houses generally foremen, overseers or managers? A. No; those that own their own houses are just workingmen.

Q. Are they stone-cutters or ordinary quarrymen? A. They are just quarrymen. I do not know that they have earned money enough in quarrying to build their houses, for they have owned their houses for some time.

Q. Did they own their own houses before they went to work with you? A. They did.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Are there any other quarries of the same nature as yours around here? A. There are none just on this river; there are some near here.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q. You say that some of the men leave money with you during the working season? A. Yes.

Q. What do you mean by that? Do you mean the summer season? A. Yes.

Q. Have they no desire to keep their money? A. They desire to leave their money with me till they go home. A great many of them are foreigners, and after their work is over they go home; but while they remain with me they leave their money in my care.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q. What per cent. do you give these men for the use of their money? A. Nothing.

Q. What per cent. interest do you get for it? A. Nothing; I do not usually use this money; I put it in the bank, and at the end of the season I have the money in a lump sum ready for the men.

Q. Does not the bank use that money? A. I suppose it does; all I know about it, is that I put it there, and the men get it at the end of the season in a lump sum.

ALLEN RITCHIE, re-called.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Can you tell us if the stumpage regulations of New Brunswick have had any injurious effect on the lumbering interest of this Province? A. The stumpage regulations have worked very much against the lumber industry.

Q. In what way? A. It is such a heavy tax that we cannot possibly stand under it.

Q. How does it compare with the tax in Quebec? A. Ours here is over double theirs.

Q. What are the stumpage rates? A. Our tax is \$1.25 a thousand, and then there is \$8 a mile to be added, with a renewal of \$4 a year.

Q. What is the stumpage tax on the St. John river? A. It is about the same; all over the Province the charges are about the same.

Q. What is the New Brunswick Railway charged for their lumber lands? A. Their charge is about the same, but they have this difference in their favor—that they have selected the best of our land, so that the tax does not operate so much against them as the other operators. The way our lands are divided the tax is very much against us.

Q. Do you know what the stumpage tax is in Quebec? A. I think it runs about 60 cents a thousand.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. And \$5 a mile? A. No; it is \$2 a mile.

Q. But they raised the stumpage last year? A. I did not know that, so you may be right.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you know what the stumpage is in Ontario? A. No; I could not say what it is in Ontario, but I could say what it was in the Provinces of Quebec and Nova Scotia. In Nova Scotia I think it is only about 35 or 40 cents a thousand. At one time in this Province we only paid \$8 a mile, but since that \$1.25 a thousand has been added. I know that we have not yet started our steam mill for the year, and I doubt if we will.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Is that on account of the tax? A. Yes; on account of the stumpage. It is not because we are not willing to do the work, but because we are not willing and able to pay out such a large amount of money in taxes.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. How much more lumber would you ship from this district if the stumpage were done away with? A. I think last year we shipped about 75,000,000 and I am of opinion that we could double or triple that amount if the stumpage regulations were repealed. Latterly, the effect that it is having is the driving of many operators out of the country; they are leaving us very fast, and all on account of the heavy tax that is imposed on the lumber industry by the Provincial Government.

Q. That is all I have to ask you, unless you have something to say that has not been brought out by questions? A. That is all I have to say.

FREDERICTON, 3rd May, 1888.

W. McFARLAND, Manufacturer of Small Hardware, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a manufacturer of small hardware. I make all kinds of hames, articles for stream-driving and pitchforks, as well as all kinds of farming tools.

Q. How many men do you employ? A. About a dozen.

Q. How much work do your hands get in the course of twelve months? A. About all the time.

Q. Do you seldom ever close down? A. Very seldom.

Q. Do you keep your hands continually at work? A. Yes; about all the time.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. How long have you been engaged in this business? A. I started a good many years ago in the country, but about five years ago I moved into the town and started in the business I am in now, the particulars of which I have stated to you.

Q. Do you find your business increasing or decreasing? A. It is increasing a little.

Q. Is it increasing every year? A. It increased last year, but I don't know how it will be next year.

Q. Where do you find a market for your goods? A. I might say all over Canada, for we send goods as far as British Columbia.

Q. Have you ever sent any goods to Newfoundland? A. I have never sent any there.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. As I have said before, about a dozen.

Q. Can you give us the amount of wages you pay the different hands? A. Our work is special work and is all done by piece-work. My machine men earn \$1.50 a day; some days they would earn as high as \$2, but I think I would be safe in stating the average at \$10 a week.

Q. Have you any laborers in your employ? A. We have some laboring men.

Q. Do you superintend your own work, or have you a foreman for that work? A. I do most of that myself—I may say all the time.

Q. Have you had any accidents happen among your machinery? A. No; none at all.

Q. Have you any small boys at work in your factory? A. I have two boys; I suppose you would call them boys, but they are about twenty years old.

Q. Are they nice boys? A. They are fine boys; one of them is, perhaps, less than twenty years old—perhaps nineteen years.

Q. Are they your own boys—your own sons? A. They are not.

Q. Did they come to you as apprentices, or anything of that nature? A. They did not come to me in exactly that way; they came to help the men on piece-work.

Q. Do you pay these boys? A. Yes; I pay the boys, and keep it from the mens' work.

Q. Are you responsible for their wages? A. Yes.

Q. Do you find the men, as a rule, sober and industrious? A. They are a very sober class; there could not be better men than I have in my employ.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you know if any of them own their own houses? A. Yes; I think most all of them do.

Q. Do you think they paid for them out of their own earnings, or have they some other way of paying for them? A. I do not know how they have paid for their houses, but they must have paid for them out of their earnings. I know that several of them bought new houses; I don't know how they paid for them, but they are almost all living in their own houses.

Q. Do you know if they have any other means of getting money for the houses outside of their trade? A. I don't know; I think they have all earned the money at the trade; I know they have all been poor men.

Q. How many hours a day do they work? A. We generally put in ten hours a day, as a rule, in our establishment.

Q. Do you know what the general habits of the men are? A. I do not know of my men particularly, but they are all sober men, any way.

Q. Does the enforcement of the Scott Act fix that? A. I don't see any difference in the men since the Scott Act came in force.

Q. How often do you pay your men? A. Once a week.

Q. Do you pay them in cash? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay them in full? A. Yes; pay them in full.

Q. Have you ever heard it stated by the men that if they were paid on Friday night or Saturday morning that they would get any advantage for their money in the way of marketing? A. No; I have not.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Where do you get your material from—the United States? A. The timber we use we get right around here; we use two classes of timber; one is maple.

Q. Do you meet with any competition in your business? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where does it come from? A. It comes from Ontario, where most all of our competition comes from now.

Q. Do you meet with any American competition? A. No; the duty deprives them of the use of our markets.

Q. Do you mean it shuts them out of Canadian markets? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What iron do you use? A. We get most of our iron in Halifax; I import part of it; I get most of my iron in the old country. I have men in the old country all the time, and they are in a position to get goods at a very low price.

Q. Have you ever used any of the iron from this country in your manufactories? A. Yes; I have used some from the iron mills at St. John; it is very good, and I have had some of their steel.

Q. Have you used any Londonderry iron? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED.—

Q. Is it good iron for your purpose? A. Yes; the quality of it is good; you will sometimes find little hard spots in it.

Q. Do you use any of the steel? A. Yes.

Q. Is the steel you get here as good as what you import? A. Yes; it is as good as any I import, but it is a little soft—I mean the Londonderry; I don't know but their steel is as good as any I have ever used.

ALFRED EDGEcombe, Carriage-builder, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a carriage manufacturer.

Q. Do you manufacture carriages in the city of Fredericton? A. Yes.

Q. About how many hands have you employed? A. We have, all told, thirty-five or thirty-seven.

Q. About what would be the average number of hands that you employ? A. Thirty-five would be a fair average.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you work your hands all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. You do not shut down at any time? A. No; we have not this last year, for we have kept our hands at work full time. There was a time, a year ago, that we slacked off in the fall and made three-quarter time for a month or so.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. How many hours a day do your hands work? A. They work ten hours.

Q. How often do you pay your hands? A. Every Saturday night.

Q. Do you pay them in cash? A. Yes; we do not owe a man in the place a dollar after Saturday night. We have always made it a rule, ever since we went into business, to pay our hands in full, and in cash, every Saturday night as it came round.

Q. Have you any apprentices? A. Yes.

Q. How many? A. We have twelve or thirteen.

Q. Do you bind them in any way? A. No; we take them on for one, two, three and four years.

Q. What wages do you pay them? A. We pay them \$1.50 a week the first year, \$2 the second, \$3 the third and \$4.50 the fourth year.

Q. Will you be kind enough to give us the wages of your men in the different branches of your work? A. Our men receive about the same wages all through the different shops.

Q. That is, a painter would receive just as much as a trimmer? A. A painter would get from \$7 to \$10 a week, and blacksmiths about the same.

Q. What do you pay trimmers? A. Some of them make from \$15 to \$16 a week.

Q. Do they work piece-work? A. Yes.

Q. Do you make the whole carriage? A. Some parts of it we import—our wheels, for instance.

Q. Where do you import them from? A. From the United States.

Q. Are there not such things made in Canada? A. Yes; they are made in Canada, but they do not give so much satisfaction as the American article; and we would rather pay the high duty on them and get the goods from the United States.

Q. Is it because of the difference in the wood that you import them? A. Yes; partly because of the wood and because of everything else. You can never get two shipments alike from Canada; there would be something deficient in each shipment.

Q. Do you get carriages from Ontario? A. Yes.

Q. What part of Ontario do you get carriages from? A. We get some from Guelph and some from Montreal; it is a very poor class of goods that comes from Montreal and Ontario.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. How many hours a day do your hands work? A. Ten.

Q. Do you know if any of your hands own houses? A. Yes; there are several of our men who own houses. We have had some of our men in our employ for thirty-five years, and some of these men own houses. One of our hands owns quite a lot of property, and he lost considerable money through the failure of the Maritime Bank. He has been with us thirty-five or thirty-six years.

Q. Have many of your hands been working as long as that with you? A. Two or three of them have. One man who had been working with us thirty-four or thirty-five years went to the United States last fall, and another who had been working a long time with us died last week; he had been working with us thirty-six years, I think. We have another man who has been working with us fully thirty years.

Q. Where do you sell your goods? A. We sell all through this Province and Nova Scotia, and some little, but not very much, in Prince Edward Island. Besides that we have sent quite a quantity of goods to Newfoundland.

Q. Have any of the men who have left you to go to the United States ever returned? A. Yes; this man I spoke of who went away to the United States stayed there about two years, when he returned, and worked for us for twenty years. He went away again last fall, but he is here now; he was burnt out by fire at Amesbury, Massachusetts.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Has he come back to go to work? A. I think not, for if he wanted work we would give it to him; I think he has come back on a visit to his friends.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Have you any idea of what is the difference between the cost of living in Fredericton and cities of a like size in the United States? A. I think the living in Fredericton is very much cheaper than it is in the United States.

Q. Can you give us any idea of the relative cost of living in Fredericton and St. John? A. I think there is very little difference in the cost of living in the two places; if anything, it is a little cheaper in Fredericton than in St. John.

Q. Do you know what articles are cheaper in Fredericton than in St. John? A. I think vegetables and meats of all kinds are cheaper.

Q. Do your men who own houses build good, comfortable residences? A. They all seem to be very comfortable.

Q. Have you ever heard any of the men complain of the cost of the necessaries of life in Fredericton? A. I have never heard any of my men make a complaint on that score.

Q. Do you think there is any considerable number of people in this city who are able to work, yet who are suffering for the actual necessities of life? A. I do not know of any; I think that as a general run the working people of Fredericton live as high as in any other part of the Province—in fact, better than in any other part of the Province. I might say that I believe living is cheaper in Fredericton than in any other part of the Maritime Provinces. I know that the men's wages in Fredericton will go farther than in St. John, and that men will work cheaper here than in that city.

Q. Do you have any applicants for work—I mean, from experienced hands? A. Yes; we have a good many experienced hands come to us asking for work.

Q. Do you find much difficulty to get skilled hands? A. We always find a good deal of difficulty in getting skilled hands unless we advertise for them; and sometimes we have to send to the States for them.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you meet with any competition in your business? A. We meet with a good deal of competition.

Q. Is it local or otherwise? A. We find our greatest competition comes from Ontario; they send a cheap grade of goods down here and glut the market; they will sell carriages of a common class, and give a man two or three years to pay for it.

Q. Do you think that you cannot compete with them? A. We could compete with them if we would make as poor a carriage as they do, but we do not want to do so; I know we can build better carriages for the money than they can.

Q. Have you ever sent any of your manufactured goods to Quebec or Ontario? A. We have sent some to Quebec.

Q. Did you never send any to Ontario? A. No; we have tried to send them there, but it won't pay.

Q. What works against you sending your goods to Ontario? A. The freights on the railways are against us; they charge us double rates when sending our goods that way to what it costs us to get our goods from there.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you think if you sent goods from here to Ontario that the freight would be twice as much that way as is charged on goods coming this way? A. If they would charge us the same rate that way as on goods coming this way we would be able to send our carriages to Ontario.

Q. Have you ever sent any goods to Ontario. A. No.

Q. Then you don't know what the rate of freight from there to here is? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is the freight on carriages from Ontario to this city? A. I think it is \$3.50.

Q. Where from? A. Gananoque.

Q. Where from? A. From Gananoque to Fredericton.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you know what is the rate of freight from St. John to Gananoque? A. I do not.

Q. Do you know what it is from Gananoque to St. John? A. No.

Q. Is it not a fact that you are making comparisons between local and through freights? A. I may be doing so, but I do not know that I am.

Q. Are these high freights charged on the Intercolonial Railway or the New Brunswick Railway? A. I was speaking of the charges on the Intercolonial Railway, but the rates charged on the New Brunswick Railway are also very high. The freights in this Province on that railway are very much against us. The reason for this is that the New Brunswick Railway has no competition to contend against.

Q. You speak of importing wheels from the United States. Could you not make as good a wheel as you can import? A. We cannot do it, for the reason that we are not equipped for the manufacture of wheels, as it is something that requires a

large amount of improved machinery to carry on. This machinery they have in the United States and have carried it on to perfection, and besides that they are right on the spot where the wood grows. That is one great thing in their favor in the making of wheels, and one reason why they can make them so much better and cheaper than we can in Canada. We have very little wood and they have plenty, and they have had lots of experience in the manufacture, too. I am in hopes of going into the manufacture of wheels myself in a short time.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You hope to go into the manufacture yourself, you say? A. Yes; we have been in communication with a wheel-maker in Massachusetts, and he has had a little experience in the business, and is talking about coming down here to manufacture wheels.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Then, you are encouraged to think that you can successfully manufacture wheels in this city? A. I do not see any reasons why we cannot.

Q. You spoke of your apprentices a little while ago, so I ask: have you any journeymen in your employ who were trained in your own establishment? A. All our journeymen were trained in our establishment.

Q. Were they all boys with you, and did they learn their trade in your establishment? A. Yes; our apprentices very seldom leave us, but remain with us for their four years' time, and when they have served out their time, as they cannot get better wages in this city, they generally stay with us.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Have you ever had any trouble with the men in reference to their wages? A. No; we never have had any trouble with our men; we have never had any strikes, or anything of that nature, in our establishment.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you think we have not the wood in this country to manufacture carriage wheels? A. No; we have not the wood in this country to make the best kind of wheels.

Q. Then, if you went into the manufacture of wheels you would have to import your wood? A. We would have to import our wood from Centreville, Ohio; that is where we expect to import our hickory from, for we cannot get any better hickory than that in the United States.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is hickory the only wood that you use in making weels? A. Hickory is the best we can get.

Q. Is hickory the only wood you use in the manufacture of carriages? A. We use whitewood for the bodies, but hickory is the best wood we can get for carriage wheels.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is there no wood in this country as good as hickory for carriages? Is there no hickory suitable to be found in Canada—is there no hickory grown in Canada? A. Yes; there is hickory grown in Canada, but our hickory is not as good as that of the United States; they have a second growth of hickory in the United States that we do not get here. We have no wood in New Brunswick that is suitable. Last year I took a trip up to Quebec and all through Ontario, and as I was going along I took particular notice to see whether I could find any hickory suitable for carriage-making, but I did not see anything equal to the United States hickory. I saw forests of hickory in one place in the United States, where they told me there was enough left to last for a life time. It was second growth hickory, and there was millions of feet of it; I know it was splendid wood for our purpose.

Q. Is whitewood the best wood you can use for bodies? A. It is better for bodies than basswood; it works quicker; it is apt to split quicker than hickory. We use a great deal of basswood for the sides.

Q. Is that because it is better for polishing? A. Yes; it holds the paint better.

Q. Would you have to get that wood in the United States? A. Yes; I do not know whether it grows in Canada or not. I wish to speak in reference to the duties on part of the goods that we import, which is about 35 per cent. The great trouble is that the Custom-house officers charge us more than 35 per cent., and put the rate up to 47 per cent. on such articles as carriage wheels; we do not mind paying the 35 per cent. duty, but we do the additional 12 per cent. I do not know whether you will be able to do anything in the matter, but I thought it would be just as well to speak about it. The duty is established by law, which cannot very well be got over, but when it comes to the Government, or their officers, saying that our invoice of goods shall be rated at a different price from what is on our bill, I think it is time that something should be done to regulate the matter. I know that when we take our invoice to the Customs office the officer will say that our goods must be entered at a certain valuation above what we have named in our invoice, and this I consider to be unfair. I know that we had to pay 47 per cent. on our last shipment, and that the duty on that class of goods was only 35 per cent.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Was that invoice price, which was named in the invoice, the market prices of the goods as they were sold in the United States for home consumption? Was it made up for a prevailing price for those articles in the States, or was the invoice made up so as to get over the duty? A. I buy through a third party, and I presume that the goods are marked at market prices in the States.

Q. Do you think that the prices at which these goods were billed in the invoice were the prices at which these goods are sold at in the United States—are they made up at the prices usually charged for those goods in the States? A. I presume they were made up at the manufacturer's prices.

Q. What reason was given by the Customs officers for not accepting, but increasing, the prices given in the invoice? A. They say there is a combination, and they say their prices are less than the ordinary prices charged for the same goods sold in the United States.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Combinations are generally formed for the purpose of raising the prices—not the lowering of them? A. There may be a number of the dealers that sell at less rates than the combination prices, but I do not think that a person should pay an extra duty to what they can buy those goods, for I am of the opinion that they should be entitled to pay duty only on the prices named in the invoice.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you aware that the law requires the goods to be entered at the Custom-house at the ordinary credit price of the goods in the country from which they were last exported into Canada? A. I think that is the rule.

Q. Do you think that your goods have been valued at less than the ordinary credit price of the same goods bought for sale in the United States? A. I do not know anything about that; I know they could not be bought at a less rate than we have bought them.

Q. Do you think that importers ought to be able to pass goods through the Custom-house when coming from the United States at a less price than those same goods could be purchased for in the United States? A. I do not think so; I know I can buy from different manufacturers at lower rates than from some other parties.

Q. Do you think that the goods imported by you have been valued by you at higher prices than the same goods imported by other carriage manufacturers in the Dominion? A. I could not say about that; I do not know what others buy for, but

I know that the goods that come to us are the prices we pay for them, and that those prices are named in the invoice entered at the Custom-house. I know that our bills are not taken from us, but an extra duty is put on this combination price, making, in some cases, the duty on 35 per cent. goods go up as high as 47½ per cent.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is this sort of thing done in the appraiser's office? A. No; it is not. I know we buy these goods at the prices that are named in the invoice, but the officers say that the Government has laid down a rule that these goods shall not be entered at that valuation.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Does it make any material difference to you what valuation for duty is placed on the goods you import if all the importers are treated alike? A. No; if they are all treated alike I do not think it would make any difference, the Customs would then be all right.

Q. You do not know whether other importers are charged a lower duty upon the same goods that you import? A. I do not know whether they pay a less rate of duty than I do; I do not think that they pay a less rate than we do, but I do know that the bills we enter at the Custom-house are the correct prices that we pay for the goods in the United States, and that the Customs officer will not accept our bills for valuation for duty for bringing the goods into Canada. I think that 35 per cent. on the amount of the invoice price of the goods, as placed on the bill, when imported into Canada, should be protection enough for the Canadian manufacturer of the same article; if it is not enough they ought to sell out.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. It is not the increasing of the duty that you complain of, but that you are not allowed to enter the goods at the Custom-house for the prices that are named in your invoice? A. I do not think that they should charge anything more than the bill states when making their valuation for duty.

Q. If they were to do anything to the invoice you think they should put on a less rate of duty? A. How can the Government know that these are the same goods that other people buy; how are they to know that the goods are sold at a higher price than the bill represents; that is where I complain. I know that if I can go to a place and buy carriage wheels cheaper than I can from other carriage-wheel manufacturers that I ought to be allowed to enter them at the rate at which I buy them.

WILLIAM TODD, Tanner and Larrigan-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What do you work at? A. I have two trades; I am a tanner by trade, and I am a larrigan-maker.

Q. Do you work at the larrigan-making? A. Yes; at the present time I do.

Q. How long have you been working at that trade? A. About a year.

Q. What wages do the men receive when working at the larrigan business? A. They average from 75 cents to \$1 a day; some of them make as high as \$1.50 to \$1.75 a day.

Q. What would an ordinary man receive? A. About \$1.50 a day.

Q. Would that be when working at piece-work? A. Yes.

Q. Do most of the men in your shop work at piece-work? A. Two of them do.

Q. Do they work at piece-work altogether? A. Yes; and two of them receive \$2 a day.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Last year I worked about twelve hours a day.

Q. Do you find it necessary to work that number of hours in order to make \$1.50 to \$2 a day? A. Yes.

Q. But it is not compulsory upon you to work after ten hours? A. I could stop at the end of the ten hours if I liked.

Q. It is a matter that is optional with yourself? A. Yes.

Q. But the more work you do the better it is for you? A. Yes; the more work I do the better it is for me.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you get pretty steady work all the year around? A. I get pretty steady work; last year I had pretty steady employment all year around, and could have worked every night if I pleased.

Q. How frequently are you paid? A. Once a month—every four weeks.

Q. Are you paid in cash? A. Yes.

Q. Do any of the hands in your establishment own houses? A. I do not know of any.

Q. About what rent can a journeyman in your business afford to pay? A. I should say about \$60 a year.

Q. How many rooms would there be in a house for which you should pay \$60 a year. A. Houses of seven rooms.

Q. Houses of seven rooms could be got for that money? A. That is the average house.

Q. Would it be a comfortable house? A. Yes.

Q. What kind of fuel do you use in Fredericton? A. We use mostly wood.

Q. What do you pay for good, dry wood? About \$3.75 or \$4 a cord; we pay about \$4 a cord for the best wood.

Q. Are you able to tell us what beef, by the quarter, costs here in the fall of the year? A. In the fall of the year it would cost about 4 cents for the fore-quarter, and 5 for the hind—that is, a pound.

Q. Do you know what bread costs here? A. Do you mean by the loaf?

Q. By the loaf? A. Six cents is generally the price charged here.

Q. Would that be a two-pound loaf? A. I suppose they are two-pound loaves.

Q. They are supposed to be two-pound loaves? A. Yes.

Q. Are the men in your establishment satisfied with monthly payments? A. Yes.

Q. Are they paid in cash? A. Yes; I never heard any grumbling about that point.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. How many men are there working in the same establishment with you? A. There are about fourteen of us in our establishment.

Q. Do they all get the same wages that you speak of? A. They all get paid according to the work they do.

Q. Do they all work piece-work? A. Yes; all except one or two, who are getting \$1 a day.

Q. Would they be laborers? A. Yes; just ordinary men working down stairs.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you know what carriers earn in Fredericton? A. There are no carriers in our shop; I think that a carrier will get from \$7 to \$12.

Q. Do you mean a week? A. Yes.

Q. Do you do any tanning in your establishment? A. We do a little tanning, but no currying.

Q. What do the tanners earn? A. They earn \$1 a day.

Q. Then they are not skilled men? A. No.

Q. Are there any boys working in your establishment? A. Yes; one boy.

Q. About what is the age of the youngest boy working in your establishment? A. He is about fourteen years old.

Q. Do you know what boys of fourteen or fifteen years of age can earn in Fredericton? A. The boy I speak of gets \$2.50 a week.

Q. How long has he been working with you? A. About four months.

JOHN SCHLYER, Engineer, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am an engineer.

Q. In whose employment do you work? A. Mr. Risteen's.

Q. How long have you been working as an engineer in his establishment? A. I have been working with him for the last five years; I am now going on five years with him.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. I generally work ten hours; I sometimes have to be on hand at other times when I am wanted.

Q. When you work after the ten hours do you get extra compensation? A. Sometimes I do; it is all according to what I am at work doing.

Q. Do you get pretty constant employment all the year round? A. I get employment full time for eight months in the year, and for the remainder of the time I make three-quarter time.

Q. How much do engineers holding such positions as you do receive in Fredericton? A. I am getting \$2 a day at the present time.

Q. Would \$2 a day be a fair average pay for engineers in Fredericton? A. It would all depend on the work he did; a man might be able to run an engine and not be an engineer.

Q. What ought a man who is competent to run a stationary engine get? A. A stationary engineer should get \$2 a day, but they do not get it here; some of them only get \$1.25.

Q. Would these men who are working for \$1.25 be considered competent engineers? A. No.

Q. Would you favor the passing of a law requiring all engineers to have a certificate of competency? A. I do not know about that; it is just a question whether they should; I suppose it would be a good rule to follow.

Q. Do you think that before a man can be entrusted with an engine he ought to be able to pass a strict examination before a board of examiners? A. A man might be a first-class man and not have education enough to pass through this examination; he might be able to do all the work required about an engine, and still the board might ask him questions that he could not answer.

Q. Do you think that an engineer ought to have a perfect knowledge of all the details of an engine before he goes to work as an engineer? A. I do.

Q. Do many of the men working in your establishment own houses? A. There are a few of them who own houses; there are some others that do not.

Q. Do the workmen of Fredericton with whom you are acquainted live comfortably? A. Some of them do and some do not; the trouble is, that they do not get enough wages to live comfortably.

Q. Do you know of any workmen in Fredericton who are able to work, and willing to do so, that are absolutely suffering for the necessaries of life? A. I have no doubt that there are plenty of them in Fredericton, for they do not get enough the year round to live on comfortably. Workmen do not get enough employment in summer to keep them in winter.

Q. What classes of men do not get work in the winter? A. You may say that all classes of mechanics are idle in the winter, for very few establishments run all winter. When they do run through the winter they cut things down so fine that a man cannot live on his wages, and some of the establishments only work on three-quarter time.

Q. Are many of the workmen in Fredericton in need of charity? A. There are plenty of them requiring charity, but they get along without it, somehow.

Q. Is there any system of charitable relief given by the municipal authorities in Fredericton? A. I think they do give some relief, but I do not know what kind.

Q. Do you know of any one of the boards that give charitable relief? A. Yes; the city council, for one, does.

Q. Does it give relief to those who are unable to work or those sick? A. I think the relief is given to those who are sick; I do not really know, but I think that is what it is given for. There are many mechanics in Fredericton who are suffering, but who would not ask for relief from the city council, preferring to get along as best they can without it.

WILLIAM MACKAY, City Alderman, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you a member of the Fredericton city council? A. Yes.

Q. Are you able to tell the Commission whether there is any large number of people in the city who are suffering, and who require charitable relief of any kind during the year? A. There are not.

Q. Are you able to give us an estimate of the amount of relief given each year by the city council to the poor? A. It costs about \$3,000 a year to keep up our poor—that is, to support the poor in the poor-house; and it costs in the neighborhood of \$400 for outdoor relief, which is principally given to widows and poor people who are unable to work.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Does that \$3,400 cover everything given by the city to its poor? A. The city only supports its poor that are in the alms-house.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What class of people are there principally in the alms-house? A. They are principally decrepit and blind people.

Q. Are any of them able to work? A. No.

Q. Is outdoor relief ever given to any people who are able to work? A. There is quite a large amount given to people who are strangers, that come here, and it is given for the purpose of getting them away from here. Relief is also given to some widows who are unable to work and have small families. If a man meets with an accident—a workingman—he gets a little till he gets well again.

Q. Do you think there are many workingmen in Fredericton who earn so little that when they become idle during the winter they are in need of assistance from the city? A. No; there are none, that I am aware of, who are working people, and who do work when they can get it, that are in need of assistance. There may be some cases of accident, or something of that kind, where working people may need assistance; but there are no working people, who work, who ever require assistance from the city.

Q. Do you think there is any large number of people who are compelled to deny themselves of the ordinary comforts of life? A. There are no large numbers, unless it is brought on by their own indiscretion.

Q. Are there any habitual drunkards in Fredericton? A. No.

Q. Has there been less intoxication in Fredericton since the introduction of the Scott Act than there formerly was? A. I could not say for certain, but I think there has been less drinking in the city since the adoption of the Scott Act, and not so many drunk on the streets as formerly. Of late the law has not been so strictly enforced—that is, for the last year back.

Q. However, you think there are not many men in the city who are able to work who really require charitable assistance? A. There are very few, if any.

Q. Is there anything you would like to add to the statements you have made? A. I cannot think of anything.

Q. Has any report of the charitable committee been made to the city council within a short time? A. Not more than our regular monthly report from our alms-house commissioners.

Q. Does that report include the amount given for outdoor relief as well as the alms-house poor? A. It includes both.

Q. Has that report been printed? A. No; we never print that report.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you publish an annual report? A. Only so far as the finances of the city are concerned.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What would be the poll-tax in Fredericton? A. Last year I think it was \$8.25.

Q. Who are exempted from paying that tax? A. Men who are over sixty-five years of age; that is, a man who owns a house or lot, and nothing more, when he arrives at the age of sixty-five years he is exempt from the poll-tax by law.

Q. Is there any limit, in the way of income, to the payment of a poll-tax? A. All incomes of \$300 and under are exempt from taxation.

Q. And persons earning no less than \$300 a year pay no poll-tax? A. A man pays poll-tax but not income-tax on \$300. All persons from the age of twenty-one to sixty-five years pay a poll-tax in Fredericton.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. And that poll-tax is \$8.25 a year? A. Yes.

Q. Is it the same every year? A. It varies from year to year.

Q. But this year, is it more or less than last year? A. It has been more in years past.

Q. How much more? A. Not much; very little; a few cents.

Q. How much less than that has it been for a few years back? A. It would be about the same for the last few years; it may have decreased somewhere in the neighborhood of 25 or 30 cents, or it may have increased that much.

Q. What was the tax on real estate last year? A. It was \$4.34 for \$100.

Q. As a rule, does the tenant or landlord pay the property tax? A. The landlord; \$4.34, that is our tax per \$100; one-fifth—20 per cent.

Q. Four dollars and thirty-four cents a hundred is assessed on the valuation of the property? A. It is.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is not that a big rate? A. It is a little less than 1 per cent., for we do not assess on the full value of the property—about 13 off.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Then your assessment is about 87 cents on the full assessed value of the property? A. Somewhere in that neighborhood; it varies from year to year, according to the amount required for city purposes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. But \$4.34 was the amount assessed on real estate this year? A. No; last year.

JOSEPH C. RISTEEN, Sash and Door Manufacturer, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Your factory is a sash and door factory, is it not? A. Yes.

Q. That is what it is called? A. Yes.

Q. What do you manufacture in your factory? A. We make everything that is needed in a building—everything that is required for building, and also everything in the building that is wanted on a farm, and also in the furniture line. We also make everything that is required in the furnishing of mills, but we do not do much in that line.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you get out the stock for agricultural implements? A. Just a portion of them; we make the stock needed for a common building in the country around here.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. We employ from sixteen to eighteen; our average number of hands is sixteen, but at present I think we have eighteen hands employed.

Q. Do you employ any boys? We have generally about three.

Q. Are they working in the name of apprentices or not? A. They are supposed to be apprentices, and they are hired on that understanding; we hire them upon the understanding that they will stay with us for four years; the first year they will receive \$2 a week, and get an increase of wages of \$1 a year until they are twenty-one years of age.

Q. Do they get an increase of wages until they are twenty-one years old? A. Yes; or, rather, I should say until their four years are up, for sometimes when they have served their time they are twenty-two years old; I should say they are not bound in any way.

Q. Do these apprentices generally remain with you till their time is up? A. Yes; most of them do. If they remain for three or four months, or even six months, they generally remain till their time is up and they have served their apprenticeship out, and learned their trade.

Q. Have you ever had any of these apprentices who have served their time with you remain on after they have served their time with you as journeymen? A. We have three now.

Q. What wages do your journeymen receive? A. The journeymen usually get from \$8 to \$10 a week.

Q. What does your foreman receive, or do you do the foreman's work yourself? A. The foreman receives \$10 a week; they get the same wages nearly all the way through. They have got these wages for the last two or three years, and we make no discount in their wages at any time—I do not deduct anything for lost time; there are two or three men who get the same wages as the foreman and the engineers.

Q. What do you pay them? A. Ten dollars a week.

Q. And you make no discount in their wages? A. No; we do not have a regular foreman, in the sense of a foreman, in most of the factories, for I am a practical man myself; but I have a foreman who acts in my place when I am absent, and who represents me. Of course, the men take their orders from the foreman, but he is not placed in the same position as the most of foremen in the same kind of factories.

Q. Have you ever had any accidents happen in your factory? A. We have not had an accident of a serious nature happen in our factory in the eighteen years I have been in the business, nor any accident of any kind since I have been associated in the business. During all that time I only know of one or two hands who have got their fingers hurt by the working of the machinery.

Q. But you have never had anything in the nature of a serious accident take place in your factory? A. No.

Q. Have you any machinery of a technical nature in your factory that is liable to get out of order? A. No; we have not anything in our factory out of the usual order of wood-working machinery. We have belts that run through the floor, but they are boxed up, and we have taken that precaution so as to avoid accidents as far as possible.

Q. Have you a buzz-planer and shaper in your factory? A. We have not a buzz-planer.

Q. Have you a shaper? A. We have no shaper.

Q. Have you a moulder? A. We have a moulder, and one of the most serious accidents we had took place on that machine; at that time one of the men lost two of his fingers.

Q. Have you ever had the boys take hold of the machines to work them? A. No; we do not force them to do so. They take hold of them gradually, and if they show any unwillingness to do so we do not force them to take hold of the machine; we prefer to keep them back rather than have accidents take place through their working the machinery. I am a man of a nervous temperament and prefer that my boys would learn to take hold of the machines gradually, and thus gain confidence to do their work.

Q. Do you get out all the work such as is needed in frame work? A. We get out everything for any kind of building that is built in this section of the country—that is, the wood-work. We have furnished all the necessary material for building the Parliament buildings, down to the commonest tenement houses.

Q. Do you find, as a general rule, that the class of houses that you are building now are better than they formerly were? A. There is a great improvement in the character of the houses built to what they were formerly, especially among the farmers. I speak of farm houses particularly, because perhaps two-thirds of my work goes out into the country districts; this takes place because the town is small and has not grown a great deal. The buildings that have been erected in the city are a great improvement on the old ones; but the area of land is not very much taken up. I must say that the character of the buildings erected in this city and the surrounding country has improved very much during the last few years.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is there any material change of late years in the houses occupied by the workmen of this city? A. I could not say that there is much improvement, for I think that the tendency of workmen in this section of the country is to spend all they earn. If a workman earns enough to build a tenement he may get it, but it is not the ordinary rule for a workman to follow; in other words, the workman of this city is very apt to live up to all the income he gets, but if he is a proficient man, and not wasteful or given to dissipation, he can support himself and family quite comfortably.

Q. Do you think that, as a rule, the working people of this city and surrounding country occupy better houses than they formerly did—or do they continue to occupy the same houses? A. I think there is an improvement in the character of the houses of the working class of this people; but I do not think it is so very decided in the case of the working classes as among the farmers, except in some special cases. Speaking of the intemperate habits of the men who work in this city, I would say that I have three men in my employ who used to be quite intemperate, but those men are not intemperate now. I do not know that there is a boy or man in my employ who indulges, to any extent, in intoxicating liquor; and the result is that they can afford better tenements than they did before they left off the use of liquor.

Q. Do you think that the Scott Act has been beneficial to the workmen of this city in the respect of keeping him sober? A. I think that the local prohibition of this city, even ineffectually as it has been carried out, has been of a decided benefit to this town.

Q. Do you think that the enforcement of the Scott Act has been of any benefit to the working classes of this city? A. I do think so; I know there are a good many men in my employ who keep sober that I do not think would if there were not local prohibition in the sale of liquor. The Act works in this way: they have to go into secret places to get their liquor, and they do not like to be seen going in there; but if the sale of liquor were legalized, and it was sold openly in the stores, they would be sure to go in and get it.

Q. Have you ever heard the men say this? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you find that in getting out your finishing materials that you use a great deal more hardwood than formerly? A. I may say that when I started originally I had the first factory, the first wood-working factory ever set to work in this town. That was eighteen years ago this spring. This town is called somewhat conservative, and while other towns had factories of this kind before Fredericton had there was none here till I started mine. At that time there was little or no hardwood used, while to-day there is a large amount of it used in every house that is built; there is a great deal of ash, birch, and haematac used.

Q. Do you think that the hardwood is used because the pine is getting scarce in this country? A. No; not altogether that; I think the hardwood is used because

the work is done by machinery, and it is not so hard work on the carpenters to make up hardwood as it used to be. From this cause they prefer to use ash, birch, and other kinds of hardwood, instead of pine, in getting out their stock, and are perfectly willing to put it together.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. How steadily can you give employment to your men throughout the year?

A. We usually get up steam about the middle of February and run along till about New Year's. As I stated a few minutes ago, the great bulk of our work goes to the country, and of course they cannot work there so very early in the spring as they could in the town; but we generally start our mill about the middle of February; that has been our practice of late years. Of course during that time from six to seven of the hands are employed in making repairs and improvements to the mill and getting ready for the next season's work. When we do start up we have a little ordered work on hand which we finish first, and then make up some stock of a character that we anticipate will be required. As I have often expressed myself to gentlemen coming to Fredericton, our factory is more to be compared to a jobbing shop than a wood-working mill, for we have to do everything in the nature of wood work.

Q. Then, from New Year's to the middle of February a great part of your force is out of employment? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Do you do any work of an outside nature? A. We avoid doing anything of that kind that can be helped. Of course, if a man wants us to finish his house we will do so; but as a rule we do not take any buildings to erect; we simply furnish the wood-work required for them.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you know whether any of your hands own houses? A. I think there are about six of them that do.

Q. Do you think that they have paid for these houses out of their wages? A. Some of them, I think, have; I think they own the houses, though I could not say whether there are any claims against them or not.

Q. Has the money they paid for the houses come out of their wages? A. I think some of it has come out of their wages, perhaps to a limited extent. I believe these houses are paid for out of their wages, though I do not know that they were paid for at the time they were built.

Q. Have any of your hands invested money in the savings bank? A. I do not think they have; my impression would be that they would not.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. Once a week—Saturday.

Q. Do you pay them in cash? A. Yes.

Q. And in full? A. Yes; I may say pay in full. Occasionally two or three of the hands might be paid short till Monday, but practically we pay every Saturday. Our hands are oftener paid in advance than not at the end of the week.

Q. Do many of your men get advances through the week? A. Very seldom; once in a while some of the hands may get paid a little—that is, a man who may want to buy a load of hay; but as a rule our hands do not ask for money in advance, unless it may be a man who wants to buy some hay or a cow.

Q. Do many of the workingmen of Fredericton keep cows? A. There are several of them who do; I think there are two or three men in my employ who keep cows, and I know there are quite a number of cows kept in the town by the working people.

Q. Do many of the workingmen of Fredericton do any gardening? A. Yes; there are several of them who do some little gardening; that is a matter that depends on how ambitious the men are.

Q. About what is the size of a lot usually attached to a workingman's house?

A. The lots in the city are laid off in one-quarter acres; they are laid off 166 x 66 feet.

Q. About what would such a lot cost? A. Mr. Thompson spoke about the cost of land in this city, and when he was asked the question I think he said that he thought lots could be got outside the immediate proximity of the city for from \$300 to \$400. I think that in some cases that would be right, for some of the places are laid off in three-quarter acre lots, while some of the streets that do not run parallel with the main street would be just quarter acre lots, and could be got for about half that money.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. So that they would cost about \$150? A. Yes; some on the corner of Smith street, or thereabouts, could be got for that money. Our representative in the Senate, Hon. Mr. Odell, has a large piece of territory in that neighborhood, just half a mile from the town, for which he asks from \$300 to \$400.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Would that be \$300 for a lot? A. Yes; but the prices vary a little according to the neighborhood.

Q. Take a comfortable cottage of five or six rooms, situated close to a man's work—about what would it cost to build it? A. We build houses of that description for \$800 or \$1,000; of course, it would not be fitted up with all the modern improvements, but still it would be comfortable.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are your shops pretty comfortable to work in—especially in winter? A. Our shop is kept pretty warm in the day time and with exhaust steam at night. Our engine starts about three-quarters of an hour before the men go to work in the morning, so that by the time they come it will be sufficiently warm for them to commence work. I think I stated the wages paid to the principal men, but besides that we employ some laboring men, who get less pay.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What wages do you pay to a laborer? A. Commencing from the 1st of May we pay from \$7 to \$7.50 a week, and in the winter \$6 to \$6.50. I heard the question asked Mr. Thompson about what was the poll-tax of this city, and I would say that the man who earns \$400 a year is taxed about \$8. It would not be much above that, but rather below. I suppose that is a poll-tax, and in the case of my own men I know of one who pays less. I know he grumbled because his taxes were too high, \$3 or \$4, so I asked him how many children he sent to school, and he said five, when I said to him that he ought not to complain when he sent that number of children to school to be educated.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is this tax of \$8 the regular poll-tax of this city? A. It is not an arbitrary tax.

Q. You mean it is not a fixed tax of that amount paid yearly? A. It is not; it varies each year. I cannot speak definitely upon the point, but I think everybody who earns under \$300 income is exempt from income-tax, but all over that amount is taxed, so that the income-tax does not fall very heavily upon any one, but all have to pay a poll and school tax. I know my own employés are taxed from \$8 to \$9.

Q. Is that \$8 or \$9 a year? A. It is.

Q. How are the water-taxes arranged? A. The party who hires the tenement generally pays them.

Q. Is that the rule? A. Yes; as a rule they pay it.

Q. Is that the law? A. I think there is no law regarding that tax here. The waterworks in this city are only a matter of recent introduction, and probably only one-half of the houses in the city have water pipes in them. They are just depending on the wells; the matter of placing water-pipes in a person's house is optional.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Who owns the water works? A. The city.

Q. Then all real estate would be taxed for its support? A. Yes; and it is gradually improving, although the water works have not, as yet, become self-sustaining, for I think there is some \$4,000 a year taxes to make up the deficiency. The money to build the works, some \$100,000, was originally borrowed, and the interest on it has now to be paid up. The charge for one tap is \$5 a year, and for two or more I think the tax is \$1 for each one.

F. P. THOMPSON, Manufacturer of Agricultural Implements, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What business are you engaged in? A. I am engaged in the foundry business; I am a member of the firm of McFarland, Thompson & Anderson.

Q. What classes of goods do you manufacture? A. We manufacture a large variety of goods; we make all kinds of agricultural implements, all kinds of machines for stationary engines, rotary engines and shingle machines; we make all kinds of mill machinery, and machinery of all descriptions. We make all classes of goods in iron that are used in this section of the country; we make all descriptions of mill work and railway work; we make band-saws, and all kinds of machinists' tools; we make a very good article of shingle machines, which I think are superior to any made in this country.

Q. About how many men do you employ? A. We have, at the present time, on our pay-roll about forty-six hands—that is, including apprentices and hands—I mean apprentices and men. Some of the hands will not have employment during the whole year, and for this reason—that we, for a short period in the year, are shut down for two or three weeks.

Q. Can you give us some idea of the wages earned by the men in your employment? A. An apprentice, after he has served his time, may earn about \$1 a day; the average wages of the journeymen are about \$9 a week. A good, fair mechanic in the machine or moulding shop, if he works by piece-work, will make from \$9 to \$9.50 a week. To our foremen we give more wages.

Q. Do your apprentices have to stay with you any stated time? A. As a rule, they stay with us for four years, but we have no articles of indenture drawn up for them, and when an apprentice serves a part of his time he receives journeymen's wages.

Q. I suppose that some of these apprentices stay with you after they have served their time? A. Some of them do; a great many of them do so.

Q. What wages do your apprentices receive? A. They get \$1.50 the first year, \$2 the second, \$3 the third and \$4 the last year.

Q. How many hours a day do your men work? A. They work ten hours when we are running full time; they work from seven to twelve in the morning and from one to six o'clock in the afternoon, with an hour for dinner at noon.

Q. Do you pay your hands once a week? A. We pay our hands once a fortnight, and that has been our custom for the last seventeen years, ever since we have been in the business.

Q. Do your hands ever get money between pay-days? A. They do get cash between pay-days, if they want it; we have always paid them in cash every two weeks. This custom of payment was established by Mr. Anderson, a member of our firm, who died in Scotland last year; he worked at the business when it was called the "Caledonia Works," and the custom has been kept on, I presume, because of its being an advantageous one.

Q. Have you ever had any trouble with your men—have you ever had any strikes among your hands? A. We have never had any. Our hands have sometimes wanted a raise of wages, and whenever we have felt that we could afford to give it to them

we have done so, but if we felt that it was not possible for us to do so we have not given them the raise of wages demanded by them.

Q. Do you make the rate of wages yourselves? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Will you state what wages your foreman gets? A. The foremen of the machine and moulding shops each receive \$3 a day.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. During how large a proportion of the year is your factory shut down and the men out of work? A. We close down for three weeks at Christmas times and do what we call repairing. During that time we keep three or four, or even six men employed; then after that there are four weeks that we run three-quarter time; that is after the New Year. During that time we run nine hours, and this we do because it does not pay us to run the engines on full time. This year we worked two weeks three-quarter time and three weeks nine hours.

Q. During the other times of the year do you work continuously? A. Yes; we work continuously.

Q. Do you have a large or small number of men that only get occasional employment? A. We have none that get occasional employment, except during the periods I have spoken of, for we make a large number of mowing machines and horse-rakes, and so we manage to give the hands constant employment. We make all kinds of machines for outdoor work.

Q. Then, as a rule, with the exception of the three weeks you have spoken of, and the stoppage at Christmas, your hands are constantly employed throughout the year? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know whether any of your men own houses or not? A. I know that there are quite a number of my men that do own their own houses; I could not state the exact number, but I know that our pattern-maker owns his own house, and a very nice property, and one of our blacksmiths has built himself a house. I also know that our teamster, who has been with us five years, has bought a property, and I think some others of the men have done the same thing; but I could not state the exact number.

Q. Can a workingman get a lot of land in Fredericton for building for reasonable terms? A. Yes.

Q. Can he buy such a lot within a short distance of the city? A. He can buy it on long time for pay. I know that they can buy land in some portions of the city very cheap; I know that in some parts of the city some lots can be bought by the workingman.

Q. If a man goes out of the city, say half a mile, what would he pay for a building lot of 50 feet? A. Do you mean half a mile out of the city?

Q. Half a mile from the business portion of the city? A. I should think that half a mile from the business portion would hardly take us to the rear of the city, but after they get a short distance out of the range of the streets they could get a piece of land for \$40 to \$50. Within the city limits the lots would cost all the way from \$175 to \$250—that is, for building lots.

Q. Are you able to say whether any of your men who have not built houses have saved any money and invested it in any way? A. I do not know of it of my own knowledge—that is, of my own personal knowledge. I know that the foreman of our moulding shop and the foreman of the foundry have invested money in the savings bank, but I do not know it of my own personal knowledge.

Q. Do many of your men come to you between pay-days for advances? A. I might say that some of them do, but they are principally men of families—not over eight or nine—who want to buy a little hay, oats or a cow, and when they do ask for the money they get it.

Q. Have your hands ever represented to you that they would be better off if they were paid weekly? A. No.

Q. You have never heard them make that statement? A. No; we do not pay on Saturday, but on Monday; Monday night is and always has been our pay-night.

Q. Why did you fix on Monday as a pay-day? A. I did not have much to do with our doing so, for Mr. Anderson, who was our mechanical manager, adopted that plan, because he had seen it work well in Scotland, and we have always continued it.

Q. You do not know of any particular advantage in the plan? A. I do not know of any, except a man might be able to have a little money on hand during the week.

Q. Do you find your hands pretty steady as a rule, or do you find much drunkenness among them? A. I think that, as a rule, our hands are steady.

Q. Do you think there is much difficulty in getting liquor in Fredericton? A. I should think not, for in the way that the Scott Act is being enforced I think the liquor is around here—that is, judging from appearances.

Q. Are the taxes of workingmen heavy or light in Fredericton? A. We think they are heavy, but we have very little experience to really know. Of course they have to pay municipal rates outside of the city taxes.

Q. What is the custom of paying taxes on tenements? Do the landlords or the tenants have to pay the taxes on the houses? A. The landlords have to pay on the property.

Q. If a man rents a house does he have to pay the taxes on it in addition to his rent? A. He pays a poll-tax.

Q. What is the poll-tax of Fredericton? A. I do not know just what it is.

Q. Does the man who owns a house have to pay a poll-tax? A. Yes; I think that all of us have to pay a poll-tax; at least, that is my impression. I have been paying taxes for the last seventeen or eighteen years and I think I have paid a poll-tax; I think every body has to pay the poll-tax.

Q. Do you think that you pay a poll-tax? A. I think I do; still, I would not give that as being correct.

Q. I have heard it stated that the laborers of Fredericton paid a poll-tax of \$8 a year. Do you know whether that is true or not? A. I do not know whether it is true or not.

Q. What wages do your workers receive? A. Our pattern-makers get \$2 a day.

Q. What do the men engaged on agricultural implements receive? A. They earn about the same. We had one man who left us last week and who went to Texas who was earning that sum a day. We occasionally have a boy who makes less than that in the wood-shop.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are your shops pretty comfortable? A. Yes.

Q. How is your moulding shop heated? A. By a wood furnace and an exhaust steam pipe which runs through the shop.

Q. Have you ever heard any complaints about the dampness of the steam? A. Our men have never grumbled to us about the question of the heating of our store, or anything of that kind. We would prefer to run full time through the winter, but we find it does not pay to do so; still, we do not make any discount on our men's wages on that account, except to shorten the time. We have always kept their wages up to the same rate per hour through the winter time.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. The same rate per hour in the winter as in the summer? A. Yes; the same rate—that is, within the last six or seven years. There was a time, some seven years ago, when we did make a discount on the wages in the winter.

Q. Has there been a tendency during the last few years to increase or decrease the wages? A. The wages we pay are as high as ever they were; our experience is that we are paying higher wages than ever we paid before.

Q. Are you able to give us any opinion as to whether the rates of living in Fredericton have increased or decreased during the last few years? A. I could not

speak very definitely on that point. I cannot compare this place with all of Canada and say, but I can for the Maritime Provinces, and as far as they are concerned I can say workmen can live as cheaply here as anywhere else in the Maritime Provinces.

Q. Can you tell us what a workingman would have to pay for a tenement house, or flat of a house, of four to six rooms, in Fredericton? A. I should think all the way from \$40 to \$80.

Q. A month? A. No; a year. There are some tenements that we call "barracks," which would rent for the smaller amount, but they are not comfortable buildings. I think that for a good, comfortable house a workingman would have to pay \$80 a year. I will say that I do not think I am well enough informed to give an opinion.

MARYSVILLE, N.B., 4th May, 1888.

ALEXANDER GIBSON, Lumber Merchant, Proprietor Marysville Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. The Commission would like you to give some evidence in reference to your lumber industry, as well as the cotton mill. They would like you to tell about how many hands you employ in the lumber business, as well as their separate wages, &c. ? A. I could tell you about the quantity of lumber we manufacture.

Q. Could you give us a statement as regards the lumber manufactory? A. We manufactured last year about 25,000,000 of what we call long lumber, deals, boards, scantling and edgings. I should say that we made about 16,000,000 laths and I think about 14,000,000 shingles. It would be quite a job to tell you the number of men we employed in the getting out of the lumber during the past winter.

Q. Could you just give us an approximate idea? A. I should say that I was within the mark if I named 700 men.

Q. Would that be the men engaged in making the lumber? A. No; getting out the logs and hauling them.

Q. And not the manufacturing? A. No.

Q. That is the number of men engaged in the getting out of the wood? A. Yes; those men I do not pay wages to, for I get the logs by the hundred. I did not hire the men myself, but I got the logs and paid for them by the superficial thousand; but I think their wages were from \$16, \$18 and \$22 a month, and a little more for the teamsters.

Q. What would the choppers get? A. \$16 to \$22.

Q. How many stream-drivers do you employ? A. I should say there were 200 men on the stream the past winter driving logs.

Q. Are they included in the 700 men you spoke of? A. No; I have about 200 men engaged in stream-driving, separate from the other men.

Q. What wages do they receive? A. Their wages vary according to the class of men; they run all the way from \$1 to \$3 a day, and found. When I refer to the number of men and their wages who were employed in the woods, it is understood that they are found, too—that is, they receive their board. In the saw-mill I think we employ about sixty men, and some more in the lath and shingle machines, and their wages run from \$1 to \$2.50 a day, and they find themselves. In and around the saw-mill we have seventy-five hands all told. Their wages vary; some of the lads in the mill may get \$1, but as a general thing the wages run from \$1.25 to \$1.50. In the brick-yard we have heretofore employed a great number of men, but this year we will not employ so many, for we will only run one brick-kiln, making 1,500,000 or 2,000,000, and will employ about twenty men. We are able to make brick here and send them into the United States and pay the duty; I have already sent four car-loads to that country.

Q. Did you send them to the northern part of Maine? A. Yes; up to Cariboo. I could not tell you the number of men we employed making the brick, but I should say somewhere about twenty men; we are just commencing in the brick-yard now, and we give to the men \$1.25 a day and to the foreman \$4.

Q. Do you employ any laboring men? A. Yes.

Q. What do these men who operate on the lumber in the winter do after the season is over? A. Some of them are engaged looking after their farms; some of them go to work stream-driving and some in the mill, and some of them find employment down at the railway.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Generally speaking, about how many months in the year would they be employed? A. They would be employed in the mill about seven months each year; they will be employed in the winter season in the woods, and some of them do nothing.

Q. You say some of them go to the woods? A. Yes; some go to the woods, and some take a hand at work in the cotton mill, while some do not do anything.

Q. But there is no difficulty in getting employment steady all the year round? A. Pretty nearly so, if they want it.

Q. What hours do the men work in the lumber mill? A. Ten hours a day; the same in the cotton mill, and the same all round.

Q. Do you have a half-holiday on Saturday? A. No; they gain ten minutes every day and knock off at 4:30 on Saturday.

Q. That would be in the cotton mill? A. In the other places, too; we used not to do it, but the hands rather like the idea.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. How often do you pay your men? A. Well, once a month—What is it, Mr. Googan?—once a month or once in four weeks? (Mr. Googan—Once in four weeks.)

Q. Do you pay your hands in cash? A. Yes; but some of them take goods out of the store; they are not compelled to do so.

Q. It is a matter that is left optional with themselves? A. Yes; I have hired men for the last forty-five years, and I have never hired a man yet for anything but cash; still, there are some of the hands who anticipate their wages by taking goods out of the store.

Q. I suppose that they can buy as cheaply from the store as anywhere else? A. I think so, or else they would not buy there.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. I presume that the object of the store is for the convenience of the hands, and not for any monetary speculation? A. Yes; we could get along very well without it, but the men in the woods could not get along without it.

Q. How many men are there employed in your cotton factory? A. I think there is something like 425 hands on the pay-roll. I was talking to our accountant yesterday about this matter, and he said that was the number of hands employed in the cotton factory; he went down to St. John to-day.

Q. How many men would there be in this number? A. I could not tell you, but my superintendent could give you the number. In the dye-house they are all men, and the same in the packing-room.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What are the ages of the youngest people employed in the cotton mill? A. I could not tell you that.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Could you give us the number of the operatives you have living in your houses? A. I could not tell you that, but the greater part of them live here.

Q. Could you tell us the number of rooms there are in each house, and the prices paid for the rent of each tenement? A. The best way for us to get at that would be

to adjourn up the hill, and then you can see the houses for yourselves, as well as see them and judge for yourselves. In the boarding house I think there are fifty of the hands boarding; I am speaking now from the best of my knowledge.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What would a brick tenement of five or six rooms be worth? A. In the double tenements there are six or seven rooms, and I think we would charge from \$40 to \$50 a year for them. There is a cellar all around each house, and the cellar is divided up so that each house is separate, and they do not come together at all. Each person can have his fuel at the cost of hauling the wood from the mill. A great many of the tenants keep a cow, and some of them have two, for which they get free pasturage.

Q. How much ground is there attached to each building? A. They can farm as they please, and some of them do so and some do not.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Have any of the operatives in the mill made money to purchase property of their own, or have any of them money in the savings bank? A. I know that numbers of them have money in the savings bank, and that others have bought a nice farm, and after farming for a little while they have come back to work in the mill.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. You think that they would prefer to put their money in the savings bank, rather than invest it in real estate? A. I could not say about that, but I am stating what I know to be a fact. I know of men who have worked here and saved enough money to build a nice house and buy a farm, who, after being a few years on the farm, have rented it and come back to work in the mill again. Old people would rather work in the mill and factory than farm. I know that this whole settlement could be populated if I could give the people the accommodation they want. You see the cotton factory and the mill gives employment to a great many hands, and they give more employment to the families than a farm would. I think there are some families here who earn over a \$100 a month, between what comes in from their own wages and those belonging to their families.

Q. I suppose there is ample accommodation for the people here, without any unnecessary crowding? A. I have never heard any grumbling on that score.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is there any system of fines in your cotton factory? A. We did try to fine the hands for bad weaving, but the rule is about obsolete now. I asked the man in the weaving room what he had collected in fines, and he told me \$1.26, and so I told him that he need not collect any more fines.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. You thought you could afford to stand the loss? A. I think so; that was all we ever fined for.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are you particular about the hands being on hand in the morning when you commence work? A. You will have to ask the superintendent, but I suppose they are particular about the hands being punctual on time. I know that I ought to have more houses built here for my hands, but I do not desire to build all the houses of wood, for I have a desire to build them of brick, and would very much prefer to do so.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is your business increasing or decreasing? A. I do not know; we have never found any trouble, so far, to sell all the goods that we make; in fact, we can sell them quicker than we make them.

Q. Where do you find a market for your goods? A. All over Canada—Manitoba,

British Columbia, Quebec, Ontario and the Maritime Provinces; we have sent some goods to Newfoundland. We have sent some of our goods to Galt, Toronto, and other Canadian cities.

Q. Do you find that you can compete with the other Canadian cotton mills? A. I believe that they decided to kill me at their last meeting—that is, when the association met.

Q. Are you aware that there is a cotton combination company? A. Yes.

Q. Are you a member of it? A. No; but I believe they passed a resolution at their last meeting to boycott me, and the result has been that I have had a hundred extra looms put in my factory, and I will shortly have them going.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Have you had a letter from the association saying that they would boycott you if you would not join them? A. No; but I have had letters from other people.

Q. When your operatives are paid are they paid in full? A. Yes.

Q. Do they receive their wages in cash, or do they have to take orders on the store? A. I do not know whether they get goods in the store or not, but if they get goods out of the store the amount is deducted out of their wages. I know that a great many people go there and run an account, but they are paid in cash whatever is coming to them at pay-day; I know that they go and pay their bills, and that is one of the best evidences that they are satisfied.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. When not deducted from their wages, do the operatives go to the store and pay their bill in cash? A. Some of them do; I really think that that would be the best way for the employer, because very often it is hard to keep the run of them. I was reading an article the day before yesterday about some cotton mills in the United States where they had been paying their hands on shorter time than once a month, and they found it was breaking up their help—that they were about thinking of returning to the monthly system.

Q. Were they in favor of returning to the old system? A. Yes; they had decided to go back to the paying of once a month.

Q. Then, you do not think it would be beneficial to have a shorter term of payment than the monthly one? A. I think our hands here are very well off, because if they want any money between pay-days they can get it.

(Mr. GOOGAN.—And they are allowed to have it whenever they ask for it.)

WITNESS.—Anybody that is working here can have money whenever they want it before pay-day.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. We would like you to give us an idea of the moral standing of your operatives in the cotton mill, as to the habits of the operatives in the cotton mill and the lumber mill in the matter of drinking liquor? A. There has been no liquor sold here since I have been in this place, and if any comes to the place it is brought here in the bellies of the hands from Fredericton, and I am determined that none shall be sold in this place as long as I have the swing.

Q. Did that state of things exist here before the adoption of the Scott Act in Fredericton? A. Yes; the men in the woods are away from all temptation; I really do not know anything about the morality of the women, but I think that, take them all round, they are as respectable as, or are on a par with, any other female operatives in a cotton-mill in the country.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. In the event of any of your operatives wanting to purchase one of your houses, if he had saved money enough to do so would you sell a house to him? A. I do not know about that; I think that I should hesitate about doing so, for the house might be used for a tavern, and a tavern in the vicinity of a cotton-mill would be a dangerous thing to have around.

Q. You were speaking of the moral character of the operatives, and so I ask you about their intellectual character—have you any means of judging of that? Have the hands any means of recreation afforded them? A. I think the intellectual character of our operatives is good.

Q. You say that you would not sell one of your houses to one of your hands, even if he had the money to pay for it? A. I think I should hesitate about doing so, for it might lead to trouble and might be made the place of erecting a tavern.

Q. Is there not some land that they could buy outside of the place where they could build a house? A. Yes; there is a place outside where three or four houses are built, but I do not think that I would sell one of my houses, for it might be used for a tavern, and that would be dangerous.

Q. Have your hands any means of recreation afforded them? A. We have a church here, and different kinds of graded schools, and as regards their being able to read and write, I think you will find that they compare favorably with any operatives, in their intellectual character, in any other cotton-mill in the country. I think that the girls in the different flats are as intellectual as any I ever saw, and I know several of them who would make good clerks.

Q. Are there any benefit societies among your people? A. None that I know of; they do not need it here. The most of the people live right here, and they have got homes of their own here, and when a girl gets to understand weaving she can make good wages, and the other members of the family can find employment at our other places.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is there any other information that you could give the Commission that would be of any benefit to them? A. I do not know that I could.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Could you give us any information that would be of use in forming a Bill by the Government, or in making legislation of any kind? Could you in any way suggest anything that would prevent strikes? A. We have had no strikes here, and I have never had any trouble whatever among my people. If I was to ask the Government to do anything, I would ask them to give us a post office in this place, for we need one bad. We have a post office here, but it is in the hotel, and it is too small, for our postal matter has assumed large proportions. When I was at Ottawa I suggested to the Government last year, not directly, that if they would agree to have a new post office here I would give them a house to have it in. I will say here that if they will only agree to do so I will put up a brick building which shall be large enough to hold a post office, and also for a savings bank.

Q. You have not even a post office savings bank—all you have is a post office? A. That is all we have.

Q. The Government do not receive any savings here? A. No; I think that we ought to have a Customs officer here, for I calculate that we import and export here, except from St. John and three other towns in New Brunswick, more than any other place in the Province.

Q. If you could furnish us with the figures of your imports and exports we would like to have it? A. I shall give it to you before you leave.

Q. How is the business in your cotton mill? A. It is increasing, and we have now only a few short of 500 looms in the factory, and when we get the 100 extra looms up, and all the machinery connected with it, we will have 600 looms going, and give employment to a large number of extra hands.

Q. What is the population of Marysville? A. I could not tell you. The only thing we let here is the houses, and of them I could let more if I had them built, but it is quite a job to build a dozen houses in one year; but before you go away I want you to look at my buildings, for they are all just as like one another as eggs. I have not been in any of them lately, but I think that they are all comfortably furnished. This is the statement of what we exported and imported from Marysville last year:

Exports from Marysville, 1887 :—

25,000,000 feet deal boards, ends and scantling, say \$9 per thousand.....	\$225,000
16,000,000 laths, \$1.05 per thousand.....	16,800
4,000,000 shingles, 2.25 "	10,000
1,000,000 brick.....	7,000
Cotton cloth, 1,860,000 pounds.....	502,000
	<u>\$761,000</u>

Imports :—

Raw cotton.....	\$223,200
Machinery.....	25,000
Goods—merchandise.....	150,000
Dyes, mill supplies, lawns, &c.....	40,000
	<u>\$418,000</u>

Buisness will increase 25 per cent per year.

This statement I offer as a part of my evidence, to the best of my knowledge.

A. GIBSON.

C. S. GOOGHAN, Superintendent Marysville Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What position do you hold in the Marysville Cotton Mill ? A. I am superintendent of the mill.

Q. How many operatives have you employed in the mill ? A. About 425 altogether.

Q. What proportion of the operatives would be men ? A. I should judge about one-third of them would be men.

Q. What proportion of the remainder would be girls—young girls ? I mean, what would be the age of the youngest child you employ ? A. I cannot give you the exact age of the youngest.

Q. What would be about the age of the youngest girl ? A. Well, I should think she would be about twelve years old.

Q. Have you boys employed at that age ? A. Very few.

Q. Those of the females would be almost all young women, then ? A. Yes.

Q. Would there be women employed in the mill ? A. One-third of the employés would be men and the balance would be made up of boys and girls and middle-aged women.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Do you find the help here to be equal to what you found them to be elsewhere ? A. I think I can say they are superior to any I have seen elsewhere.

Q. What is the rate of wages paid in each department—I speak of the different classes of operatives ? A. In the weaving room the weavers make the best pay ; I think a good weaver will get about \$8 or \$9 a week.

Q. How many looms do they run ? A. As a general rule they run six looms.

Q. What would be the average wages of the women whom you have employed as weavers ? A. I should think \$1.25 a day ; I speak now of the expert weavers. We have hands who are not making as much as that, but they are not expert hands.

Q. What wages would a beginner in this room get ? A. They generally begin to doff at 75 cents a day.

Q. How long would it be before they would earn \$1.25 a day? A. They would arrive at that stage in a considerably short period.

Q. What are the ages of the young boys you have employed? A. They are twelve or fourteen years old.

Q. What would be the wages of those boys? A. They have different prices, according to the work; they make from 40 to 65 cents a day.

Q. Are your female operatives, if they feel tired, allowed to sit down? I saw some seats in the mill at the end of the looms as I passed around it, so I ask if they are allowed to sit on those seats? A. They can sit down if they like; of course, their work obliges them to stand up a good deal. They all work piece-work, and they can sit down if they like.

Q. Still, the women are not fined if they sit down to rest? A. They are not.

Q. Is there any system of fines in the Marysville Cotton Mill? A. There is no system of fines; there was a system of fines, but it has been done away with (there never will be while I am the superintendent of the mill). If a person cannot be got to work without forcing I do not want him to work. It is foolish to fine or take \$1 off a man or woman for bad work, because it is always hard to tell whether it is the fault of the person or not.

Q. Do you find the men in this mill as good as in any mill you have seen? A. The men are the best I ever saw in any mill I ever worked in.

Q. Is there less drunkenness in the mill than in most cotton mills? A. There is less drunkenness in this mill than in any other mill I ever worked in.

Q. Do you know if the wages here compare favorably with the wages paid in other mills? A. They are fully as good as in most of the cotton mills, especially in the South.

Q. Are the wages as good in all the departments as in the South? A. They are fully as good as those paid by any Southern cotton mill.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you think the working people can live as cheap here as in the United States? A. Do you mean in this town?

Q. Yes—in this town? A. I find I can live here cheaper.

Q. Are the fire-escapes of the mill sufficient for all purposes? A. Yes; we have three, and they are entirely separated from one another.

Q. Are they inside the building? A. No; they are not in the building, but in a separate building from the mill.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you all the appliances in the mill for attacking a fire in case it breaks out? A. Yes; we have a hose and pipe.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you know what the operatives pay for rent? A. I think they rent their houses for \$4 or \$5 a month, according to the rooms in the house; some of them have five to seven rooms in them.

Q. Is that cheap, compared with the rents of houses of other mills where you worked? A. It is very cheap indeed.

Q. Do companies in other places build houses for their operatives? A. They do.

Q. Have you any idea what they would charge for those houses per month? A. \$6 or \$8.

Q. Are they better than the houses here? A. They are just about the same; they are just about the size of the houses here.

Q. Did you say their wages would be in proportion? A. In Massachusetts the rents and expenses are higher; there you pay 25 cents for a piece of beef steak, and you can buy the same steak here for 12½ cents a pound.

Q. Taking everything into consideration, do you think the people here are better off? A. Yes; for they have a church and a school.

Q. Do you hire the operatives yourself? A. Not altogether.

Q. Who hires them? A. The overseer of each department.

Q. Do they ask the young children, when employing them, whether they can read or write? A. No; I don't think they are asked those questions.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you separate conveniences for men and women? A. We have separate conveniences.

Q. Are the fire-escapes in the mill sufficient for all purposes? A. Yes; we have three means of egress, and they are entirely separate from one another.

Q. Are they outside the building? A. They are not outside the building, but in a separate building from the mill.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do the companies in the States, as a usual thing, build tenement houses for their operatives? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any idea what they charge the operatives for those houses per month? A. \$6 to \$8.

Q. Are they any smaller than the houses in Marysville? A. They are just about the same size.

Q. Would the wages of the operatives be any more there? A. In Massachusetts their wages might be more, but expenses in Massachusetts are higher than here.

Q. Do you think it would be beneficial to the operatives if a benefit society were attached to the mill, where they would pay a small fee per week into its funds, and in case of accident receive a small fee per week from the society? A. The benefits arising from such a society as that would not work so well in Marysville as in other manufacturing places. These benefit societies are in existence in almost every manufacturing town where a cotton mill is situated. But here its results would not be so apparent, nor would its benefits amount to very much, for I think the way society is constituted here would stop its working.

Q. Then it depends altogether on the people themselves in this community—if they wish to have such a society for their mutual advancement and help in case of accident they should form it among themselves? A. I should think that would be the best way for them to form such a society.

Q. Is there any special doctor attached to the place? A. We get any physician we want; we used to have a doctor here.

Q. Is there any ministerial charge made for the minister to the operatives? A. There is nothing charged to them at all; they do their work and they receive all the advantages of church and school, without paying for them any more than the law of the land demands. In the case of the minister's salary, they pay nothing.

Q. In some places where these institutions have been organized there is a doctor, minister and physician placed in charge of the society, and towards the support of those the people have to pay? A. There is nothing of that kind here.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Did you ever have an accident take place in this cotton mill? A. I have not known of any but one since I have been here.

Q. Was that a serious accident? A. I really could not tell you, for I did not hear of it till I saw an account of it in the newspapers. I do not know whether there was anything in the account or not, or whether it was written as a mere "scare." I have had it in my mind for some time to ask the overseer of the room in which the accident is said to have taken place whether the account of it is true or not, but for some reason which I cannot explain I have not done so.

Q. If any person is hurt in the mill does the injured man pay his own doctor's bill, or does the mill tend to that matter? A. I think that in such a case the mill pays the bill.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is the quality of goods made in this mill equal, or superior, to the same goods made in the United States? A. I consider our colored goods are the best I ever saw made any where.

Q. Is there anything you can think of which might be beneficial to this Commission? A. I hardly know whether there is or not.

Q. Is there any information you can give us which might help the Government in forming a Bill or the Commission in bringing in their report? A. I do not know that I can think of anything just now. There is one thing I should like to speak of. I notice that in your enquiry you did not ask anything about the relative hours they work in this mill and the other places I have worked in. In this mill we work sixty hours a week, while in the United States, especially the State of Georgia as well as South Carolina, they run sixty-six hours, and in one State I think they run as high as seventy hours or more, but by comparing their rate of wages with ours I find ours make a favorable comparison with those States.

Q. How do the hours of work compare with the hours of cotton mills in the State of Massachusetts? A. In that State the cotton mills are compelled by law to run only sixty hours a week.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are the operatives in those Southern States that you speak of able to make as much time as the operatives in this mill? A. No.

Q. Does the heat prevent them from doing so? A. Heat and long hours. It is a very rare thing for the hands in those mills to make full time. In those States they pay off every two weeks, and at the time of settling up it was a very rare thing to find any of the hands making full time. Out of 300 hands that I employed in one mill only a very, very small proportion of them worked full time. It was very rare indeed for any of the hands to make full time, so much so that it was the exception and not the rule.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you anything else that you could tell us about? A. I do not know.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you think that those people who are working such long hours could not, if their time was utilized, and have work steadier at shorter hours, make as much time and money at the end of the year as they do now? A. I think they could. I know that in the year 1874 we were running eleven hours a day and seven on Saturday, making sixty-two and a-half hours in the week, and that our maximum production on printed cloth was five and a-quarter cuts per loom; at the next fall the manufacturers decided to work ten hours per day, and in the mean time the ten-hour law was effected, and of course that shortened the labor two hours a week; yet when the production came to be made up it was found to come to five and a-half cuts—that is, a gain of one-quarter cut.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you know what is the maximum production in this mill? A. I do not know as I could tell you that, for we make so many different styles of goods. We run from 34 to 60 yards a day per loom, so we cannot establish any standard to go by. To-day a weaver may weave 60 yards and to-morrow the same weaver, on another class of goods, may make only 40 yards; so that it is impossible to establish any maximum production in this mill. Of course, we pay all the hands by the piece, and they are anxious to get all the work they can to do.

Q. Do you find the operatives in this mill any more intelligent or more apt to pick up a knowledge of the business than in other places where you have worked? A. They are more intelligent than in the South, but the New England help, I think, is fully as intelligent as they are here.

Q. Perhaps there is something you might tell the Commission about the relative merits of the cotton mills in the different States of the American Union compared with those of Canada? A. I do not know if there is anything I could say that would be of any great importance to this case.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. If you should think of anything in the mean time that would be a benefit to the industry you represent, or the people who are working for you, or likely to affect trade in any way, or otherwise, would you kindly make a note of it and send it to the Commission at Ottawa? A. Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Have the overseers of the mill the power of discharging the employés in their respective departments? A. They have that power.

Q. In the event of a man wishing to leave before pay-day would he receive his pay before pay-day? A. Yes.

Q. If one of the operatives in the mill wishes to leave of his own free will would he be paid for the time he had made at once? A. Yes; as a rule, he would be. It sometimes happens that an old operative may want to go before his time is up, and the company, in such cases, hold to itself the right of keeping the pay back till the end of the month or till next pay-day.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Unless it is an extreme case the company does not exercise that privilege? A. No.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. What hours do the hands in the mill commence work in the morning? A. At 6:45.

Q. Do they have any time for dinner? A. Yes.

Q. Do any of them ever come late in the morning? A. I presume so, but such a case is an exception.

Q. Is the time that they come late in the morning deducted from their wages? A. It is all according to how late they are coming; if they do not come into work till nine o'clock in the morning they are docked a quarter.

Q. If they come in fifteen minutes late in the morning would that time be deducted from them? A. No; that is too small for us to bother with.

Q. Do the mill operatives go home to dinner? A. I think that most of them do, for I know that when I go to dinner, about 12:30, I meet a great many of them coming back. When I was working in the States I was surprised to find some operatives eating their dinner in the mill when their boarding house was only a short distance away. On inquiry being made we found that they were English operatives and had fallen into that custom.

Q. How is the ventilation in the factory? A. Very good; the windows are allowed to be opened in summer.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is the mill plenty warm enough in winter? A. Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. I met some little boys in the mill and on the street in their bare feet, so I ask do the rules of the mill compel them to work in their bare feet, or are they obliged to do so from necessity? A. Do you say they were in their bare feet?

Q. Yes; some of them working in the mill? A. I guess they had boots and shoes if they wanted to wear them.

Q. Then, the rules of the mill do not compel them to work in their bare feet? A. No; I guess, like all other boys, they would rather go barefooted than wear shoes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. I suppose the boys do this of their own accord? A. Yes; I think so.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Now, as regards this matter, I suppose all those boys have shoes? A. I think so; if they do not it is a rare exception.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. I suppose there are no labor organizations attached to the mill? A. No; we never knew of anything of that kind being around here.

Q. Did you ever know of any of the men being employed around the mill who were actively engaged as agitators in labor troubles? A. Nothing of that kind ever came to my knowledge while I have been here. This is the most quiet place I ever worked in, so far as dissatisfaction among the employés is concerned. All the hands seem to be happy and contented.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Are the wages given to the hands, as a general rule, satisfactory to them? A. I never heard a complaint about the wages, so I can only give you my impression. We pay big wages here, and I think that, taking everything into consideration, all the advantages they possess and being free from temptation to drink, they are as well fixed as the hands of any mill I ever worked in. It is not the amount of money that a man gets that counts at the end of the year, but it is the amount he has saved and has in hand that tells the tale.

Q. In those other places where you worked were there any facilities for saving money? A. Yes; but the facilities here are better; everything needed for living is cheaper here than in the other places.

W. E. CHESWELL, Overseer Spinning Department, Marysville Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Will you please state to the Commission what your occupation is? A. I am overseer of the spinning and dressing department in the Marysville Cotton Mill.

Q. How many hands are there employed in your department? A. One hundred and fifteen, on an average.

Q. Are they all men, or not? A. They are not all men.

Q. How many men are there employed in that department of the mill? A. Nine, I think; but I cannot state positively.

Q. How many girls have you employed in that department? A. I should judge from eighty to ninety.

Q. What are the general ages of girls employed in your room? A. They vary somewhat; we have some of them quite young—perhaps, fifteen years of age—fourteen or fifteen years old; I have not any girls at present as young as fourteen, I think.

Q. Do you think you have any younger than fourteen? A. I have not any at present as young as fourteen, I think; from that they run up to middle-aged women.

Q. To make up the full number in the mill, I suppose you would hire persons or hands varying in age from twelve to twenty? A. We have not any hands in the mill as young as twelve years of age.

Q. Do you employ the help in your room? A. Yes.

Q. Do you have the power of discharging them? A. Yes.

Q. When employing help, male or female, do you, before employing them, ever inquire whether they can read or write? A. No.

Q. Do you know whether there are any hands in your employ who cannot either read or write? A. I hardly think there are any who cannot read or write, but I think most of them can do both.

Q. What is the usual rate of wages paid to small girls—say fifteen years of age—when first going to work in the spinning room? A. My work is nearly all job-work, and is done by the piece.

Q. What would be the average pay of children when going to work for the first six months? I ask this because I suppose they have to serve a certain length of time in order to become expert at the business? A. They commence first at doffing, and they make, perhaps, 30 cents a day for the first month; they would make from 25 to 30 cents a day, and from that up, according to their ability.

Q. What would the best girls, of any age, receive per week? A. I have not any that will make over \$7.

Q. Have you many that make \$7? A. Very few.

Q. What would be the general average wages they make? A. 75 to 80 cents.

Q. A day? A. Yes.

Q. Would that be the general average wages? A. Yes.

Q. About what would be the average wages of men employed in your department? A. One dollar and fifty cents.

Q. One dollar and fifty cents a day? A. Yes.

Q. Do you have any who receive more? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any that receive less? A. Yes.

Q. What are the lowest wages paid in your mill? A. One dollar a day.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do they all do piece-work? A. No.

Q. Do they work by the day? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How is the character of the men working in your employ—are they generally sober and industrious? A. Yes; they are obliged to be.

Q. Is there any system of fines in your room imposed for bad work? A. We have none at present; I have not fined a man for some months.

Q. Have you ever had any trouble with your men, any strikes? A. No; we never have had any trouble or any strikes.

Q. Is there a scale of prices in your room? A. Yes.

Q. And every one knows what he will receive when going to work? A. They do.

Q. And he knows what he can or will make when he first goes to work? He does or should.

Q. Were you overseer in any other cotton mill before coming here? A. I was.

Q. Where were you overseer? A. In Fall River, Massachusetts, and in Saco, Maine, mills.

Q. Can you state the average wages received by the men in those mills—how they average with the prices paid here? A. Our wages here, on an average, are very nearly what are paid to the hands in those mills.

Q. Are the prices which are paid for piece-work here the same as are paid for in those mills? A. They are about the same.

Q. Is the general help in your mill as intelligent and as capable as those who work at the same business in the cotton mills in the United States? A. The help in this mill are more capable to do their work than those in the United States are. We have a better class of help here than they have; they are more quiet and refined than in the sections where I have worked before. Where I have worked before they are chiefly French, and most of the help through the States is imported.

Q. Have you ever had any trouble with the little girls in your mill? A. No; we never have.

Q. Do you have any very little girls in your employ? A. No.

Q. Are they allowed to be employed by your proprietor? A. They are not; Mr. Gibson is very strict on this matter.

Q. Have you a black-hole in the cotton mill? A. No; we have nothing of that kind.

Q. Have you any place of punishment in the mill? No, sir; nothing of that kind.

Q. Do you have the paying of the men in your department? A. No.

Q. You simply hire the hands to work and see they do their duty? A. That is what I do.

Q. About what is the usual number of hours worked in your mill by day? A. Ten; we average sixty a week.

Q. What time do your hands go to work in the morning? A. They go to work at 6:45.

Q. Do they knock off at noon? A. They knock off at 12 o'clock.

Q. When do they commence again? A. One o'clock.

Q. When do they knock off for the day? A. At 6 o'clock.

Q. Then you make a quarter of an hour every day? A. Yes; we knock off at 4:30 on Saturday.

Q. What are the usual number of hours worked by cotton mills in the United States? A. We worked ten hours when I was in Fall River, and I worked eleven hours in New Hampshire.

Q. Eleven hours a day? A. Yes; the St. Croix Mill, in this Province, used to make eleven hours a day when I was working there.

Q. Do you hire a tenement house from the employer? A. I do, sir.

Q. How many rooms are there in the house that you occupy—five rooms? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay a month for your house? A. Seven dollars.

Q. Seven dollars a month? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know of any employé in your department that owns a house of his own? A. I think there is one.

Q. Do you know whether any of those who are employed in your department have saved money or have made investments of money in the savings bank? A. Yes.

Q. You do know of some who have done so? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know of a great many of them? A. Not a great many—five or six.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. How does the cost of living here compare with the cost of living in the different places in the United States where you have been at work. Can you live as cheaply here as there? A. Yes; and in some ways a great deal cheaper. I think that perhaps, take it as a whole, we can live cheaper here than in the cities in the United States.

Q. Do you consider the advantages gained here for the bringing up of a family are better than those in the United States? A. Yes; just as good.

Q. Education, and the like of that, are fully equal here to what they are there? A. Yes; they are just as good, I should judge.

Q. Are the wages given generally satisfactory to the operatives? A. They are

Q. Have you ever heard any complaints about the wages? A. I have not heard of any.

Q. You have not heard any complaints made about the wages? A. No.

Q. When you discharge a person from your mill is he paid immediately on dismissal? A. Yes; when discharged.

Q. If he leaves on his own account, without giving notice, does he receive his pay when leaving? A. He might, but generally he has to wait till pay-day.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you deal in the store of the employer? A. Yes.

Q. Do you consider the goods in the store of the employer fully equal to those to be got in other stores of the same kind? A. I do.

Q. Have you ever been solicited to buy goods in the store of your employer? A. No; we can buy goods there or not just as we like.

Q. There is no compulsion, then, put upon you to purchase goods in the store? A. No compulsion whatever.

Q. When you employ a hand to work in the factory, is there any understanding arrived at between him and you that he has to purchase goods in the store? A. No; nothing of the kind.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. In the event of the machinery breaking down during the day, through no fault of the operatives, do the operatives have to work at night in order to make up the difference in time lost by the repairs being made to the machinery? A. No; they have not to do so.

Q. Do you ever have to work at night? A. Sometimes we have a little to do at night.

Q. What rate of wages are you paid for night-work? A. We have never had any great amount of night-work to do; we have had one or two jobs of work to finish in the two years and a-half that I have been here; during that time I think we have made two days extra.

J. C. McPHERSON, Dyer, Marysville Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a dyer in the Marysville Cotton Mill.

Q. Are you the foreman of the dyers? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been employed as the foreman of the dyeing room? A. About a year and a-half, or thereabouts.

Q. Have you ever worked at the business in any other places? A. Yes.

Q. Where have you worked? A. I worked in the St. Croix Mill, and the Hudon Manufacturing Company.

Q. How do the wages in this mill compare with those in the other establishments you have worked in? A. Very fairly, I think.

Q. How many men have you employed under you? A. Nine.

Q. Have you any boys in the dyeing room? A. Yes.

Q. How many boys have you employed in your room? A. Five.

Q. Do you employ any girls in your room? A. No.

Q. About what is the average pay received by the men employed in your room? A. One dollar and twenty-five cents a day.

Q. Do you get steady employment the year round? A. I should say we did.

Q. What do the boys who are employed in the dyeing room receive per week? A. They get about \$2.40.

Q. Two dollars and forty cents a week? A. Yes.

Q. Would that be a boy of thirteen or fourteen, when first going to work? A. Yes.

Q. How long would he have to work before he would receive more pay? A. It all depends upon his ability.

Q. Take the case of a boy who has been working in the mill two or three years—how much would he get? A. He would be worth \$1 a day.

Q. Do you hire the help in your department? A. Yes.

Q. When those small boys come to you looking for work do you ever ask them whether they can read or write? A. No.

Q. Do you never ask them that question? A. No.

Q. You do not care or take any interest in whether he can read or no? A. That is immaterial.

Q. Do you buy goods in the stores of the employer? A. Yes; I do.

Q. Is there any compulsion used upon you to force you to buy your goods there? A. No.

Q. Then you buy them there or not, just as you please? A. Yes.

Q. Is there no solicitation or compulsion used to force you to buy goods there? A. No.

Q. Do you ever have any trouble with the men in your department? A. I have never had any trouble with the men.

Q. Do you ever have any trouble with the boys? A. A little, but not much; nothing to speak of.

Q. Do you ever have to flog, beat or club them, or anything of that kind? A. No; we do nothing of that kind.

Q. When a boy does something that is not right what do you do with him? Do you dismiss him or complain of him? A. If a boy does what is not right I try to show him where he has done wrong, and if he persists in doing wrong after he has been told what is right I discharge him.

Q. Do you have full power to discharge a boy in such a case? A. Yes.

Q. Do you live in one of the employers' houses? A. Yes.

Q. How many rooms are there in the house that you occupy? A. Six.

Q. What do you pay per month for your house? A. I pay \$7 a month.

Q. Have you a family? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay taxes in this house? A. Yes.

Q. About what are you taxed per year? A. Somewhere between \$4 and \$5.

Q. I suppose there is a school-tax included in that? A. Yes.

Q. And poll-tax? A. Yes.

Q. And rate-tax? A. Yes.

Q. And county-tax? A. Yes.

Q. And the whole sum makes up \$4? A. About that; somewhere between \$4 and \$5.

Q. You say you have never had any trouble with your men? A. We have never had any trouble with our men.

Q. Is there any benefit society attached to the mill formed among the men? A. Not that I am aware of; they had such a society here once.

Q. Was it a benevolent society? A. I suppose it was; I was not connected with it.

Q. You say you have worked with different concerns in the United States? A. I have worked in cotton mills in the States.

Q. Can you say whether the cost of living is as cheap in this place as it is in the other places you have worked in? A. I think a man can live cheaper here than he can in those other places.

Q. What would be the difference in the cost, in your estimation? A. I find a difference in the cost of meat and groceries to what they are in Fall River.

Q. If any of the machinery in your department would break down, through no fault of the men, is the time that is taken up in the repairing deducted from the men's wages? A. If they have to go out it is, certainly.

Q. If anything should happen to the machinery that would cause it to break down for an hour or two would that loss of time be deducted from the wages? A. I do not know how that would work.

Q. Has a case of that kind ever arisen in this mill? A. No.

Q. If it did occur, do you think that the proprietor would be justified in taking the time occupied in the repairing off the men's wages—I mean, if the machinery broke down, through no fault of the employés? A. Do you mean the time taken up in the fixing of the machinery?

Q. Yes? A. If the men were out two or three hours they would have to be docked, but not unless.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. How often are you paid? A. Once a month.

Q. Is that mode of payment satisfactory to the operatives? A. I have never heard it mentioned as a grievance.

Q. You have never heard any complaints about the mode of payment? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Did I understand you to say that you were connected with the dyeing business in this mill? A. Yes.

Q. Is it supposed to be—that is, the business you are engaged in, the dyeing business—an unhealthy business? A. I do not think so.

Q. How long have you been connected with that branch of the business? A. I might say for the last twenty years.

Q. Have you ever heard any of those who are under your control make the complaint that their business was an injurious or unhealthy one? A. No; I have not heard any of them complain in that direction.

Q. Then you do not think that there is any particular injury to the health in your line of work, any more than in any other department of the mill? A. No.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do the employes in your room have to ask your permission to go out of the building in the case of an accident happening to the machinery? A. Yes; unless it is necessary for them to go out.

Q. Suppose from this cause they were idle two or three hours, would they have to go out? A. Yes.

Q. Would you give them permission to do so? A. I would if I saw fit.

FRANK WOOD, Slasher-tender, Marysville Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. Slasher-tender.

Q. What particular branch of work do you do? A. The slashing in the slashing department.

Q. How long have you been employed in this mill? A. Going on three years.

Q. Have you ever worked in any other cotton mill? A. Yes.

Q. Where have you worked? A. In the States.

Q. Do you hire the men in your department? A. No.

Q. Are you the only one employed in that department? A. No.

Q. Are there others employed in the department. A. Yes.

Q. How many? A. Two others.

Q. Are you employed by the employer? A. Mr. Chesewell oversees the room in which I am, and he employs the men.

Q. About what is the usual pay received by the men in your department? A. Somewhere about the neighborhood of \$10.

Q. Ten dollars a week? A. Yes.

Q. How does this rate of wages compare with the rate of wages given in the same line of business in the United States? A. I should say that they are about the same.

Q. Then the pay is about the same? A. Yes.

Q. What is the usual number of hours that you work per week? A. Ten hours a day; sixty per week.

Q. What hours did you work in the States? A. I worked eleven hours a day there.

Q. And the rate of wages would not be any more than you receive now for ten hours' work? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you worked at the slashing business? A. About nine years.

Q. Is it a healthy business? A. Yes.

Q. Are you paid once a month? A. Yes.

Q. Do you buy your goods in the stores of the proprietor? A. Partly.

Q. Have you ever been solicited to buy goods in the store? A. No.

Q. Can you buy your goods where you please? A. Yes.

Q. Do you get all of your money when pay-day comes round? A. I get all that is due me, but the rent and the store bill are deducted from my wages.

Q. Do you get money and go to the store and pay the bill yourself? A. No; the store bill is kept out of my wages.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. How many rooms have you in the house you occupy? A. I have five.

Q. What rent per month do you pay for your house? A. Four dollars.

Q. What would be the size of the largest room in the house? A. About 12 feet square.

Q. Do you think that a man is as well off working here as in the United States? A. I think he is.

Q. Do you think that he can raise a family as well here as there? A. I am sure I do not know.

Q. You think a married man can live as cheaply here as in the United States? A. I do not know as they can live cheaper, but I think so; I never kept house anywhere else.

Q. Have you any complaints to make against the concern? A. No.

Q. Have you always been treated well while here? A. Yes.

Q. Is everything satisfactory to you? A. Yes.

Q. You have never had any trouble while here? A. None.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is there water in the building that you occupy? A. There is.

Q. Do you pay anything extra for the water? A. I do not.

Q. Is the water included in the rent? A. Yes.

Q. What flat of the mill do you work on? A. The top flat.

Q. Are there conveniences there for both the male and female hands? A. There are.

Q. Is there any water on the top flat of the mill? A. Yes.

Q. Are the conveniences entirely separate? A. Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. In the event of a fire breaking out in the mill would there be any difficulty in the way of the hands in your flat getting down to the street? A. I do not know, I am sure; I expect I could get down.

Q. Would you get down and leave the others behind you? A. I do not know; I suppose I would.

Q. How many fire-escapes have you in the building? A. I do not know of any except the stairways.

Q. How many stairways are there in the building? A. There are three.

Q. Do the doors open out or inward? A. Outward.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are these doors ever locked? A. No.

Q. If any of the operatives come to work ten or fifteen minutes late are they ever docked for that? A. I do not know, I am sure.

Q. Were you ever docked for coming late fifteen minutes? A. No.

Q. You have never had any experience of that kind? A. No.

Q. Were you ever fined anything? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you any complaints to make about the way you are treated? A. No.

C. O. SHAW, Overseer Cloth Hall, Marysville Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am the overseer of the cloth hall in the cotton mill.

Q. Have you many hands engaged in that department of the mill? A. We have about fifteen.

Q. Are they males or females? A. They are both males and females.

Q. Have you any boys or girls working in your room? A. We have two girls, or I suppose you may call them girls, but they are about seventeen or eighteen years of age.

- Q. What wages do the hands in your room receive? A. They vary a great deal.
 Q. About what would be the average of the wages? A. About 80 cents a day.
 Q. Would that be for the girls? A. Yes.
 Q. What would the men receive? A. About \$1.25 a day.
 Q. Is there any particular skill required of a person to work in your room?
 A. In some departments there is.
 Q. Why is it that the females cannot earn so much as the males? Is more skill required at the work that the males do? A. The work that the men have to do is heavier than that which the girls have to do; the girls could not do it.
 Q. What part of the building are you in—what flat? A. It is a building at the back of the mill, over the dye-house.
 Q. Two stories? A. Yes.
 Q. Did you hear the evidence of the previous witnesses in reference to the different details of the mill? A. Yes.
 Q. Can you corroborate their testimony? A. Yes.
 Q. What they say about the mill and its working applies equally as well to your part of the mill as to theirs? A. Yes; I think so.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

- Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.
 Q. Would it be a fair question to ask you how much of your wages you receive in cash at the end of the month? A. I presume that the question would be fair enough.
 Q. Would you mind telling us what the amount of cash that you would receive at the end of the month would come to? A. I should object to doing so.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

- Q. Do you deal in the stores of the proprietor? A. No; I am boarding as yet; I have only been here the last three months.
 Q. Are you paid once a month, the same as the rest of the hands? A. Yes.
 Q. Are you paid in cash? A. Yes.
 Q. Are you paid in full? A. Yes.
 Q. And is nothing kept back out of your wages? A. No.

JOHN MURDOCH, Overseer Carding Department, Marysville Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH :—

- Q. What is your occupation? A. I am overseer of the carding department in the Gibson Cotton Mill.
 Q. How many hands are there employed in your department of the mill? A. From forty to forty-two.
 Q. In what particular part of the factory is the carding department situated? A. It is on the second floor; the picking department of the carding is off on the end of the building.
 Q. Do you find any difficulty arising from the carding? A. No; I do not.
 Q. Do any of the employes complain of it? A. When they do I tell them that the best thing they can do is to get out of it.
 Q. Are the applicances of the mill sufficient to carry away the dust? A. Yes; about as good as I have ever seen.
 Q. Are you the foreman of the carding room? A. Yes.
 Q. What wages do you get a week? A. I should not like to speak right out and tell you, but I will tell you in private.
 Q. Can you tell us the wages that the men under you receive? A. Yes.
 Q. What are the average wages of the men under you? A. They average about \$1 a day; they average a little over that when you take them right through.

Q. Have you ever worked in cotton mills anywhere else? A. Yes.

Q. In the same department that you represent here? A. Yes.

Q. How does this factory compare with the other factories that you have worked in? A. It compares very good.

Q. How do you like it? A. I like it better than the other factories I have worked in.

Q. Did you hear the evidence of the other gentlemen, with regard to their dealings in the stores of the proprietor? A. Yes.

Q. Do you corroborate their evidence on that point? A. Yes.

Q. Then there is no compulsion used to compel you to deal in the stores of the proprietor? A. None.

Q. Are the goods that you get there as reasonable in price as they can be purchased elsewhere? A. What I get there is more reasonable.

Q. So that every transaction between you and your employer is satisfactory? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

How much time can an operative make in the factory in the course of the year? A. They make full time, except at Christmas.

Q. Then they make full time, except at the holidays? A. Christmas is the only holiday we have.

Q. Is that all of the holidays you want? A. It is all I want; if we want a holiday at any time it is given to us.

Q. Can you live as cheap here as elsewhere? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Do you pay taxes here? A. Yes.

Q. How much do your taxes cost you? A. About \$6 a year; I have to pay taxes wherever I go.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. How long have you been here? A. Two years next July. I said I paid \$6 a year taxes; what I meant to say was, that this amount covered two years' tax bill.

JOHN HATCH, Foreman Weaving Room, Marysville Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a weaver—foreman of the weavers in the cotton mill.

Q. Are you the foreman of the weaving room in the Marysville Cotton Factory? A. Yes.

Q. How many operatives have you under your care? A. About 113 on an average.

Q. Are they mostly females? A. Yes; they are mostly females.

Q. How are they paid—by piece-work? A. Yes.

Q. What do they earn on an average? A. One dollar a day.

Q. Are there any young persons in your room? A. No; none under sixteen years of age.

Q. Are there some male hands in your room? A. Yes; there are some male hands in my room.

Q. What do the male hands earn? A. They average about \$1.75.

Q. A day? A. Yes.

Q. Why is it that the females are not paid as much as the males? A. Because their work is light work; the men do the heavy work and look after the machinery.

Q. Does the work of the men require greater skill than that of the women? A. Yes.

Q. Did you hear the evidence of the others in reference to the details of the working of the mill? A. Yes.

Q. Can you corroborate what they have to say on that point? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY :—

- Q. Do you hire a tenement from the proprietor? A. Yes.
 Q. How many rooms are there in the house that you occupy? A. Five.
 Q. What rent do you pay? A. Four dollars a month.
 Q. Do you pay any municipal taxes? A. Yes.
 Q. What do they amount to? A. About \$5.
 Q. Did you ever work in any other cotton mill? A. Yes.
 Q. Where? A. In the States.
 Q. What part of the States? A. I worked in Lewiston, Mass.
 Q. How do the wages compare in this mill with those of Lewiston? A. They are about the same.
 A. How does the cost of living compare? A. Living is a little cheaper here.
 Q. Did you ever have to pay any taxes in the States? A. Yes.
 Q. What did your taxes cost you there every year? A. About the same as here.
 Q. Have you ever had any trouble in your department? A. No.
 Q. Have you ever had any strikes? A. No.
 Q. Are you the foreman of the weaving room? A. Yes.
 Q. When a small child, say a boy sixteen years old, is doing anything wrong, what do you do with him? A. I talk to them about what they are doing wrong, and if, after that, they do not obey my orders, I discharge them.
 Q. Do you ever chastise them? A. That is all the chastising I do.
 Q. You discharge them if, after being cautioned, they go on doing wrong? A. Yes.
 Q. Are you an American citizen or a British subject? A. I am an American citizen.
 Q. Are there many Americans in Mr. Gibson's employ? A. There are.
 Q. How do you find the help here compare with the help in the United States?
 A. I find the help here to be very nice; they are very smart and intelligent.
 Q. Do you find them to be more apt to learn than those in the United States?
 A. There is not much difference; if anything, they are quicker there than here.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

- Q. Then they will compare favorably with the help in the States in every way?
 A. Yes.
 Q. Both morally and socially? A. Yes.
 Q. Have you any objections to stating the salary received by you? A. I would not like to state it here.

GEORGE TAPLEY, Long-chain Beamer, Marysville Cotton Mill, called and sworn,

By Mr. KELLY :—

- Q. Please be kind enough to state to the Commission what you are employed at? A. I am long-chain beamer in the cotton mill.
 Q. What hand? A. Second hand.
 Q. How many hands are there employed in the room you are in? A. There are six machines working in my room.
 Q. About what is the average pay received in your room? A. Between 75 cents and \$1.
 Q. A day? A. Yes.
 Q. Would that be to all, except the foreman and second hand? A. Yes; they are all learning.
 Q. Have you any objections to stating what wages you receive? A. No; I get between \$1.50 and \$2.
 Q. Did you ever work in any other place? A. Yes.
 Q. Where did you work? A. I worked in the St. Croix mills.
 Q. How do the wages in this mill compare with the wages in the St. Croix mills? A. They compare favorably; they are about the same.

Q. How does board here compare with that at St. Croix—what do you pay for board? A. Three dollars a week at the St. Croix mills.

Q. What does board cost here? A. About the same as at St. Croix.

Q. How does the cost of clothing compare here with there? A. It costs about the same.

Q. Does it cost any more to live here than there? A. No.

Q. Have you ever had any trouble in this mill? A. I have not.

Q. You have had trouble neither with the foreman nor the men? A. I have never had any kind of trouble at all.

Q. Do you get paid once a month, like the other men? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any fines imposed in your department of the mill? A. There have never been, as yet.

Q. Are there any fines inflicted on the hands in the St. Croix mill? A. Yes; the hands that are working on piece-work are fined, sometimes.

Q. What are these fines generally imposed for? A. Bad work; bad weaving.

FRANK WHEELER, Operative Marysville Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is your name? A. Frank Wheeler.

Q. What do you do, Frank? A. I put the band on the hooks on the spinning frame.

Q. How long have you been working in the cotton mill? A. About two years.

Q. Have you ever been to school? A. Yes.

Q. Can you read and write? A. Yes.

Q. Can most of the boys in the mill read and write? A. Yes; most that I know can read and write.

Q. How long were you at school? A. About a year.

Q. What wages do you get, Frank? A. Sixty cents a day.

Q. When do you expect to get any more? A. I do not know.

Q. Are you trying as hard as you can to earn more? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are you paid by the piece or the day? A. By the day.

Q. How old are you? A. Fifteen.

Q. Have you ever been chastised, beaten, cuffed or slapped by any of the foremen for doing wrong, or for not doing your work? A. No.

Q. You have never been ill-used in the mill? A. No.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Did you say you were able to read and write? A. I did, sir.

Q. And you learned to do that in a year? A. Yes.

Q. Was it at school that you learned to read and write? A. Yes.

Q. How many years ago was that? A. About five years.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you intend to remain in the cotton mill business? A. Yes.

Q. Do you intend to remain at the business till you become a weaver? A. Yes; I think so.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. How long have you been working in the mill? A. About two years.

Q. How long have you been earning 60 cents a day? A. About a year.

Q. What did you earn when you first went to work? A. Forty cents.

Q. Forty cents a day? A. Yes.

Q. Did you get 40 cents at the start? A. Yes.

JOSEPH CHEETHAM, Mule Spinner, Marysville Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you work in the Marysville Cotton Mill? A. Yes.

Q. What do you do in the mill? A. Mule spinning.

Q. How many hands are there employed on mules? A. In all, twenty-three or twenty-four.

Q. Are they males or females? A. All males.

Q. What do the men earn—do they work by the piece or by the day? A. They work by the day.

Q. What wages do they earn? A. One dollar and seventy cents a day.

Q. Do they earn that all through the year? A. Yes.

Q. Are they employed all the time? A. They are all the time employed.

Q. Do you deal in the store of the proprietor? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had any difficulty in arranging about prices, or anything of that kind, in the store? A. None at all.

Q. Is there an understanding between you and the proprietor that you shall deal in this store? A. There is no understanding.

Q. Do you think it would make any difference whether you dealt there or not? A. No.

Q. Is the amount of the store bill kept from you? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had any difficulty with the men employed under you? A. Well, no.

Q. Are you aware of any trouble ever taking place in this mill between the workmen, the foremen and the employers? A. No.

Q. Are there any fines imposed in your department in the mill? A. There is not.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. There seems to be a happy state of affairs existing there? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is the work in your room of a very special nature? A. Yes; I consider it to be so.

Q. Is it as particular as any other work in the mill? A. A little more so—that is, it takes a great deal of practice to become good at it.

Q. You mean to become perfect? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever worked in a cotton mill in any other place? A. Yes; in a good many places.

Q. Where have you worked? A. I have worked both in England and the United States.

Q. From your experience in those places, does this place compare favorably with the other places where you have worked? A. Yes.

Q. Can men, under the circumstances in which they are placed, live as cheap as in England? A. I do not know much about England; I do not know how things are there now, for it is a great many years since I was there.

Q. From your recollection of the United States, can you say how the cost of living here compares with the cost of living there? A. A man can live a little cheaper here.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Can he save more money here than there? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are you a man of a family? A. Yes.

Q. Do you rent a house here from your employer? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay for your house? A. Seven dollars a month.

Q. What taxes do you pay here? A. I have only paid one bill as yet; I think it was \$4 or \$5; I do not know the amount.

Q. Have you any children going to school? A. No; my children are all grown up.

Q. Then you do not know much about the schools of New Brunswick? A. I do not know much about them.

Q. Then, under all the circumstances, you think that the opportunities of a workman to get a living in this place are as fair as you find them to be elsewhere?

A. Yes; and a little better.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you pay a municipal tax here? A. I do not know.

Q. Do you pay a tax of any kind? A. I do, but I do not know the exact amount.

Q. Have you been employed in a good many places in the United States?

A. In a good many places.

Q. Have you ever had any strikes take place in your department? A. Not here.

Q. Have you ever had any strikes take place in your department in the United States. A. Yes.

Q. Is it customary for strikes to take place in your department? A. It is customary.

Q. What causes them to occur there more than through other parts of the mill? A. Dissatisfaction.

Q. Do you find all the men under you in this mill satisfied—do you ever hear any complaints made by them to you? A. No.

Q. Are the wages that you have stated those the hands in your department receive a week? A. Yes.

Q. Are the operatives employed in the mill generally Americans that have formerly worked at the business in the States? A. We have some Americans working in the mill.

Q. Are they all men that have worked in the United States? A. Do you mean all of the men?

Q. Yes? A. No; not all of them, for some of them come from this Province and other parts of Canada.

Q. Do you find those that have come from the Provinces as capable as those that have come from the United States? A. Yes; for the time they have been at the work.

Q. Do you think that the men feel well satisfied with the payments they receive, and that they are as well paid as the same kind of hands are in any part of the United States? A. Yes; about as well paid.

Q. Can they live cheaper here? A. Yes; just as cheap.

Q. Do you know of any men who are living here that have built houses of their own? A. No.

Q. Do you know if any of the men have saved money? A. I could not say about that.

Q. Did you ever pay any particular notice to the sobriety of the men? A. I have.

Q. You are more apt to inquire into the sobriety of the men than to inquire as to what they do with their money? A. I do not generally inquire into what they do with their money, but I advise them, sometimes.

BLANCH WHEELER, Operative, Marysville Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What do you do? A. I carry filling in the cotton mill.

Q. How long have you been engaged at that job? A. About four months, I think.

Q. What did you work at before you carried filling? A. I worked out in Mr. Chesewell's room carrying cotton yarn.

Q. What wages did you get when you first commenced to work in the mill? A. Forty cents a day.

Q. How long ago is that? A. I got that when I first started.

- Q. How long ago was that? A. About two years ago.
- Q. What wages are you getting now? A. Seventy cents a day.
- Q. Are there any other boys working in the same department you are in? A. Yes.
- Q. Did you go to school before you went to work in the mill? A. Yes.
- Q. Can you read and write? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you think that everything in the mill is calculated for a boy to learn his trade? A. Sir?
- Q. Do you find that the men who have charge of you are inclined to give you instruction? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you intend to follow up the cotton mill business? A. Yes.
- Q. Did you ever have any difficulty in the mill? A. No.
- Q. Did you ever get into any scrape, or anything of that kind? A. No.
- Q. Did you ever have the men check you for doing anything wrong? A. I have not.
- By Mr. KELLY :—
- Q. Do you know of any of the boys around this mill being beaten by any of the overseers? A. No.
- Q. Did you ever see a boy kicked or cuffed by any person? A. No.
- By Mr. CLARKE :—
- Q. Is this place your home? A. Yes.
- By Mr. WALSH :—
- Q. Do you live with your parents? A. Yes.

JUDSON LIBBEY, Second Hand, Cloth Room, Marysville Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

- By Mr. KELLY :—
- Q. Where do you work? A. In the cotton mill.
- Q. What are you employed at in the cotton mill? A. I am second hand in the cloth room.
- Q. Would you have any objection to stating the salary you receive? A. Yes; I would.
- Q. How long have you been employed in the cloth room? A. Three years.
- Q. In this mill? A. Yes.
- Q. Were you never employed in any other mill? A. No.
- Q. Did you learn the business here? A. Yes.
- Q. Are there many hands employed in the cloth room? A. There are about fifteen.
- Q. Are they all males? A. Some of them are females.
- Q. How many of the hands are females? A. Seven.
- Q. What is the average pay received by the men in the cloth room? A. One dollar and twenty-five cents a day.
- Q. What is the average pay received by the girls in the cloth room? A. About 80 cents a day.
- Q. Is not the girls' work as heavy as the men's? A. It is not so heavy.
- Q. I suppose you have a family? A. No.
- Q. Do you board out? A. I live at home.
- Q. Do you ever have any difficulty in the cloth room with the hands? A. I have not.
- Q. Are you perfectly satisfied with what takes place in the cloth room? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you any grievances to complain of? A. No.
- Q. Do you get your pay every month in full? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you ever buy goods in the employer's store? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you pay for what you get in the store? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you ever find any grumbling in your department, among the girls, as to the rate of wages they receive? A. No.
- Q. Does every body in the mill seem well satisfied? A. I never saw a man yet that was well satisfied.

Q. Generally speaking, though, the men in this mill are as well satisfied as any men are who have to work for their living? A. Yes; I think they are.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are you a married man? A. No.

Q. Do you board here? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do the men and women work in the same room? A. Yes.

Q. Are the conveniences in your room just the same as in other parts of the building? A. Yes.

Q. I suppose there is no conversation taking place between the girls as they pass in and out of their rooms? A. There is none.

Q. Is there any fault found with them in case they stand at the entrance to those water-closets? A. They are never allowed to stand.

Q. Every person has to go into their own closet, then? A. Yes.

HARRY OSBURN, Dyer, Marysville Cotton Mill, called and sworn

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Where do you work? A. In the cotton mill.

Q. What are you employed at in the cotton mill? A. I work in the dye-house.

Q. Are there a good many employed in the dye-house? A. About nine altogether.

Q. Are you just one of the hands? A. I am.

Q. What is the pay received by the hands in that department? A. They get \$1, \$1.25 and \$1.50 a day.

Q. Do you come under any of those prices? A. I work piece-work.

Q. So it all depends on the expertness of yourself as to what wages you receive? A. Yes.

Q. What is the highest pay you have ever received here? A. I have made \$1.95 here.

Q. Have you ever worked in any other mill? A. I have.

Q. What other mill did you work in? A. New Brunswick Cotton Mill.

Q. How did the wages you received there compare with here? A. They are just about the same.

Q. Do you get steady employment all the time? A. Yes.

Q. Do you approve of going to work at 6:30 in the morning, as they do in the New Brunswick Mill, and leave off early Saturday? A. I would sooner work here.

Q. Are you perfectly satisfied with matters as you find them here? A. I am.

Q. Do you ever hear any grumbling among the men as to the pay they get? A. I do not.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a family? A. Yes.

Q. Do you hire a tenement from the proprietor? A. No.

Q. Do you board here? A. Yes.

Q. What board do you pay for your wife and yourself? A. I have not got my wife and family here.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What do you pay for your own board? A. About \$3 a week.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Does that include your washing? A. Yes.

Q. Would it cost you less to live here than in St. John with your family? A. I think it would cost about the same.

Q. What rent did you pay there? A. I paid about the same rent as is paid here.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Can you get as comfortable a tenement in St. John as here—water and all—for the same amount of money? A. I do not think you could.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. What difference would there be—\$10, \$12 or \$15 a year? A. Yes; I should think there would be about that difference.

Q. Do you think that this is a more healthy place to live in than St. John?
A. Yes.

Q. Is it a nice place to live in? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any grievances to complain of here? A. No.

Q. Are you perfectly satisfied with the treatment given you? A. Yes.

Q. And satisfied with the foremen of the different departments? A. Yes.

ST. STEPHEN, 5th May, 1888.

G. W. GANONG (Ganong Bros., Confectioners), called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Will you state your business to the Commission? A. I am a confectioner, a member of the firm of Ganong Bros., manufacturers of confectionery.

Q. In what town do you do business? A. St. Stephen.

Q. How many years have you been employed in this business? A. About fifteen.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. From 80 to 125—according to the season; we have eighty hands at work at present.

Q. Are these adults or children, or both? A. Both.

Q. About how many are adults and how many young persons? A. Well, I suppose probably one-half of them are of age.

Q. About what are the ages of the youngest persons employed by you? A. The youngest employé we have is about fifteen years old.

Q. Do you think that you have no employés materially under fifteen years?
A. I do not think we have any that are under fifteen years old.

Q. Are the adults in your employ male or female, or both? A. Both.

Q. What do you pay to skilled male operatives? A. We pay skilled male hands \$12 to \$25 a week; females do not get so much.

Q. Those who receive \$25 a week would be foremen, of course? A. Yes.

Q. Do you employ any unskilled men? A. Yes; we employ some.

Q. What do they earn? A. They earn about \$6 to \$8 a week.

Q. Those would just be laborers? A. Yes.

Q. Are the women employed by you all skilled, or are they partly unskilled?
A. They are partly unskilled.

Q. What wages do you pay to a woman who has been with you for some time and who understands the business thoroughly? A. \$4 to \$5 a week.

Q. And what do you pay to those who are unskilled? A. \$2 to \$3 a week.

Q. And what do you pay to your boys and girls? A. None of them earn less than \$2 a week—from that to \$3.

Q. And do their wages increase according to their time of service? A. They do.

Q. How many hours a day do your hands work? A. Ten, usually.

Q. Do you ever do any night-work at all? A. From the 1st of September till the 20th of December, may be up to Christmas, we generally have night-work to do.

Q. When your hands work extra hours at night do you pay them at the same rate as in the day time? A. No; we pay them a larger rate—that is to say, if they work three hours and a-half at night they are paid for half a day.

Q. How steadily do you give your hands work throughout the year? A. I suppose our average help on the pay-rolls runs as high at least as eighty or ninety.

Q. And do they receive continuous employment throughout the year? A. They receive continuous employment.

Q. And the rest receive occasional employment? A. Yes; our work comes in mostly from August to January, and then we employ the most labor, but at other times of the year we keep, as I said before, eighty or ninety hands to work.

Q. Is your business increasing or decreasing? A. Increasing.

Q. Where do you sell your goods for the most part? A. We sell our goods principally in the Maritime Provinces.

Q. Do you know whether any of your hands own houses or not? A. I could not speak about that matter positively.

Q. Have you any idea as to whether any of them are saving money or not, or do they, as a rule, live fully up to their means? A. I think some of them save money.

Q. Can you form any opinion as to whether the wages in your business are higher in St. Stephen or the town across the river—Calais? A. I would scarcely think that the comparison between the town of St. Stephen and Calais would be just, for the reason that Calais is not a distributing point for the State of Maine. Very few of our line of goods are made there; the only one that makes any goods in our line there at all does so in a very small way. The market from Calais is certainly not so advantageous as the one from St. Stephen. I know that in St. Stephen we pay higher wages than they do in Calais, but I do not think that the comparison of wages between the two towns is just, and for the reasons that I have stated.

Q. From your knowledge of the working people of the two towns, do you think that the people of St. Stephen—the working people—are as comfortable and as well off as they are in Calais? A. I think the working people of St. Stephen are better off than those of Calais.

Q. Do you think the cost of living is higher here than in Calais? A. I should think there was very little difference between the cost of living in the two towns.

Q. Do you think that rents are as cheap in St. Stephen as they are in Calais? A. I think that rents are about the same in the two towns.

Q. What class of houses do journeymen mechanics, as a rule, occupy? A. Do you mean what amount of rental do they pay?

Q. Yes; the amount of rental? A. I think they pay from \$80 to \$100 a year.

Q. Are the houses which they occupy good, substantial and comfortable houses? A. They are comfortable houses, but they do not have all the modern conveniences.

Q. Do you know that the young persons that come to work for you have a good English education? A. Most of those who come to work with me have a good, fair education.

Q. Are your hands, as a rule, natives of New Brunswick, or foreigners. A. They are principally natives.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you suffer in your business on account of any competition from across the line? A. We do not.

Q. Do you ever send any goods beyond the Maritime Provinces, or to Newfoundland? A. We have sent some goods to Newfoundland.

Q. Do you find Newfoundland a beneficial market to ship to? A. Such orders as we have shipped to Newfoundland we have sent indirectly; we have never covered that territory ourselves.

Q. Do you ever intend to ship any goods across the line? A. No; we do not. They have a wholesome tariff over there of 5 cents a pound on our goods, and 50 per cent. duty *ad valorem* after you get up to goods worth 30 cents a pound.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What competition do you meet with? A. The principal competition that we get comes from Ontario and Quebec.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. I understood you to say that you had females in your employ? A. Yes.

Q. Do you have separate conveniences for your male and female hands? A. We have two dressing rooms with separate conveniences.

Q. Do you employ small child labor? A. We have no small children to work for us.

Q. What is the age of the youngest hand you have to work? A. About fifteen years of age.

Q. Do you think that they can all read and write? A. I think that all in our employ, with one exception, can read and write.

Q. Do you ever have to import foreign labor? A. We do.

Q. Where does this labor come from? A. The United States.

Q. Would that be expert labor? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think that the wages paid in Canada are equal to those in the United States? A. Do you speak of Canada as a whole?

Q. Yes? A. I do not think they are in our particular line of business.

Q. Are the wages in this part of the Province on a par with those paid across the line? A. We pay as good wages, for some classes of labor, as are paid in Boston and New York.

Q. Do you think that the cost of living is less here than there? A. I think it is.

Q. And do you think that the advantages are better here than there? A. I think, under some ways, they are.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you find that you have any advantage from the manufacture of sugar in Canada that you did not formerly possess? Do you think that since the refining trades have begun in this country that you have gained advantages that you did not have at first when you entered business? A. No; I do not; because the change in the tariff has made a difference in the price of sugar.

Q. Has it made all equal? A. Under the old tariff sugar would be comparatively about as low.

Q. Sugar then came in under a bounty? A. We bought then in Boston and New York.

Q. Was sugar cheaper then than it is now? A. Do you mean as regards price?

Q. I mean as regards price and quality of article. A. I think sugar is cheaper now than it was then, but the price of sugar is governed by the demand. Sugars are decidedly lower than they were at that time.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Among the operatives employed by you how many are there that belong to Calais? A. I think we have six that belong to Calais.

Q. Six out of the total number? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What quantity of goods do you make annually? A. In pea-nuts, about a 1,250,000 pounds.

Q. What classes of sugar do you use? A. Principally granulated.

Q. Is it American or Canadian? A. It is Canadian, mostly.

Q. Has the price of sugar been as low in St. Stephen this last year as it has been in Calais? A. It has averaged lower.

Q. Have you bought any sugar on the other side? A. We work on both sides. There has been an occasional time when sugar was a little higher in Canada than in the States; that is about the time they had the sugar trouble in Montreal. The average price of sugar has been lower here than there.

Q. How does the Canadian sugar compare with the American—has it the strength that you need for your work? A. We consider it to be fully equal to the American.

Q. Do you make chocolates? A. Yes; that is one of our principal manufactures.

Q. Where do you purchase your cocoa—do you import it? A. We use John P. Mott's, of Halifax, principally.

Q. Do you use much of it? A. I could not say the exact quantity, but our last purchase from them was 120 cases—about 600 tons.

Q. About what is the volume of your business—what does it amount to yearly? Is it increasing or decreasing? A. Our business is increasing; the volume of our business for 1887 would be somewhere about \$225,000.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Would it be a fair question to ask you what would be the aggregate amount of wages you pay? A. The question is fair enough, and if I knew for sure what it was I would only be too glad to tell you; but as it is now I cannot tell you definitely.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Can you give us an idea of the amount of the goods you ship to Quebec and Ontario, or do you ship any goods there at all? A. We have shipped to both places; I think our sales in Quebec last year amounted to about \$40,000.

Q. Would that be in the Province of Quebec? A. Yes; the Province of Quebec. We sold from \$20,000 to \$25,000 worth of goods in Ontario.

Q. If there is anything that has not been drawn out by questioning which would be of advantage to your business, we would be glad to hear it from you? A. I cannot think of anything now.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. How often do you pay your help? A. Every two weeks.

Q. Are they paid in full up to day and date? A. Yes; paid in full.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are they paid in cash? A. Yes; in cash.

Q. Have the hands ever asked to be paid oftener? A. No; the foremen are paid every four weeks.

Q. Do you think that men can live as cheap and economically by being paid once in two weeks as they can by being paid weekly? A. I think they can.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you think it possible for a man to live along for two or four weeks without being paid and not ask credit from any body? A. I am not prepared to say about that; I think that laborers would be better off than they are now if their wages were paid every four weeks.

Q. Do you think it possible for a man to work and live economically by being paid every four weeks? A. I think so.

Q. Would not a man be just as well off if he were paid every year as if he were paid every month? A. I should not think so.

Q. About what time do you think he should be paid? A. I think every two or four weeks would be enough.

Q. Do you not think he would be still better off if he were paid every week? A. I do not think so.

Q. Would he not then have cash on hand, and not have to buy goods on credit? A. I think that the habits of people in this matter have to be considered a little. Where people are paid every four weeks the grocer is prepared to sell his goods on those terms and the people to pay their bills. It is very unhandy for the grocer to furnish bills every week, and when a man is carrying money loose in his pocket in small amounts it kind of slides out.

W. F. VROOM, Manufacturer of Furniture, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a manufacturer of furniture and caskets; we have always done a good deal of business in furniture in this town.

Q. About how many hands do you employ? A. Sixteen in all.

Q. Are these all adults, or are any of them boys? A. There are three boys among them.

Q. What wages do you pay to a good, skilled cabinet-maker? A. A skilled cabinet-maker gets from \$10 to \$12 a week.

Q. In what other capacity do you employ men; do you employ any upholsterers? A. We do.

Q. What does a skilled upholsterer earn in St. Stephen? A. The price varies; they work principally by the piece. A good upholsterer earns about \$2.25 a day now; the foreman gets rather more than that and some others of the hands less; but I should say that a good upholsterer's wages would, for a skilled hand, average about \$2.25 a day.

Q. Do you ever have any apprentices? A. Not under the old-fashioned apprenticeship system.

Q. You simply make a verbal agreement with them that they will work with you for a number of years? A. We have apprentices, but they are not bound in any way.

Q. How much do you give a boy when he first begins to work with you? A. We give him \$2 a week.

Q. Will his wages increase from year to year? A. Yes.

Q. What will he receive during the last year of his apprenticeship? A. It is just according to what kind of a boy he is; generally he will be able to earn good, fair wages after he has been about four years at the business.

Q. How long does an apprentice have to serve before you consider him to be a journeyman? A. Generally about four years.

Q. As a rule, after they have served their four years do the apprentices remain with you, or do they seek other employment? A. I cannot say that they do remain with us as a rule, because we have only been in the business about nine years. We started with only two or three hands and worked the business up; during that time we have had only two or three apprentices, but I think that as things look now, as we go on, those that learn the trade with us will probably stay on in our employ.

Q. Do you think that the journeymen, after learning their trade in St. Stephen or the surrounding country, go to the United States? A. Yes; some of them do.

Q. Do you think that they are attracted to the United States by higher wages, or by the mere love of adventure and change? A. Probably by both.

Q. How many hours a day do your hands work? A. Ten.

Q. Do you give them constant employment all the year round? A. In almost all cases we do.

Q. How do you find your hands as respects drinking? Do many of them lose time through intoxication? A. No; they do not; we do not and will not keep such men in our employ.

Q. Do you think, or have you any knowledge of the question, that many of the workmen of St. Stephen drink so as to interrupt their work? A. I do not think so; if there are any they are a very small proportion—at least, of the good, skilled mechanics.

Q. Do you know if any of your hands own houses? A. I think one of my hands does; I am rather of the opinion that two do, but I am not sure.

Q. Is it easy for a mechanic to get a building lot, if he desires to build, within a reasonable distance of the business centre of the town? A. I think it is.

Q. If he should go from a quarter to half a mile from the business centre what would he pay for an ordinary building lot? A. I am not very well posted on the

prices of land, but they are not high—at all events, compared to other places in the Province.

Q. Have the workingmen of St. Stephen any difficulty in renting suitable houses in this town? A. I think they have, sometimes.

Q. Do you think that there is not a sufficient supply of small and medium-sized houses for the working classes of the town? A. There appears to be a lack of such houses at present.

Q. Are you able to tell us what rent any of your hands pay? A. Not definitely, but I think they pay from \$75 to \$100 a year. There are not many of our hands that are married and keep house.

Q. You think that from \$75 to \$100 would be the average rental of mechanics' houses in this town? A. I think so.

Q. Can you give us any information as to the prices of the ordinary necessities of life in St. Stephen—bread, meat, vegetables, and such articles? A. I know very little about the prices of such articles, for I have never made any study of the matter.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Where do you find a market for your goods? A. Principally in this town; we sell almost all the goods we make at retail, but we are now making caskets for both wholesale and retail. We began the business this spring and we hope to sell them in the Maritime and upper Provinces. We have already sent some samples of our goods to Montreal.

Q. Do you find all the goods that you require for manufacturing quite convenient to the town? A. No.

Q. Where do you get those articles from? A. We import the bulk of them; whitewood, cherry, oak, and all that grade of lumber we buy in Boston. We only use those articles in small quantities, and principally for orders, but such woods as ash are native lumber and are pretty extensively used around here; we have to import walnut, though.

Q. Is there not any walnut growing in Canada suitable for manufacturing—is there not oak, too, that is suitable? A. I have never known of any Canadian walnut to be used here; I think it all goes to the States. There is certainly none grown in this vicinity; perhaps there is a little oak grown here, but it is not manufactured in this country.

Q. Do you not know of any place in the Dominion where you can get oak without going to the United States for it? A. No; although there is some cut, I believe, in Nova Scotia. I know there is a man from there that wanted to sell us 2,000 feet a little while ago, but as we could only buy it in very small quantities we did not take the trouble to buy it there, because we could get it already kilned-up and in a great deal better shape for our use from Boston.

J. E. GANONG, St. Croix Soap Manufacturing Company, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a soap manufacturer.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. Fifteen.

Q. Is your business confined to the manufacture of soap entirely? A. Yes; entirely.

Q. About how many hours a day do your hands work? A. About ten hours; they make a little extra time occasionally.

Q. Do you pay your hands an extra rate at night? A. Yes; three and a-half hours at night counts half a day.

Q. Do you give your hands constant employment all the year around? A. Last year we lost three weeks; this year, so far, our hands have made full time.

Q. Do you know if any of your hands own houses? A. I think there is one of our hands that owns his own house, and I think that two others are intending to build.

Q. Have those who have built and those who are intending to build paid for and do they intend to pay for those houses out of their earnings—do they have other means of paying for these houses? A. They are paying for them out of their wages.

Q. What do skilled hands earn in your business? A. Our labor is all common labor, except the foreman of the factory.

Q. What do you pay your foreman? A. A little over \$20 a week.

Q. What do your unskilled hands earn? A. They earn from \$4 to \$9 a week.

Q. Have you any men working at \$4 a week? A. No; boys sixteen years old.

Q. What do you pay to an adult laborer? A. About \$9 a week, and boys \$4.

Q. Are the boys indentured, or are they just working in the factory? A. They are just working along; we hire them as we want them.

Q. Then it is immaterial how long they stay? A. It is immaterial entirely.

Q. You do not consider they are learning the trade? A. We expect them to do a certain kind of work.

Q. Do you have any very young boys working with you? A. Sixteen or seventeen years old in the youngest we have.

Q. Do you think that those boys who work with you can read and write? A. I think they can.

Q. Do you think that, as a rule, the boys in this neighborhood get a common English education before they go to work? A. I think that, as a rule, they go to the common schools up to a certain grade.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. How often do you pay your hands? A. Weekly.

Q. What day of the week do you pay them? A. Saturday.

Q. Are the men generally satisfied with that day for a pay-day? A. They seem to be.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Where do you procure your material that you need for your soap business? A. From Boston and New York; some of it we get from Montreal and some of it from St. John, but the chief part of it we get from the United States.

Q. Where do you find a market for your goods? A. Chiefly in the Maritime Provinces.

Q. Have you a boiler-house detached from your chief business place? A. We have a brick boiler-house and it is detached from the main building.

Q. Is there sufficient ventilation there? A. We have very little rendering, or anything of that kind, to do.

Q. Did you ever hear any one complain about the smell from the boiler-house? A. No; not that I know of.

Q. How long have you been in business? A. Do you mean the business I am in at present?

Q. Yes? A. A little over three years.

Q. Was the business formerly done under another name? A. It was formerly done under another name, but it was a small business.

Q. Has the business increased since you took hold of it? A. Yes; it has increased.

Q. Has it increased much? A. Yes; very much. We have made three additions to our business place in the last three years.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you make anything but laundry soaps? A. That is all we are making just now, but we intend to go into the making of toilet soap if it is at all possible.

Q. Are any of your operatives females? A. We have two females in our employ.

Q. What do they earn? A. They work piece-work, and they earn from \$2 to \$5 a week.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is their business? A. Wrapping soap.

Q. Do you make boxes for your soaps? A. Yes.

Q. Do you have the material already cut out in the shape that you want it? A. Yes; we get it done in St. John.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. What competition do you meet with in this business? A. Our competition is mostly Maritime—St. John. We have some from Montreal, but not much; we have hardly any American competition—none, in fact.

Q. Do you have any competition from Ontario? A. Very little Ontario goods come here.

Q. Then your competition is generally local? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you send any goods west to Montreal or Quebec? A. Sometimes we have made some shipments there; we may have sent a car-load occasionally.

Q. How does the competition from Montreal affect you? A. Not nearly so much as it did two years ago; there is some competition from Montreal, but it is not so much as it used to be.

Q. Is there anything else in your line of business that would be of information to the Commission, and of which you could tell us, that has not been brought out by questions? A. Our men seem to be all satisfied and get comfortable livings; one of our men has built a house for himself and another is intending to build one now. All our hands seem to be satisfied. That is all that I think I can speak about, and I really think I spoke of it before.

Q. Have you ever had any strikes among your working people? A. We have had no strikes, or anything of that kind, take place.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are your hands, for the most part, local people? A. I think all our hands are local men, with the exception of the foreman; he is a western man, and came from Boston.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in getting such hands as you require? A. No; our labor is all common labor.

Q. Are the laborers in your establishment, over whom you have control, as a general rule sober and industrious? A. They are.

B. R. DEWOLFE, Carriage-builder, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Will you please state what your business is? A. I am a carriage manufacturer.

Q. How long have you been in business? A. On my own account about twelve years. I worked at the trade myself before that; my establishment has been running about twenty years altogether.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. About eight.

Q. Have you any apprentices? A. One.

Q. What stock do you principally use in the manufacture of your carriages—is it imported or principally Canadian? A. It is principally imported, all but the white ash.

Q. How much do you pay a first-class painter—foreman painter? A. About \$12.

Q. How much do you pay first-class men? A. Twelve dollars.

Q. What pay do you give to the average of the men? A. The cheapest man I have in the shop is being paid \$7.50 a week.

Q. Do you employ helpers in the blacksmith shop? A. We have no helpers, except the apprentices.

Q. You just pay them what they are worth—from \$2 a week up, I suppose? A. The apprentice boys in the blacksmith shop get \$3 the first year, \$3.50 the next year, \$4 the third and \$5 the fourth year.

Q. Do you take apprentices in the wood-shop? A. No.

- Q. What do you pay wood-workers? A. Ten dollars a week.
- Q. I suppose you have some in that shop who work cheaper? A. No.
- Q. How often do you pay your hands? A. Every Saturday night.
- Q. Do you pay them in full? A. We pay them in full every Saturday night.
- Q. And in cash? A. Always.
- Q. I suppose you employ trimmers? A. Yes.
- Q. What is the average pay of trimmers? A. Their work is piece-work.
- Q. What do they average in a week? A. About \$14 or \$15; last year they averaged \$15.
- Q. Did you ever take any boys as apprentices under indenture? A. No; we never have done so.
- Q. Do you believe in the system of indenturing apprentices? A. I have never tried it; I do not think it would work here; we live right on the line here, and I do not think it is worth our while trying that plan, for if the boys did not like to stay they would skip out to the other side.
- Q. Do you use any Canadian lead in your painting? A. We use principally English lead.
- Q. Are these leads Brantham's? A. Yes.
- Q. Did you ever use any Canadian lead? A. I have used them.
- Q. How did you find them to compare with the English leads? A. I have never found them to be as good.
- Q. I presume there is a difference in the cost of the lead? A. Yes.
- Q. Is the difference in the cost in proportion to the difference in the quality of the goods? A. I have never used enough Canadian lead to know.
- Q. Do you think there has been any improvement made in the leads made in Canada now and those of five years ago? A. Yes; decidedly.
- Q. Do you think that if the same improvements are made in the next five years they will be equal to the English leads? A. I hope so.
- Q. I suppose you use a good deal of color? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you use any Canadian colors? A. We have been using Canadian colors this year principally.
- Q. How do you find they compare with the American? A. Fair.
- Q. I suppose you have used Canadian colors four or five years now? A. Not very much at that time.
- Q. Did you ever use any before the National Policy? A. Not until within the last four or five years.
- Q. Have you found any improvement in the Canadian colors? A. Last year I found a great improvement in the Canadian colors, and I think that now they will compare favorably with any colors made.
- Q. Did you ever use any Canadian varnishes? A. No.
- Q. Do you know whether there has been any improvement made in the varnishes? A. I do not know; I could never use them to my satisfaction.
- Q. Has your business increased during the twelve years you have been in business? A. Some; very little.
- Q. Where do you find your principal competition? A. I find it now comes principally from Ontario.
- Q. Where do you find your market for the sale of carriages? A. It is principally local; we sell our carriages around here, but some we sell in Nova Scotia.
- Q. Do you find any difficulty in selling the number of vehicles that you make up? A. I have never found any, until within the last few years; the cause of the trouble has been competition with the cheap Ontario goods, and also cheap American goods; until within the last two or three years we had no trouble at all.
- Q. I suppose you have all the latest conveniences for your work around the shop? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you ever had any strike in your shop in any kind of labor? A. No.
- Q. Do you know whether any men in your employ have built houses? A. None but one.

Q. Do you know if any of the men in your employ have saved money, or have invested it in bank stock, savings bank, bonds, or any other security? A. There is only one that I know of that has saved money.

Q. How are the general habits of the workmen—are they sober? A. They are most all sober.

Q. Is there much drunkenness around the town? A. There is none at all this year.

Q. Are the goods that you use for trimming principally imported? A. They are principally imported.

Q. Have you ever used any Canadian leather; if so, how do you find it to compare with the American? A. This year they have compared very well.

Q. Has it improved in quality? A. I think so; last year I used more of it than before, simply on that account.

Q. Do you employ any American labor in your factory? A. I have one painter in my employ who is an American.

Q. Are the wages paid in Calais higher than they are in St. Stephen? A. We pay as high wages here as they do in Calais; I do not know whether they are as high as they are farther west.

Q. What does a man pay for a tenement of six or seven rooms in St. Stephen?
A. \$7 to \$8 a month.

Q. What is the usual price paid for board by a single person in St. Stephen?
A. \$3 to \$3.50 a week; that is the average rate of board in St. Stephen.

T. WINSLOW BROAD, Axe and Edge-tool Manufacturer, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What business are you engaged at? A. I am a manufacturer of axes and edge-tools.

Q. What classes of edge-tools do you make? A. We manufacture axes, carpenters' tools and railroad tools.

Q. Where is your establishment situated? A. It is at a place we call Porter's Mill Stream.

Q. Is that near St. Stephen? A. Yes.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. About twenty-four just now.

Q. Does that include metal and wood-workers? A. It includes both.

Q. What wages do you pay to first-class blacksmiths? A. From \$2 to \$3 a day.

Q. Have you many skilled hands working for less than \$2 a day? A. No; that is about as low as any of the skilled hands get.

Q. What wages do polishers get? A. We have one polisher who works by contract, and I might say that he makes \$2.50 a day. He employs his own assistants.

Q. Are you responsible for the assistance employed by him, or do you pay the man a lump sum? A. We pay him a lump sum and let him do the work.

Q. And you allow the assistants to look out for themselves? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do your wood-workers receive? A. We have only one man at that branch of the work, and he gets \$2.50 a day.

Q. How many hours a day do your men work? A. Our forgers work about eight hours; the others work ten hours.

Q. Do the hands in the forging shop work by the piece? A. By the day altogether; the foreman works by the piece.

Q. How do you pay the helpers? A. By the day—\$1.50 a day.

Q. Are they paid according to skill or time of service? A. Both.

Q. Do they work ten hours a day? A. No; they work the same hours as the forgers.

Q. And when their day's work is finished they can go? A. Yes.

Q. Do you give them continuous employment the year round? A. Yes; except once, when the water supply went down with us.

Q. Then, except that time their work has been continuous with you? A. It has been.

Q. Do you find your men steady? A. With one or two exceptions they are all steady, sober men.

Q. Are they New Brunswickers, or are many of them foreigners? A. I think about five of our men are foreigners; the rest are New Brunswickers.

Q. Did these foreign men come here of their own accord, or do you have to import them? A. We have had to import them.

Q. Are you able to get as much skilled labor here as you require? A. Not in this place.

Q. Do you know whether any of your men own houses? A. I think about two of them own houses, but I am not certain. There may be more of them that own houses of their own; but I know of two.

Q. Are there plenty of houses to be rented in the neighborhood of your work? A. Not in the immediate vicinity; there are some about three-quarters of a mile away.

Q. What rents do mechanics pay for suitable houses in that neighborhood? A. I should judge \$75 a year.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. Once a month.

Q. Have they ever represented to you that they would like to be paid more frequently? A. No.

Q. Do you think they are satisfied with being paid monthly? A. Yes.

Q. When paid, are they paid in cash? A. Yes.

Q. And do you pay them in full? A. Yes; we pay them on the third Saturday of the month in full, up to the end of the month previous.

Q. Do they frequently come to you for advances between pay-days? A. Occasionally they come for \$1 or \$2.

Q. Do you think that, as a rule, they live up to their earnings, or do you know of any of them that save money? A. I think that some of them save money.

Q. Do you take on any apprentices? A. We do not.

Q. I suppose the work would be too hard for small boys? A. Yes; we take on boys about sixteen years of age; that is the youngest we take. Our business is divided up into two or three branches. In the forging shop we do not take boys to learn the trade till they are nineteen years old, but for all the other work we take them on at sixteen.

Q. Is your business increasing or decreasing? A. It is increasing.

Q. Where do you sell your goods, for the most part? A. St. John, Halifax and Montreal are our principal markets. We are shipping some of our goods to British Columbia.

Q. Do you send any goods to Ontario? A. We send some to Montreal, and our agent who is located there sends them all over Ontario and Quebec.

Q. Do you find any competition here in your line of business from Ontario? A. Yes.

Q. Do you find any competition from Quebec? A. Very little; our principal competition here comes from Ontario.

Q. What kind of iron do you use? A. We use partly English and partly Londonderry iron.

Q. Do you find Londonderry iron good enough for your purpose? A. For our narrow axes it is very good, but for our tools we have to use, or, I should say, we use Norway iron.

Q. Where do you get your steel—from England altogether? A. No; we principally get it from the States now.

Q. Do you find that you can import steel cheaper from the States than from England? A. We can import it just as cheap.

Q. I suppose you require a high grade of steel for your work? A. Yes; and the American axe-steel is better than the English.

Q. Where do you get your wood for axe-handles? A. We get it around here mostly; we get it from the farmers. Sometimes we import it from the States.

Q. Do you use ash? A. We get white ash.

Q. Do you get a good quality of white ash in this Province? A. Very good.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. In the event of any of your employés leaving you would you pay them at the time of the expiration of their work? A. We do not care about doing that, for we would rather let them wait till pay-day.

Q. For instance, if any of them left a day or two after being paid would they have to wait seven weeks for their money? A. We do not very often have a case of that kind happen; in such a case a great deal would depend upon circumstances.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Is there any other information you could bring before the Commission? A. I think I said there were two of our men who owned houses, but after thinking the matter over I am of the opinion that there are four men. We are manufacturing a drain pipe, and for that purpose we buy English cement.

Q. Is it cheaper than the English terra-cotta pipe? A. I imagine it costs about the same to make, but it stands better.

Q. What wages do you pay to the hands you have engaged in manufacturing pipe? A. We pay them about \$1 a day in the winter and \$1.25 in the summer. The foreman gets higher wages than I have spoken of.

Q. Do your hands in these industries own the houses in which they live? A. The foreman owns the house in which he lives, and he has built it since he has been working in the drain-pipe business. I only know of one man that owns his house.

Q. Do you think that many of the men who are employed by you put by money? A. I know some of them do; I do not know to what extent; they are principally those that have families to support.

Q. Do you think that a laborer who receives the wages that you speak of, \$1 a day in winter and \$1.25 in summer, can live and support a family in comfort? A. I do not know about the comfort, but I know it is done. I know it is a great deal better wages than the ordinary street or ship-laborer gets. I know that the ship-laborers get \$1.25 a day on the wharves, and they have to lose rainy days, as well as nearly all the time in winter.

Q. You do not know, then, from experience, the amount of comfort that a laborer derives from \$1.25 a day? A. I do not; I think they live as well as men of their station do generally. I have never had much to do with them.

Q. Is there much absolute poverty in St. Stephen or the surrounding country? A. I do not think there is.

Q. Do you know whether much relief is given to the poor by the authorities? A. There is considerable relief given by the authorities, but I think it is confined to the poor-house and those who are left helpless from some reason or other.

Q. Do you think that those who are able to work are able to maintain their families from their earnings? A. I think so; so far as I know, they are.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q. Why are the wages lower in winter than they are in summer? A. Simply because we can get the men to work cheaper in the winter; that is all the reason I know of.

Q. Do they work the same amount of time? A. Yes.

Q. Then the only reason is that the supply is greater than the demand? A. Yes; that is all. Men are glad to work for \$1 a day in winter, and prefer to work for us at that rate of wages than to go to work in the woods.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Do you expect that your pipe manufacture is going to develop into a large amount of trade here? A. I think so; I have strong hopes that it will. We have

made a great deal of it, and we use first-class quality of cement in it; all that's wanting is for the people to try it to prove that it is as good a pipe as any that is imported from outside places. I might say that we hope to develop a large trade in that line if time and trouble will do it.

Q. Is it a glazed pipe? A. It is laid in cement, and then it goes through a carbonized process.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Is it as good as vitrified pipe? A. It is a better pipe; it is a stronger pipe, and there is no warping to it.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is there any other information you can give us that has not been brought out by questioning? A. I do not know of anything special I have to say, but there are certain things that operate against us in the drain-pipe business. I do not know that you have any control over it, but I will speak about it, and that is, that there is a duty of 40 per cent. on the American cement.

Q. Would you like to have the 40 per cent. kept on? A. We would like to have it taken off. I applied to the Government to try to get it reduced, but instead of reducing the duty on cement they increased it on drain-pipe; I suppose it is of some advantage to have the duty raised on that article, but I would rather have it reduced on the cement, for then we could supply Calais, which is right here at our own door.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Is this pipe of yours an American invention? A. Yes.

Q. And do you think what would be good for you in this matter would be good for the rest of Canada, therefore you are looking out for yourself? A. Yes; we are looking after ourselves.

LOUIS DEXTER, Jr., Assistant Superintendent St. Croix Cotton Mills, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What business do you follow? A. I am Assistant Superintendent of the St. Croix Cotton Mills.

Q. How many hands do you employ in the St. Croix Mills? A. We average about 630.

Q. How many looms have you in the mill? A. We have 957 looms.

Q. How many spindles have you in the mill? A. About 32,000.

Q. About what is the average run of wages paid to the weavers? A. They average from \$1 to \$1.50.

Q. A day? A. Yes; a day.

Q. How many looms would those that earn \$1.50 a day run? A. They would run six looms.

Q. Have you many who are running four looms? A. Almost all we have are running four looms.

Q. How much do they earn? A. They earn from \$1 to \$1.25.

Q. Would they be men or women, or both? A. Both.

Q. Do the men, as a rule, earn more in the weaving room than the women? A. These that earn those wages in our mill are women—probably for the reason that most of the weavers in our mill are women.

Q. When a person of either sex comes to work for the first time how many looms would each have to tend? A. When hands first comes to work they will probably get a frame, and they work at that till they can run a number of looms. They first get two or three looms and work them by hand; then they go on until they are able to run four by steam. They have two looms on fancy work and two

on plain. The fancy work is plaids and fancy shirting, and the plain work is stripes. On the plain work we have two kinds of weavers who run six looms. There are thirty in the lot and they generally run six looms—everybody else has four looms.

Q. About what is the age of the youngest person who is entrusted with any number of looms? A. I should say fourteen; very few under that get any looms. As a rule, the average would be from twenty to twenty-five years.

Q. What do the operatives in the spinning room receive? A. They average according to their ability; they get from 65 to 80 cents a day.

Q. Do you think that any number of those that you regard as expert hands receive less than 65 cents a day? A. No; I think not; they are paid according to their ability. They first have to doff; there are two classes of doffers, and from the first of these we get our spinners.

Q. What do you pay your spinners? A. They average from \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Q. A day? A. Yes; a day.

Q. Are these about the best paid of the hands? A. Yes.

Q. These are not foremen? A. They are ordinary hands.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest of the doffers? A. We have some young boys about fifteen years, but they are almost all twenty-eight years or up; thirty is the average.

Q. What do warpers receive? A. They receive from 85 cents to \$1 a day, according to the number of warps they run.

Q. What do slashers receive? A. Slashers receive (it is all according to ability) from \$1 to \$2.10; they average about \$1.50.

Q. What do dyers receive? A. The dyers receive from \$1 to \$1.25.

Q. What do packers get? A. The first hands we pay would receive an average of \$1.25; the boys get from 65 to 90 cents; some of them are men and some boys. The boys are about sixteen or eighteen years old; their wages depend a great deal on their ability to work.

Q. Do you employ any unskilled laborers about the place? A. No; we do not.

Q. What are the hours of work? A. Do you mean from morning till night?

Q. Yes—from morning till night? A. There are two schedules, a summer and a winter schedule. The summer one is from 6:30 in the morning till 6 at night and the winter schedule from 7 in the morning till 6 at night. In the summer we close at 12 on Saturday and in winter at 4:30—that is, for six months.

Q. Do you close down the mill at any period? A. Do you mean do we stop for any length of time?

Q. Yes—do you stop for any length of time? A. No; we do not.

Q. Do you impose any fines in your mill? A. We fine for bad weaving.

Q. Do you fine for nothing else? A. Yes; only occasionally.

Q. If an operative is late in the morning what is done about the matter? A. We may, if they are late too often, take the time off them.

Q. Do you do anything more than take off the actual time lost? A. No.

Q. Do you close the door of the mill at any hour in the morning, so that the operatives cannot get in? A. We close the door for fifteen minutes.

Q. How soon after beginning work do you close the door? A. About three minutes before the time of starting work.

Q. Then if a person came at the time of starting work he would lose fifteen minutes' time? A. Any that come at that hour would be sure to lose fifteen minutes' time.

Q. Do the doors of the mill open in or out? A. Outwards.

Q. How do the doors open from the large work rooms? A. In the main mill there is a tower at each end of the mill and it is separated from the mill itself by brick walls which run on each story. Each end of the mill opens outward into that tower and the door of the tower opens outward.

Q. How wide are the stairways leading from each floor? A. I cannot tell you exactly—eighteen.

Q. Have you ever made any experiment as to how long it would take you to get

the hands out of the mill in case of fire? A. I never have; I know it empties pretty quick at dinner time, or whenever the hands go out.

Q. Have you any idea how long it takes the operatives to quit work and get out of the factory? A. About five minutes after work is stopped they are generally all out of the factory.

Q. Are there any fire-escapes provided in the mill? A. These towers at each end of the mill are virtually fire-escapes.

Q. What kind of stairs lead from the towers to the workmen's rooms? A. Brick and stone.

Q. Have you separate water-closets for the males and females? A. Yes; we have; we have a central tower, in which the water-closets are; they are built up together, but they have partitions between; they run back to back in that tower for a space of about 10 to 12 feet. The water-closet on one side is for the females, and on the other for the males.

Q. Are the approaches to the water-closets separate? A. No; 4 feet; from the time you leave the main building the space is open; they are separate, with a space on each side of them. There is a partition which runs through this room dividing the male and female closets; there are four closets on each side, two back to back, and an entry to each separately. It is perfectly open for any one in the large main room for a space of about 8 feet, so that any one standing there can see what is going on, and can tell whether they are washing or in the water-closet.

Q. So that there could be no familiarity going on between those who are in the water-closets without its being seen by those who are working in the cotton mill? A. There could not.

Q. Are the men's water-closets entirely separate from the others? A. They are.

Q. Is each closet entirely separate? A. Yes.

Q. So that there could be no communication from one to the other? A. There could be no communication.

Q. Are you able to tell us what the amount of fines were in the mill last year? A. No; I am not.

Q. Do you think the amount collected for fines was a small or a considerable one, compared with other cotton mills? A. I do not know what the fines are in other mills, so I could not say how they compare; I do not think there is any considerable amount.

Q. However, you think there were no fines imposed, except for bad work? A. Yes; and occasionally, where we give due notice before hand, for conflicting with some rule of the factory; such a case is an exception.

Q. About what are the ages of the youngest children employed by you? A. About eleven years old.

Q. What work are these children of eleven employed at? A. Sweeping and doffing.

Q. Is doffing work that requires constant attention and application? A. No; there are times when they can get plenty of work and other times they can rest; it is intermittent work.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. Once a month.

Q. Has it ever been represented to you by the hands that they would like to be paid more frequently? A. I have never heard them complain of being paid monthly.

Q. Do you think that your hands make these monthly payments extend over till next pay-day, or that they have to get credit between times? A. I think they must make it extend over, for it is very seldom that any of them ask for an advance.

Q. Do you make advances if asked for them? A. It is not our rule to make advances, except in cases of necessity.

Q. Do you have any system of punishment for the children in your mill? A. I do not understand you.

Q. Do you ever flog or whip the children? A. No.

Q. Would the management permit the foreman or other hands in the mill to flog the children? A. No; they would not.

Q. Do you have any place of confinement for the children—any place where you can shut them up? A. We have no such place.

Q. When you pay your hands do you pay in full up to the time at which your pay-rolls are made up? A. Yes; not exactly, though.

Q. How long after the time at which the pay-rolls are made up are the hands paid? A. The pay-roll ends on the last Saturday of the month, and we pay on the third Wednesday of the following month.

Q. So that nearly a month elapses after the pay-roll is made up before the hands get their money? A. About three weeks.

Q. Do you pay in full? A. Yes; we do.

Q. Do you pay in cash? A. Yes; we do.

Q. Do you give anything in the way of store orders or goods to the hands as pay? A. Nothing at all. Excuse me—we sell remnants to them if they want them; that is all; it is optional with them to take them.

Q. Where do your hands come from, for the most part? A. Mostly within a radius of 20 miles.

Q. Do they come from both sides of the river? A. From both sides.

Q. What is the character of your help, as a rule? A. Of the men and boys it is exceptionally good.

Q. Can you speak as to the morality of the women? A. I can say that their morality is high.

Q. Are you frequently compelled to import labor? A. We are not now. Of course, we are a mill that is only about five years old, and we had to import labor when we started, but it is now native people that work for us.

Q. Do you educate your own help? A. We do.

Q. Do you think that the help you have now is as good as that you imported when you started? A. I think our class of help is decidedly better now than it ever was before.

Q. Do you know if any of your hands own houses? A. Yes; some of them do.

Q. Many of them? A. They are mostly heads of families that own houses. Of course, in a mill like ours we have a great many hands that come from one family; sometimes a father, perhaps a mother, and two or three children of the same family are found working in the mill, and in some of these cases they would own their own houses. We have a great many girls in our employ who are unmarried, and they either board in houses managed by some of the families of the workingmen or live at home; some of them board in the boarding houses in Milltown.

Q. What do these girls pay for board, as a rule? A. In the Milltown boarding houses it is \$2.25 a week; in some cases they get board a little cheaper.

Q. Do the young children who work with you, as a rule, live with their parents? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know what is the state of education among the young people who are working with you? A. I think I can say it is rather high.

Q. Do you think there are many working for you who are unable to read and write? A. We find very few of those among our help.

Q. Do you require them to sign the pay-roll, or anything of that kind? A. When they are paid we require them to sign the pay-roll; very few of our hands we find but can do that, though their ages range, as a rule, from thirteen to forty years.

By MR. KELLY:—

Q. Were you ever superintendent in any other cotton mill? A. I was not.

Q. You have only been superintendent while you were here? A. That is all.

Q. Does the company own any houses? A. They own the foremen's, overseer's, two of the hands', and a boarding house.

Q. About what rent do they get for those houses of the foremen? A. They get \$75 to \$100 a year.

Q. Do the hands pay \$100 a year for their houses? A. The foremen's houses are \$100 a year and the two hands' houses \$75.

Q. Is the company exempted from taxation? A. They are for ten years from the time they started.

Q. Do you know of any such thing as a combine of the cotton manufacturers of Canada in the different lines of business? A. I know of such a thing as the Cotton Manufacturers' Association.

Q. Is your company a member of that association? A. Yes.

Q. The object of that association is to keep up prices? A. They arrange a schedule of prices.

Q. And the other object is to protect yourselves? A. Yes.

Q. Is the general tendency of the combination to make a fair price for goods and to get the cotton made as cheaply as possible? A. Yes; that has been its tendency.

Q. Is there anything else it aims at? A. It, like all other combinations, has the tendency to break up all outsiders in time; that is the reason why all the cotton factories are not in it.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Does the association embrace all the cotton mills in business in Canada? A. It does not embrace Mr. Gibson's mill.

Q. Do the hands who live in the tenement houses pay taxes? A. They do not pay taxes on the tenement houses the company own.

Q. Does the company own much property in connection with the work here? A. Very little, except some tenement houses and the mill itself.

Q. They do not rent any land, then, to the employes of the mill? A. I do not think there is such a case to be found, for other property is more accessible.

Q. Did you state the age of the youngest and smallest children you have in the mill? A. I stated about the age of the youngest and smallest; I do not know the real age of the youngest, but I think it is what I stated.

Q. Do you hire the hands in the different departments of the mill? A. No; I do not; that is done by the heads of the departments.

Q. Are there any directions given as to what age young children shall be employed in the mill? A. No.

Q. That is a matter that is left entirely in the hands of the overseers of the different departments? A. It is left in their hands.

Q. Can you state what is the average amount of wages paid out by you annually, or monthly? A. The average amount of wages we pay out is about \$19,000.

Q. Is that annually? A. No; that is per month; it all depends, of course, on the number of looms we are running.

Q. Is the pay very satisfactory to the employes? A. I think so.

Q. Have you ever had any complaints made to you about it? A. We have never had any.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you ever had any strikes in your mill? A. Yes; we had one a couple of years ago.

Q. What was the cause of that strike? A. Reduction in the wages of our weavers.

Q. Why is there more trouble there than in any other department of help that you employ? A. I cannot say.

Q. As a matter of fact, is there not always more trouble in that department than any other? A. I think, generally, there is more trouble in the spinning and weaving departments—that is, so far as I know; but my experience is not very wide.

Q. I presume you have a great deal of labor in your mill now that was imported from the United States? A. We did import some at first, but with the exception of some very skilled heads our best hands are natives.

Q. Do you think that the general average of the hands employed by you at present in the mill are as competent to do the work as those you imported a few

years ago? A. I think they are more so; I think they are a better class of help in every way.

Q. Have you any trouble from drunkenness among the hands? A. Very little.

Q. Do pic-nics interfere with your work? A. We have made arrangements to prevent that, by giving the hands Saturday afternoon during the summer season—the pic-nic season.

Q. I presume you employ more hands at the present time than you did a year after you started? A. I think so; I am not so well acquainted with the affairs of the mill at that time as I am now.

Q. Has the general output of the mill increased or remained stationary? A. It remains about the same; we run from 750 to 850 or 900—possibly 950 looms.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Can you make cotton as cheaply here as they do in the upper Provinces? A. I do not know anything about the management of cotton mills in the upper Provinces, but I do not see why we cannot.

Ry Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. How many women have you employed in your establishment? A. I cannot tell you the exact number, but I should say that one-half to two-thirds of our hands are women.

Q. How many of the girls would there be about the age of eleven years? A. Very few; I think the number would be inside of two dozen.

Q. Would there be many boys of that age employed in the mill? A. About the same number.

Q. How many of your employés are American? A. I could not state how many, for we are so near the border that they have been coming without our knowing of it much.

Q. Then you cannot tell us what proportion of your employés would be Americans? A. I could not say; if I should guess I should say it would be half-and-half.

Q. Do you ever have any accidents in the mill? A. Yes; occasionally.

Q. Anything of a serious nature? A. We have had one within my remembrance, where a man was killed.

Q. How did that happen? A. He got caught in some of the mill machinery and his head was crushed.

Q. Have you ever had any other accidents in the mill? A. We had one case where a boy fell down an elevator, but he is living; it was a pretty bad blow for him, for he was laid up a little while.

Q. Was anything done by the owners of the mill or their friends after the accidents took place to help the sufferers? A. Yes; in one case the mill helped them; in the other case there was not any assistance given.

Q. Which case was it that the assistance was given in? A. It was in the case of the man that was killed.

Q. How is the ventilation of your factory? A. It is first-class.

Q. Both in winter and summer? A. Yes.

Q. Concerning the fines imposed on the employés in your mill—are there any rules posted up in the factory stating what those fines shall be imposed for, or do the overseers impose them at their will? A. The fines are only imposed for bad work, and we do not pretend to fine a person if it is a first offence, but if it is a repeated offence we put on a small fine. We do not pretend to fine for anything that can be easily got over, and only for work that is negligently and carelessly done.

Q. Do the employés of the mill go to their dinner, or do any of them eat their meals in the mill? A. Some eat their meals in the mill; those that live down in these towns can, if they wish, eat their dinner in the mill.

Q. Have you a separate room for that purpose, or do the hands eat where they work? A. They eat where they work.

Q. Have you ever heard of any of the children in your mill being abused scolded, or anything of that sort? A. I do not know of anything of that kind being done.

Q. Are there any boys working in the spinning room? A. Yes; the doffers are boys, and the mule spinners, a few of them. Most of the mule spinners are young men from sixteen to twenty years old; they are natives.

Q. Are they instructed not to go between the moving and stationary part of the machinery? A. They are; we do not allow boys to do that if we know it. It was just this way that the man was killed—by going between the machines when we told him not to.

Q. Have the wages of the employes increased since the Manufacturers' Association came in force? A. No.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are the elevators protected with automatic safeguards? A. They are, except where this boy fell down, at the other end of the hall.

Q. If a person is hurt in the factory does the company pay his expenses or not? A. It depends altogether on whether it is a case of gross carelessness or not, and whether the people are able to help themselves. If the people are not able to pay the expenses, and it is not a case of carelessness, the company will pay the expenses, but in no other case. There is no usual rule followed in such cases.

Q. Would you be kind enough to give us a statement of the wages paid in the last twelve months and the amount of fines collected in the same time? A. In the weaving rooms our fines, I think, came to about \$20.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Is the necessary moisture that is required in the spinning and weaving rooms produced by steam? A. It is.

Q. I suppose you know that in some mills it is produced by water? A. Yes. The amount of fines collected in twelve months would be from \$30 to \$90; that would cover all things. In speaking about the wages of the weavers I would say that their average would be \$8 to \$9 a week. You asked a good many questions about the water-closets, so I will draw a rough plan of them and leave it with you.

CHARLES SMITH, Carder, Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What are you employed at? A. I work in the card-room of the cotton mill.

Q. How long have you been working in the card-room? A. About seven or eight weeks.

Q. Did you ever work in the card-room before in any other factory? A. Yes; I worked in the Grenville, New Hampshire, factory.

Q. About what age were you when you first went to the cotton mill to work? A. About thirteen or fourteen.

Q. Can you read or write? A. Both.

Q. What wages did you get when you first began? A. Twenty-five cents a day for the first year.

Q. What wages do you receive now? A. One dollar a day.

Q. How do your wages compare here with what you got in the States or would get in the States? A. The wages here are better.

Q. Is the climate better to work in here? A. I think it is.

Q. Are the hours of work shorter or longer here than in the States? A. I think they are about the same.

Q. What time do you go to work? A. A quarter to seven in the morning and work till six at night; we stop at half-past three on Saturday.

Q. Which system of pay do you like the best—here or in the States? A. I like both of them.

Q. I suppose there is a chance for a choice between the two of them? A. In the other factories we got off Saturday afternoon at four o'clock.

Q. Do you think that the pay given here is as large as that given in the New England States? A. Yes.

Q. Is it larger here? A. I think it is.

Q. How many hours are you employed in the mill? A. Ten hours a day—sixty hours a week.

Q. Have you ever heard any dissatisfaction expressed in the shop with the men and boys of the cotton mill about the way in which they are treated? A. No.

Q. Are the hands that work in your department in this mill as good as those who worked in the other mills? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any girls working in the department that you are working in? A. There are a few.

Q. Do you have separate conveniences? A. No.

Q. Do you have separate water closets for the men and the women? A. Yes.

Q. Are the water closets built on the same principle as has been stated here? A. They are divided up.

Q. They are both of them separate and on both sides of the building? A. Yes; on one side of the building is the male and the other the female.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is good order kept in your mill, or rather rooms? A. For all I know good order is kept in the mill.

Q. Did you ever hear any swearing or any bad talk going on in the mill? A. No, sir; hardly ever.

Q. Is the mill comfortable for heat in the winter? A. Yes.

Q. I suppose you do not know anything about the summer? A. No; I do not.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is the dust rising from the carding machine very bad? A. It is not.

Q. Since the amount of fines has been taken off do you think it saves money? A. It does not save much, if you were a married man having to live on them.

Q. Is good order kept in your room? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know if they have any system of fines in your factory? A. There was, but it has been shifted.

Q. Do you know if there are any fans to take off the dust? A. I do not know.

Q. Do they hire any people for that purpose? A. The fines are not inflicted here.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. You say the dust is kept down? A. What?

Q. The dust? A. It is a well-ventilated room.

JOHN McFARLANE, Second Hand, Spinning Room, Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Will you kindly state to the Commission what your occupation is? A. I am the second hand in the spinners' room.

Q. How long have you been employed at that business? A. Four years, I think.

Q. Are you a single man? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever work in any other mill than the one here? A. I have worked in no other cotton mill.

Q. About what is the usual price paid to a person doing the kind of work you do? A. Seven dollars and fifty cents a week.

Q. How many more hands are there employed in the same room with you? A. About forty-five, I think.

Q. Are there any females employed on the same floor with you? A. Yes; they are mostly all females.

Q. Is there ever any trouble between the male and female operatives in the mill?
A. No; none that I know of.

Q. I suppose you have conveniences on the floor—water-closets, and such like?
A. Yes.

Q. Are they partitioned off separately? A. Yes.

Q. How do the doors going down stairs open—outwards or inwards? A. They open outwards.

Q. How wide would the stairs be? A. I should judge it would be 7 or 8 feet.

Q. Are there any fire-escapes in the building? A. No; except the slides.

Q. How often do you get paid? A. Once a month.

Q. Do you get paid in full, or not? A. Yes.

Q. Do they ever give you any orders on the store for pay, or anything of that nature? A. They do not.

Q. About what do you pay a week for board? A. \$3 to \$3.50.

Q. Is that about as cheap as you can get it across the border? A. I think it is about the same; I believe it is.

Q. Is there any difference between living over there or here that you can speak of from your own personal knowledge? A. I could not say for sure, for I stop at home.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is the payment of wages once a month satisfactory to the men? A. It appears to be; most of them seem to be satisfied; I never heard any of them grumble.

Q. Have ever any of them asked to have the hours shortened? A. No; not to my personal knowledge.

Q. Do you find the ventilation to be good in the summer? A. Some days it is very close, but we can open the sky-lights; we can open them up if we like.

Q. Could not you open the side windows? A. Yes.

Q. Would not you get a draft then? A. We would.

Q. Is there any artificial way of heating the building in the winter time? A. There is the steam if we wish to use, but we do not.

Q. Is it used for softening the cotton, or anything of that kind? A. No; always the steam is used in our room.

Q. Is all the machinery in your room operated by water-power? A. It is.

Q. Do the operatives with whom you come in contact seem to be reasonably well educated and intelligent people? A. Yes; with the exception of very few of them.

Q. Do they appear to be well-conducted people? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know if any of the men use liquor to excess? A. No; I cannot speak only for the room I am in. So far as my own room is concerned, there are none.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you know the number of your hands who use liquor to excess? A. I do not; I do not think there are any of them in the cotton mill.

C. N. VROOM, Manufacturer of Slippers and Oil-tanned Larrigans, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. My business is the manufacture of slippers and oil-tanned larrigans; wigwam slippers are a speciality with me.

Q. How many hands do you employ in this business? A. Just at present we have twenty hands at work.

Q. Is that larger or smaller than your usual force? A. During this last winter we ran as high as thirty-nine hands.

Q. How many hours a day do your hands work? A. As a rule, ten hours.

Q. Both winter and summer? A. Yes; winter and summer. Those who are working at slippers work by the piece, and they work as long as they please.

Q. What are the earnings of those who work by the piece? A. They earn all the way from \$3.50 to \$5 a day.

Q. Are they men or women—or both? A. Both. Some of the men work in the establishment at night, but the women take their work home with them.

Q. Do your regular hands get employment the year round? A. We have no hands who do that; those I spoke of work by the piece, and it depends upon the amount of work they do; some of them work steady all the time.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. Every Saturday night.

Q. What do the skilled hands who work by the week receive? A. They receive from \$1.25 to \$2 a day.

Q. Do you have any women working by the week? A. No; we have some boys who get from \$2 up.

Q. Two dollars a week? A. Yes.

Q. Are they apprentices? A. Yes; the \$2 hands would be apprentices.

Q. How long do they serve? A. They have no special time of service; perhaps when they have been with us six weeks they would get a raise of wages, and after that everything depends upon themselves.

Q. Do you apprentice them? A. No.

Q. Where do you sell your goods? A. Principally Ontario and Quebec; we have sold goods both in Toronto and Montreal.

Q. What leather do you use? A. We use a leather specially tanned for the purpose both for the oil-tanned goods and slippers.

Q. Where do you get your leather? A. Mostly from St. John; at present we have some we got from Toronto.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. I pay them every Saturday night.

Q. Do you pay them in full? A. Yes; and I pay them up to date.

Q. Do you pay them in cash? A. Those who like it get paid in cash; some of them who wish it get orders for groceries on the stores, but most of them get paid in cash.

Q. Do you make any difference to those who get groceries? A. No; I do not.

Q. Do you compel the hands to take orders for groceries? A. No; most of them are paid in cash.

Q. They can deal with you in that way, or not, as they please? A. Yes.

Q. And it makes no difference as to their employment? A. No.

Q. Have you any other branch of business that you are engaged in? A. I am a partner in a firm engaged in the manufacture of drain-pipes.

Q. Is your drain-pipe factory in St. Stephen? A. It is about three-quarters of a mile down the river.

Q. How many hands are employed by you in that business? A. When fully employed we run about six hands.

Q. What class of pipe do you make? A. It is called carbonized stone drain pipe, and it is used for drains and sewers.

Q. Do you make these pipes of all dimensions? A. We make them all 4-inch diameter.

Q. Where do you find a market for the pipe? A. We sell our pipe principally in the Maritime Provinces and in Calais.

Q. How long has that industry been established here? A. We started business about a year and a half ago.

Q. So that you have not had an opportunity of developing it fully? A. Not as yet.

Q. Do you find the material for the manufacture of your pipe within a reasonable distance of your work? A. The pipes are made out of cement, and we buy English and American cement for that purpose.

FRANK MURPHY, Confectioner, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What do you work at? A. I am a confectioner in the employ of Ganong Bros.

Q. How long have you been in Ganong Bros. employ? A. I could hardly say; six months, or so.

Q. Did you formerly work at that business in this place? A. No; I did not.

Q. Where did you work at it? A. I worked at the business in the States.

Q. How long have you worked in the business in the States and here? A. About nine years.

Q. What particular branch of the work are you engaged at? A. I work in the cocoa work, generally, all the time.

Q. Can you give us an idea of what wages are earned by men working in your position? A. Do you mean in Canada?

Q. No—here in St. Stephen? A. The average journeyman here in St. Stephen earns about \$15 a week; the wages run all the way from \$12 to \$25 a week.

Q. Would \$15 be a fair average? A. It would.

Q. How do the wages here compare with the wages in the United States? A. In comparison with the cost of living in the United States, I think it is superior. You cannot live as cheap in the United States as you can in St. Stephen.

Q. Can a man save more money when living here than when living in the United States? A. I think he can.

Q. Are the wages better here, or about the same? A. I think they are a little better in the States, but not much.

Q. How often are you paid? A. I am paid every two weeks.

Q. Are you paid in cash? A. In cash.

Q. Are you paid in full? A. Yes.

Q. Would the help in the factory prefer to be paid oftener? A. I think not.

Q. Is the mode of payment satisfactory? A. I think it is satisfactory all round—at least, so far as I know.

Q. Have the hands ever asked for any change in the mode of payment? A. They have never done so.

Q. Have they ever asked for weekly payment? A. They have not.

Q. Are there any apprentices in the factory? A. Yes; there are.

Q. Do you have any in your department? A. Yes.

Q. How many? A. There are about three boys and five girls.

Q. About what wages do the apprentices generally earn? A. They get about \$4 a week when they first begin, and an advance every year.

Q. Does that relate to boys or girls? A. That relates to boys.

Q. How are the conveniences in the factory? A. They are first-class.

Q. Are the male and female conveniences entirely separate? A. I cannot say they are entirely separate.

Q. Perhaps you do not understand me—I mean, are the water-closets for the male and female hands separate? A. I did not understand you; they are separate.

Q. Will they compare favorably with other factories in the United States? A. Yes.

Q. Will the factory compare favorably with the factories you have worked in in the United States? A. Yes.

Q. Is the factory well ventilated in summer? A. Yes.

Q. Is it warm enough to work in in the winter? A. Yes.

Q. How is the factory heated? A. By steam.

Q. How do the operatives compare with the operatives you worked alongside of in the United States? A. I think they are a far superior class of people to those I have worked with in the United States.

Q. Are they a better class of people? A. Yes.

Q. Are they better educated? A. Yes.

Q. How do the apprentices here compare with the apprentices in the United States? A. They are just about the same.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten hours a day.

Q. Do you frequently work over-time? A. No; we do not.

Q. Are you able to tell us what would be the average rent of a house in St. Stephen suitable for a mechanic? A. What kind of a house?

Q. A small house or a flat? A. I could not tell you the rent they would pay.

Q. Are you a married man? A. No.

Q. Do you board in town here? A. I do.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What do you have to pay for board? A. I pay \$3.50 a week for board.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you get continuous work the year round? A. I do.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q. Do you think ten hours a day excessive? A. I do not.

Q. Do you not think you could do as much and better work in eight instead of ten hours? A. I do not think I could.

Q. Do you not think that you could do as much work in eight hours as you now do in ten? A. I do not think so.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. Have the apprentices in your establishment an opportunity of learning all the branches of the trade? A. They have.

Q. Are they instructed by the foreman in all departments of the work? A. They are.

Q. When apprentices become journeymen are they kept on in the factory at journeymen's wages? A. They are.

Q. Do they stay on? A. Do you mean by the piece, right through?

Q. Yes? A. They stay on with us, as a rule.

Q. Do the employes of the factory receive any holidays during the year? A. They do.

GEORGE McANDREWS, Operative, Ganong Bros., Confectioners, called and sworn.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q. What business are you engaged at? A. I have charge of a portion of Ganong Bros.' confectionery establishment.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. How long have you been in that business? A. About six years.

Q. Have you ever worked in any other place in that business? A. I have worked for this firm on the road.

Q. Did you ever work at this business in the States? A. No.

Q. This is the only place you have worked in the business? A. Yes.

Q. Are you foreman in the establishment? A. Yes.

Q. Do you have the hiring and discharging of the hands? A. I do.

Q. How many hands have you at work in the department you are working in? A. At present we have eighty.

Q. Are any of the hands in your department girls? A. About half.

Q. What is the age of the youngest child you have at work? A. I do not think we have any under sixteen years old; I do not think we take any to work under that age.

Q. What is the youngest boy you have employed? A. I have one that is fifteen years old, but he is old-fashioned enough to be twenty.

Q. Do you ever ask of the children who come in asking for work whether they can read or write? A. I do not, but judging from their appearance, parents and surroundings, I should think they were able to do so.

Q. You think they can read and write? A. I think they can; the children of St. Stephen generally attend the public schools.

Q. Are you a possessor of property of your own—are you a married man? A. I am a married man, but I do not own any property.

Q. Do you hire a tenement? A. Yes.

Q. What would a mechanic have to pay for a house of six or seven rooms in St. Stephen? A. They pay all the way from \$80 to \$100 a year.

Q. Do those houses have water on the premises? A. Some do and some do not.

Q. Are there any water-closets and bath-rooms in the houses that you get at that rent? A. There is not in the house I am in; I cannot speak for all the houses.

Q. What is the average rate of wages received by the men in your establishment? A. I should say they averaged, take them right through, \$15 to \$16 a week.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Would not that be for skilled men? A. Skilled men.

Q. Would not that be the best skilled men? A. I should say that the youngest hands we have would average \$5 a week, and they get an increase of pay if they stay to work with us; all the hands get an increase of pay, according to the work they do and their time of service. There is one thing about our factory that I have noticed, and it is, that I have never seen any one ask for an increase of wages, but, if they were deserving of it, they got it. All the hands get paid good wages, but if they are not suitable hands they are not kept on.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is the average rate of wages for men who are expert at the business? A. Experts at the business would get \$15 and upwards; some for a short time would get \$15 and then run up as high as \$25.

Q. After a person has been in your employ a couple of years as an apprentice how long after that would he be at work before he would be in a position to earn \$15 a week? A. It would all depend upon himself.

Q. What is the usual time required to learn the business? A. Some are quick and some are slow. We have some employes who have learned quicker than others; some have got pretty well advanced in two years and some have taken four years to learn the business.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Would they become skilful at the business in four years' time? A. Yes.

Q. Would they earn \$15 at the end of that time? A. I could not say they would in that time; but I should think an average intelligent man would learn the business in four or five years thoroughly.

Q. What are the general habits of the men employed by you? A. They are good.

Q. Are they steady, as a rule? A. They are steady, for we will not have any but steady men in our employ.

Q. Have you ever had any strikes in your shop? A. We have never had any strikes, and there is no necessity for them taking place.

Q. Do you know if any of the men in the shop own houses of their own? A. I do not know any of them who own houses of their own.

Q. Do you know of any of them that have any money of their own in the savings bank, or invested in bonds or stocks? A. My position is such that I am not posted as to the resources of the men.

Q. But, generally speaking, around the shop do you know of any of these men who have money? A. I think some of them have money laid by.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do your men generally put in full time during the year? A. They put in full time, with the exception of, probably, a week after Christmas, when we are taking stock.

Q. Then you do not shut down for any particular period of the year? A. We do not.

Q. You run continuously through the year? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Did you hear the evidence of the other employés of the factory? A. I only heard part of it.

Q. With reference to the water-closets of the factory, I would ask you are they entirely separate? A. They are entirely separate.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How is the ventilation of the factory? A. It is good.

Q. Are there any fire-escapes in the building? A. The building is so constructed that the chances for getting out in case of fire are splendid, and there is little or no need of fire-escapes.

Q. What story of the building do you work in? A. I work all through the building, but principally in the second story.

Q. Where do the principal part of the eighty hands work? A. On the second floor.

Q. How many floors are there in the building? A. There are four.

Q. How wide is the stairway? A. I should say the stairway would be about 10 feet.

Q. Do the doors at the bottom of the stairways open outward or inward? A. Outward; the stairway is all open to the work-house.

Q. If any of the hands are a little late in the morning how are they docked; are they docked if they are ten or fifteen minutes late? A. If a man were ten or fifteen minutes late he would be reminded of the fact and asked to come a little earlier.

Q. Then, you do not dock them for the loss of a little time like that? A. We expect them to use us as we use them; we try to use them right, and we expect them to do the same by us. This is a matter that we leave to a man's judgment.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you know what wages are paid to the girls that work in your establishment? A. The girls are paid from \$2 to \$4 a week.

Q. Are there any girls working in your department? A. Yes; they are all working there; I am a foreman.

Q. Are there any girls working there who do as much work as a man? A. I do not think so.

Q. If they did the same work would they get the same rate of wages? A. They would get the same rate of wages if they did the same work.

Q. Are they paid the same rate of wages as the men if they work over-time? A. If they work over-time they get double wages.

Q. What are the girls paid who are tending the store? A. We do not have any girls tending store; we have only a wholesale store connected with our factory.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are the women not as skilful at their work as the men? A. They do light work; their strength will not permit them to do the heavy work, and so the men have to do that.

GEORGE JONES, Soap-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. What work are you employed at? A. I work in the soap factory.
 Q. How many hands work in the soap factory? A. About nine.
 Q. How many hours a day do they work? A. Ten hours.
 Q. Do they get constant employment the year around? A. They did this last year.
 Q. About what are the average wages earned by the men? A. Nine dollars a week.
 Q. Are there any boys working in the soap factory? A. There are two boys.
 Q. Are they learning the trade of soap-making? A. No.
 Q. Then they are just employed as helpers? A. They are employed as helpers.
 Q. Are you ever required to work over-time? A. Not very often
 Q. When you work at night do you get paid for it at the same rate as in the day time? A. No; we get double pay.
 Q. Do you do any Sunday work? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH :—

- Q. Is \$9 a week the highest wages paid to any one in the soap factory? A. That is the highest that the common hands get.
 Q. What does your soap-boiler get? A. I could not tell you.
 Q. Have you any small boys or girls employed in the factory? A. We have two small boys; they are not very small, for they are about fifteen years old.
 Q. Do you know what are the wages that those boys get? A. Those boys get about \$5 a week, I think.
 Q. Are those boys learning their trade there? A. No.
 Q. Then they are just employed as helpers? A. Yes.
 Q. If they continue to work there will they get better wages? A. If they continue on they will get better wages.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

- Q. How often are you paid? A. Once a week.
 Q. Are you paid in cash? A. Yes.
 Q. Is your business considered to be a healthy one? A. Yes; I think so.
 Q. Do you make anything but laundry soaps? A. We do at times.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

- Q. Is there any system of fines in your establishment for spoiled work, or being late to work in the mornings? A. There is not.

WILLIAM GIBSON, Upholsterer, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. What business are you employed at? A. I am in the furniture business.
 Q. Are you a cabinet-maker? A. I am a cabinet-maker.
 Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten hours.
 Q. Do you get constant employment all the year round? A. I loafed a week last May; I loaf nine days in the year, generally.
 Q. Are you frequently required to work over-time? A. Not very often.
 Q. When you work over-time are you paid at the same rate as in the day time? A. We get a time and a-half for night work.
 Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.
 Q. What would be a fair, average rent for a mechanic to pay for a house in St. Stephen? A. That is a very difficult question to answer; what I would consider a fair rent others might think was high.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What would a house of five or six rooms, with modern conveniences, rent for ?

A. I know I have four rooms in my house and I pay \$4—I should say I pay \$5.

Q. Do you mean \$5 a month ? A. Yes ; some others that I know may pay \$100 a year, for all I know.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are there any apprentices in your department ? A. One.

Q. How long is an apprentice expected to serve before he is considered to be a journeyman ? A. Three years.

Q. Are you an upholsterer as well as a cabinet-maker ? A. Yes.

Q. What is the average wages given to upholsterers in St. Stephen ? A. I suppose about \$2.25.

Q. Two dollars and twenty-five cents a day ? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever worked at the trade in other places ? A. Yes.

Q. Where ? A. In Calais.

Q. How do the wages in St. Stephen compare with the wages in Calais ? A. I do not think that in our business there is any difference ; I think that wages are about the same.

Q. Do you think there is much difference in the cost of living in the two places—rent, provisions, clothing and the ordinary articles of living ? A. I do not see much difference in the cost of any of those articles.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Do you work sixty hours a week—ten hours a day ? A. Yes ; except Saturday, when we knock off at 4:30.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Have you any apprentices in your establishment ? A. We have one.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you do any Sunday work ? A. No.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. How often are you paid ? A. Weekly.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Are you paid in full ? A. Most always ; if we do not get paid in full on Saturday we get it on Monday.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Is the mode of payment satisfactory ? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Is there any store in connection with your establishment where they give orders to the men for goods ? A. I never got an order from the firm for payment of wages.

Q. You do not know of any such thing being in existence ? A. I do not know of any such thing in our establishment.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. How many men are there employed in the establishment you work in ? A. I think there are about seven in the store where I work ; besides that there are some others working in the factory.

Q. You are speaking of the furniture department ? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. What would be the average wages received in that business ? A. I do not know what the average wages would be.

Q. Is there any person in the room here who is employed in the same establishment with you? A. Yes.

Q. What is his name? A. His name is Fraser.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Are dwellings for workingmen plenty or scarce in St. Stephen? A. They are scarce over this way.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you any machinery in your establishment? A. We have not.

HIRAM MILL, Carpenter, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I have been employed for about nineteen months, since a year ago last August up to the 1st of April, in the manufacture of drain-pipe. I have not been working at it since the 1st of last April.

Q. What have you been working at since the 1st of April? A. I worked at the carpenter trade after we shut down at the drain-pipe business.

Q. What is the average rate of wages received by carpenters in St. Stephen—I mean during the summer months? A. I think about \$1.75 to \$2 a day.

Q. How many months in the year do they get employment? A. Do you mean carpenters.

Q. Yes? A. As a rule they commence work about this time of the year and work pretty steady till towards Christmas.

Q. Then they get about eight months' work in the year? A. Yes.

Q. Do those who usually work at the carpenter trade in the summer do anything else in the winter? A. Yes; with some contractors they get work in the winter, and others of them get work outside.

Q. Do you own a property of your own? A. Yes; a house.

Q. Is it situated on real estate or rented land? A. Real estate.

Q. About what sized lot would the house be on? A. Do you mean the land?

Q. Yes? A. 70 x 144.

Q. What would that piece of land cost in the vicinity of where you live? A. I think a fair estimate for the land would be \$200.

Q. What taxes would you have to pay on a property of that sort—what would be the assessment on that lot? A. I pay a tax of from \$8 to \$9.

Q. What kind of pipe do you work at? A. Carbonized stone drain-pipe.

Q. Do you get pretty steady employment all the year around at one thing or another? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever lived outside of this town? A. Yes.

Q. Where have you lived? A. I have lived on the St. John river, and in Fredericton.

Q. Have you ever lived in any part of the United States? A. No.

Q. How does the cost of living here compare with what it cost you to live on St. John river? A. It costs a little more to live here, but I think that the advantages of living here are a great deal better.

Q. Do you think they are correspondingly greater? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You think St. Stephen is a pretty good place to live? A. Yes; if I did not think it was a good place to live in I should not stay here.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is it pretty clear of drunkenness? A. I do not think it is any more clear of that than many more cities.

Q. Do you think it is as clear of drunkenness as the generality of cities? A. I think you will find enough drunkenness to contend with any where.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is the carpenter trade good in St. Stephen? A. It ain't too bad here.

Q. Are there many carpenters in this place? A. Yes; a good many.

Q. Are there any contractors here? A. Yes.

JOHN LIEPER, Fixer, St. Croix Cotton Mill, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. Fixer.

Q. Where do you work? A. In the cotton factory.

Q. How long have you been employed at that business? A. I have been in the cotton mill about two years.

Q. Where did you work before you went to the cotton mill? A. I worked in Scotland.

Q. What wages per day or per week do you receive in your department? A. About \$1.95 to \$2.10.

Q. Are there many hands employed in that department? A. Seventeen or eighteen.

Q. Are you the foreman? A. No.

Q. You are just working there? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any girls employed in that department? A. No.

Q. How many would there be in the mill? A. I could not say.

Q. Are there separate conveniences in your department for the men and the women? A. Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. What are the relations generally existing between employers and employes in your department? A. They seem to be pretty good just now.

Q. Have you any complaints to make of the usage you get in the factory? A. I have not, and I do not hear any of the men complain.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you any fault to find with the factory? A. No.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Have you got a family? A. I have got one child.

Q. Do you hire a tenement? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay for a tenement? A. Seven dollars and fifty cents.

Q. I suppose you worked at the same business in Scotland? A. Yes.

Q. About what did it cost you for the same sized tenement in Scotland? A. I could not say just now.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. You cannot remember what rent you paid in Scotland? A. I cannot.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Were you married in the old country? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Did you hire a house there? A. Yes; I paid for taxes and house £8 a year.

Q. I suppose the taxes would be £1 a year? A. About 18 shillings.

Q. Would you have the same conveniences there—the same number of rooms? A. No.

Q. About what would you pay for the same sized tenement in the old country—I mean, the same size as you have here? A. About £12.

Q. Fifty dollars a year? A. Yes.

Q. How do you find the cost of living here as compared with Scotland? A. Much higher.

Q. Is meat as high here as on the other side? A. Meat is cheaper here.

Q. Does flour cost you any more here? A. Yes.

Q. Does clothing cost more here? A. Yes.

Q. Do the other necessaries of life, with the exception of meat, cost more here than in Scotland? A. I think meat is cheaper here.

Q. How is fuel? A. Fuel and meat are both cheaper here.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. How do the wages here compare with the wages in Scotland? A. I think they are less here than in Scotland.

Q. Would the wages be less in Scotland than here, compared with the cost of living, so that a man would be as well off here as abroad? A. Wages are higher in the old country and living is cheaper; at least, they were at the time I was there.

Q. What would men employed at your branch of business receive in Scotland? A. \$13 to \$15 a week.

WILLIAM FRASER, Furniture-painter, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What business are you employed at? A. I work at furniture-painting.

Q. Are there many hands employed in that department with you? A. Myself and a lot of hands.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten.

Q. Do you work by the piece or by the day? A. Generally by the piece.

Q. What is the average rate of wages of men employed in the same line of work that you are working? A. In St. Stephen they get from \$12 to \$18 a week; I get that at piece-work.

Q. Have you ever worked in any other place besides St. Stephen? A. Yes; I worked in Calais.

Q. How do the wages in your trade compare in the two places? A. We get about the same wages in both places.

Q. What is the difference in the cost of living in the two places—is there any material difference? A. I do not know; I live on the other side.

Q. Do you live there because you prefer Calais? A. I live there because I own a place there.

Q. Are there any apprentices in your department? A. One.

Q. Is he learning the trade? A. No; he is ready for anything; we have one apprentice ready for anything that turns up.

Q. How are you paid? A. Weekly.

Q. Are you paid in cash? A. Yes.

Q. Are you required to take any orders on stores, or goods, in pay? A. We are not.

Q. Are you always paid in full? A. Sometimes we are and sometimes not; we seem to be satisfied with the way of paying.

Q. You get your money just as you require it? A. Yes.

T. M. BOYD, Wigwam-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I work at the wigwam business, making wigwam slippers.

Q. How long have you been employed at that business? A. About four months.

Q. Do you carry on the business yourself? A. No.

Q. Are you employed by somebody else? A. Yes.

Q. Are there many people employed at that business in this town? A. There is quite a number.

Q. How many hands are there in the shop you work in? A. There are ten besides myself.

Q. Are you the foreman in that department of work? A. No.

Q. You are just an average hand? A. Yes.

Q. What is the average wages of the hands in that business? A. Wigwam-makers are all paid by the piece.

Q. What wages do they generally make? A. Some men make from \$8 to \$9 a week.

Q. Are there any girls employed in your establishment? A. No.

Q. How many stories high is the building that you work in? A. Two stories; it is really a story-and-a-half building.

Q. Is the shop one open shop, or are there a number of departments in it? A. There are a number of departments.

Q. What chances are there for getting out of the building in case of a fire; do the doors open outward or inward? A. The doors open outward, and the chances for getting out, in case of a fire, are first-rate.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. What hours a day do you work? A. Ten.

Q. Do you work that for the six days in the week? A. Yes.

Q. Making sixty hours in the week? A. Yes.

Q. Do you get paid every Saturday? A. Yes; if we want the money.

Q. How often do you get paid? A. Every Saturday if we want to.

Q. What is the usual time of getting paid? A. Once a week.

Q. Do you get paid in full? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any orders or "truck system" attached to the concern you work in? A. None that I know of.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you get pretty steady work all the year round? A. I think the wigwam-makers do; there is a little lost time in the fall, for then the work slackens.

Q. Is the work all hand work? A. There is some machine work—sewing machines.

Q. But you do not use any steam-power? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is this shop where you work the only industry of the kind in St. Stephen? A. Yes.

Q. Have you worked any where else in an industry of the same kind? A. No.

Q. How long have you been at work in this industry? A. About four months.

N. E. SEDERQUEST, Cabinet-maker, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a cabinet-maker.

Q. How many hands are there employed in the shop where you work? A. Six.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. We work ten hours.

Q. Do you get constant employment the year around? A. Yes.

Q. About what are the average wages of cabinet-makers in the shop you work in? A. The average wages is about \$11 a week.

Q. Do they work by the piece or by the week? A. By the week; by the day.

Q. Are there any apprentices working in the shop you are in? A. There is one.

Q. About what age are boys when they go to work at cabinet-making? A. Generally about fourteen or sixteen years old, or along there.

Q. Do you know what wages those boys receive the first year? A. I do not.

Q. Are there many cabinet-makers in St. Stephen who are unable to get work?
A. No.

Q. Is it difficult to find cabinet-makers when the employers need them? A. It is quite difficult.

Q. Do you know how the wages of cabinet-makers in Calais compare with the wages in St. Stephen? A. The wages are better in St. Stephen.

Q. Have you ever worked in any other place than St. Stephen? A. Yes.

Q. Where? A. In Minnesota.

Q. How do the wages compare here with those of Minnesota? A. The proportion of wages is better here.

Q. Did it cost you more to live in Minnesota than here? A. It did.

Q. Do you think that many mechanics leave St. Stephen for the United States?
A. I think there is quite a number that do.

Q. Do you know any who have left here for there and come back again? A. Yes; I know a good many, and they were glad to get back, because they had tried the United States and failed to get work.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you work in the finishing shop or the factory? A. In the factory.

Q. What machinery have you in the factory? A. We have planers, circular-saws, and all the machinery that is needed to make furniture with.

Q. Have you jig-saws and band-saws? A. We have no band-saws.

Q. Have you had any accidents take place from the machinery? A. We have had some small accidents.

Q. What was the nature of them? A. Some boys tried to stop the buzz-planer with their fingers.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Did they succeed in stopping the planer? A. No.

Q. Were those boys set to work at the buzz-planer? A. Yes.

Q. Is it not rather a dangerous implement to set boys to work at? A. We have a finger board on the planer, and it is no trouble at all if they but keep their fingers in place.

Q. Is your machinery well protected so as to prevent accidents? A. It is well protected.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are you an American, or a native of this city? A. I am a native of this city.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How often do you get paid in your establishment? A. Once a week.

Q. Are you paid in cash? A. Yes.

Q. Do you have no "truck system" in your establishment? A. No.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Do you board? A. No.

Q. Where do you live? A. I live in the house with my mother; I do not have to pay any rent.

Q. Do you pay any taxes? A. No.

Q. Do they not tax good looking fellows like you down here? A. The fact is that I have not been around here for the last few years; I live in Calais.

Q. Do you work on this side of the river? A. Yes.

Q. Are there a great number who live on the other side that work on this side?
A. There are quite a number; I could not say how many.

Q. You do not know the number? A. I do not.

Q. Do you know of any persons living on this side and working on the other?
A. Yes.

Q. Would there be as many on one side as the other? A. Yes; I think so.

Q. Have you any complaints to make concerning your work? A. No; I have none to speak of.

JOSEPHUS MURCHIE, General Merchant, called and sworn.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Can you give us any comparison of prices of the staple articles of every-day life for the last ten years in St. Stephen? A. Yes; I think I can give you an idea of the prices; I have not had time as yet to examine my ledger and look up every item, but I think I can speak quite correctly from memory.

Q. Can you give us, as far as you can, an idea of the price of flour, wheat, pork, coffee, tea, molasses—in fact, everything that enters into the every-day consumption of a family? A. Flour, on an average, is full as low as it has been for some years past; I think it is much lower than it was ten years ago, and flour has never been lower than it is now; it was a little higher two days ago, but it has dropped since. I think we retailed flour for about \$8 seven or ten years ago—that was, for a high standard grade—and then it came down a little.

Q. How is flour retailing now? A. From \$5 to \$5.25 a barrel.

Q. Would that be for the best flour? A. It would be for the best grade.

Q. How is the price of pork now compared with ten years ago? A. Pork is quite high now; we are retailing pork here for 12 cents—that would be \$24 a barrel. Pork would be higher ten years ago on account of the American war, but the fluctuating of American money here would make a difference in the price.

Q. Do you say that pork is 12 cents a pound? A. Yes.

Q. Is that the retail price? A. Yes; we buy it at about \$21 to \$22 by the barrel and we retail it for about \$24.

Q. How do the prices of tea and coffee compare with those of ten years ago? A. Tea and coffee never were any cheaper than now.

Q. Can you tell us what good beef would be in price now as compared with ten years ago? A. There has not been much change in the price of beef here for the last ten years; it is higher this time of year than it is in the fall; we are retailing beef and cutting steak quite low. We get for steak 18 cents a pound—that would be for the best quality; that would be for sirloin cuts, while for round and other cuts we get 12 to 15 cents.

Q. How does sugar compare with its price in other years? A. Sugar is as low to-day as it has been for twelve or fifteen years; sugar goes up and down in price all the time, but it is lower to-day than it was ten years ago.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Is your sugar of a better grade than it was ten years ago? A. I should not hardly suppose so, for we have not been manufacturing sugar in Canada for more than six or seven years, and I do not think that it is possible for them in that time—I mean the refineries—to get their manufacture of sugar up to perfection. Prior to seven years ago we handled American sugar, and I do not know as there was much difference between it and the sugar we sell now. I never heard any complaints made of the American sugar we used to sell, and none from the Canadian that we sell now. I know we are giving, at the present time, 12 lbs. of granulated for \$1; last fall it was a little shade lower, and we then gave 13 lbs. for \$1; but sugar went up in price in the winter and has not come down to as low as it was last fall, so we are giving the 12 lbs. for \$1 now. It is lower now, though, than it was six months ago; about 6½ to 6½ cents is the price we are paying at wholesale. At the time that the Government put an additional duty on sugar we were only giving about 8 or 9 lbs. for \$1; that was before they began to make any large quantities in Canada. Before that time I think they made sugar in Montreal, but not in any large quantities. I think that sugar was refined in Montreal sixteen or twenty years ago, but there were no refineries down in the eastern part of Canada until six or seven years ago; since that time refineries have been started in Moncton and Halifax, and the trade of these Provinces is largely divided between those two refineries. Prior to the starting of these refineries we used to sell American sugar and we could not give more than 7 to 8 lbs. of granulated sugar for \$1, while now we are giving 12 lbs. for the last year

—perhaps the last four years. I know that last summer we often gave 13 lbs. for \$1, but that only lasted a little while, and then stopped. All things considered, I think I can say that we have averaged during the last five years to sell 12 lbs. of sugar for \$1; that would be for about one-third of the time during the last five or ten years.

Q. Is there anything like a combine among the wholesale buyers in St. Stephen?
A. We have nothing of that kind in this place. This is one of the best markets to sell in that I know of, and one of the best places to do business in the Province. We have no combinations here to contend against—in fact, we have no trouble at all.

Q. Do you all handle the same goods? A. Almost all of us do, but we have no difficulty amongst ourselves; there is no combination to fight against and no cut-rates between us.

Q. Is the trade of this place, taking a general view of it, in a healthy condition?
A. Very much so; there have been no failures of any great account here for the last six or seven years, that I know of, and that, I think, helps the place amazingly.

Q. Does the past year compare favorably as to the state of trade with other years? A. I think it is about the same—it is, as far as I know.

Q. Has the general trade of this place increased in volume during these late years?
A. I do not think it has in the town of St. Stephen, and for the reason that there have been a number of small stores started out through the country, in places where there were none before, and these have cut off from the trade of the town. Up in Milltown there are two or three quite large stores and two quite large ones also at Mill Stream, and they take up quite a large territory of country. There is one store at Dyer's and another at Duplisse's, and they have worked up quite a trade in those stores. The trade that is now done in those stores—the greater part of it—used formerly to be done in St. Stephen, so that the starting of those stores has to some extent lessened the trade of St. Stephen. I think that the starting of such industries as the cotton mill, and other kindred industries, such as Broad's, has helped the trade of St. Stephen very much, and I think if it had not been that those industries had been started we would have been in a bad state here, as far as trade was concerned. At that time lumber had dropped out to some extent, and we did not cut so much as formerly, consequently we did not have so much to ship; even if we had it it would not have paid, for the freights were low. At that time those other industries struck in and kind of supplied this place, so that I think business is better now for work people than it has been for years past. I think the people pay their bills full as well as ever, and perhaps better, for they have the ready money now, which was not always the case in the days of the lumber trade.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Can you tell us anything about the price of fuel? A. Fuel has not changed much in price here for the last ten years. Hard wood brings, on an average, \$4 a cord, and soft wood cut in the country—spruce, fir and pine—can be got, I suppose, for \$2.50 on an average, and finds a ready sale here.

Q. Do the working people of this place generally burn wood or coal? A. I should think wood and coal were about evenly divided.

Q. What is hard coal worth in St. Stephen? A. Hard coal is worth, on an average, about \$5.50 to \$6 a ton. You can get coal delivered on the wharf here for about \$5, and a good many take advantage of that price and buy their coal in the fall. The coal dealers get about \$5.50 for it, and in the middle of the winter it runs up to about \$6.

Q. Do you burn any soft coal? A. We burned considerable at our house for the last year; I suppose we burned three to four tons of soft coal during the year; it was Nova Scotia—Pictou—coal. We burn it in the open grate and in the sitting room.

Q. What is soft coal worth here? A. I think about \$4.50 a chaldron.

Q. Would that be Spring Hill coal? A. It is in large lumps, so I do not think it is Spring Hill coal.

Q. Can you tell us how the prices of clothing in St. Stephen compare with the prices in Calais? A. I do not think there can be much difference now. There used

to be considerable difference in some lines of clothing in Calais; it used to be cheaper in Calais than on this side. Take, for instance, cotton clothes, and you will find that for the last ten years, until perhaps within the last three years, the advantage lay in going over to Calais; consequently, a considerable quantity of those goods were bought by our people in Calais; but since the Government placed a duty of 30 or 40 per cent. on cotton, and since the cotton mill here and the one at Gibson's got started, this trade has been cut off to a great extent, and the people of this place are now using the cotton made by this cotton mill and other mills in different parts of Canada. This leads me to think that there is very little difference in the price of those articles in the two places. In the matter of woollen goods, such as common tweeds and heavy goods that are made of coarser wool, our prices are lower than those of Calais.

Q. How does the price of boots and shoes compare in the two places? A. Boots and shoes are about the same in both places. The St. John people come down here with their runners and sell some boots and shoes to our people, and sometimes some go to Calais.

Q. Can you tell us how the prices of clothing and boots and shoes compare with the prices of ten years ago? A. They are very much cheaper now; in women's wear they must be 30 per cent. lower—perhaps in some lines 40 to 50 per cent. lower. The boot and shoe manufacturers make quite a good pair of common ladies' shoes for about \$1.25 to \$1.50, which perhaps ten years ago could scarcely be found at all; at that time you could hardly get a pair of ladies' shoes for less than \$2.50 to \$2.75. All the best boot and shoes are much cheaper now than they were ten years ago.

Q. Are they not got up more stylish than they used to be? A. It used to be quite difficult to sell the Canadian make of boots and shoes here, because they were behind the fashion and our folks did not take kindly to them. Since that time the Canadian factories, have got hold of the latest American lasts, and now they bring here and sell to us about as stylish goods as the American folks do. I know that we do not have any difficulty in getting rid of their goods, for they are just as good as the American goods.

Q. Do you know what is the charge made by bakers for the two or four-pound loaf of bread? A. I do not know what is the weight of the ordinary loaf of bread, but it averages from 8 to 10 cents a loaf; the bakers sell it to the stores for from 7 to 8 cents and they retail it at 10 cents; I presume it is the two-pound loaf. Besides that, we make a brown-bread loaf here that sells very readily for the same sum. We have also here an addition in the matter of bread-making in the shape of two domestic bakeries, which are doing a great deal of baking and, I think, making considerable money. They were started two or three years ago and they serve dough-nuts, cookies, and all that sort of thing to their customers around town; it has grown to be quite a large industry, and as there is nothing of the kind in Calais they do quite a thriving business both in that town and here.

Q. What is a fair average price for potatoes in the fall? A. About \$1 a barrel.

Q. Is it ever any lower or higher? A. Some years potatoes will be down to 80 cents a barrel and some years up to \$1.25.

Q. What is the size of a barrel here? A. Two and a-half bushels. This year potatoes have been higher than usual, and they would average about \$1.80 since last December.

Q. Do you think there is much poverty among the working people of Calais and St. Stephen who are able to work? A. There is very little poverty among them.

Q. Do you think there is much drunkenness in this town? A. I do not think there is much drinking done in this place; I do not think there is a quarter part of what there was five or ten years ago.

Q. Do you think the improvement in this respect is due to the Scott Act, or is it due to the more temperate habits of the people, or to both? A. I should say it was due to both, perhaps more largely due to the Scott Act. We have been pretty persistent down here in enforcing the Scott Act and we have some very enthusiastic

workers down here; they are hard workers and they have the interest of the town at heart, and try to improve it in every way they can. I know that the young people here, very largely, take hold of the temperance work and are the foremost among our citizens in seeing that the Scott Act is enforced.

Q. I suppose liquor can be got by those who want it? A. Yes; but I think it is a hard job to get much. I know some people who have come in from the country, and who pretended to be sick, or wanted to make out they were sick, who found very hard work to get prescriptions to get liquor. I suppose there are places where you can get liquor, but I am not posted in them and would not know where to go.

Q. I suppose if you do not know, no body would? A. Well, I am not posted in the matter; I dare say there are places where liquor could be got.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is the state of education in this part of the country? A. The state of education here is ahead of any where else, I suppose, in the Dominion of Canada. I can show you, in regard to that matter, that my statement is quite correct. Last winter I went down to Eastport on business, and while there I met a gentleman who was anxious to get up to Calais, and as it was uncertain about the boat running at that time we did not wait for it, but drove up. I found him to be a very nice man and a very entertaining conversationalist. During the trip up we had quite a long conversation, and during the course of our conversation I found that he had been the chief superintendent of schools in Maine for a number of years. He is a man of vast experience and has travelled over a great many different countries, and has quite a knowledge of all the different school systems in vogue at the present day. In speaking about the matter of education he said that he was of the opinion that our educational system in New Brunswick was the best in the world.

Q. Did he say as to how the Maine and the New Brunswick school systems compared? A. He said that he thought our system was far ahead of that of Maine. I also know a man who had a position in western Ohio, who resides in Calais now, (I think he married his wife in Calais), and he said he had carefully looked over the different school systems, and had compared the different schools in the towns of New Brunswick, and one time when he was over to St. Stephen to a school examination he found that the schools of that place were ahead of any place he had ever seen or known of. Of course, I do not give you his exact words, but the meaning of them. I can tell you I was very much pleased and gratified to hear such things from an American, for while they may think well of our institutions they do not generally admit their superiority.

Q. Was he a man of large experience? A. Yes.

Mr. WALSH.—I am very glad to hear that.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are there any working people who deal with you? A. I have a great many customers among them.

Q. As a general thing do you find them prompt in their payments? A. Generally speaking, they are prompt.

Q. Then you have very little trouble with them in that way? A. Yes; I think we have little or no trouble. I think Mr. Clarke, one of the attorneys in this city, will tell you that he has not much work to do in that way, and we all know that he is ready to take up anything in his line of work.

Q. How does house rent in this place compare with what it was in former years? A. House rent is a little higher than it has been for some time.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is there a tendency on the part of the working people to have better houses than formerly? A. Yes; there is a water system here now, and the people are putting the water in their houses and are arranging for bath-rooms, water-closets and sanitary accommodations; and such houses as do not have these cannot be as easily rented as they used to be.

Q. Have you a knowledge of what amount of rent a tenement, such as an ordinary tradesman requires, would cost in this town? A. I think tenements in this town run all the way from \$60 to \$100 a year; rents are as low in St. Stephen as they are in other cities.

Q. Will you get fairly good accommodation for those rents? A. Yes; rents are perhaps 50 per cent. lower here than they would be in the States.

Q. What taxes do you pay here—how is the assessment of taxes regulated? A. The assessment here on an ordinary laboring man, who would not own any property, would be from \$7 to \$10. It is divided up into school, street, county and city tax; everything is included in the tax bill. A man who has a little home here, and who would be worth, perhaps, \$1,000, is taxed, everything included, not over from \$12 to \$15. The taxes here are not very heavy. There is one matter you have not spoken about, and that is the outlying parishes. I am engaged in the sale of agricultural implements, so I have had considerable business to do with the outside towns. I have been connected with the sale of agricultural implements for some years; I know I have dealt in horse-rakes, ploughs, mowers and all that kind of machines that are largely made in Ontario, and from the sales that I have made through the county and the way the people have paid me for the goods I know that to-day the farmers in this county are a great deal better off than they were ten years ago. I am out a great deal driving through the county—the upper part of the county—and I find the people all seemingly prosperous and contented. This county is quite narrow and there is not much difficulty travelling through it, so that I have been very often through it in the last ten years. I know that when I began to sell mowing machines, horse-rakes, steel ploughs and those iron zigzag harrows and hay-rakes, there were very few of the farmers in this county that could or would buy them.

Q. How is the furniture in the houses of the farmers now? A. The furniture and pictures in their houses are as equally advanced as the increase of agricultural implements on the farms. When I first went out in the country, a few years ago, the people on the farm did not have much of anything in their houses, but now I find that they have many luxuries in the country; some of them have organs—most of them—in their houses, and many other luxuries that are to be found in city houses. Most of them have birds and bird-cages, and an express waggon in which to drive to town with.

Q. Yet it is possible that if you were to ask those people how they were getting along they would say that times are hard? A. We find the farmers are much ahead of what they were in other years. They have not much ready money, and so we sold them those things on time, but they have paid all up for them now. I know that the farmers ten years ago were not so well off as they are now, for among a great many of those who live near the town some of their boys and girls are working in the cotton mills and at Broad's, bringing in money which assists the farmer in getting luxuries and needed tools for his farm work.

Q. Is there a tendency among the young portion of the farming community to go into the towns, or do they follow up farming? A. They drift into the towns generally, although in some sections of the county there are many young folks who are farming; I find that some of them are settling down and raising turnips and vegetables, for which they find a ready sale in the market of St. Stephen. It is quite a common thing now for the farmer here, just a common, ordinary farmer, who a few years ago would scarcely own a horse, to raise about 800 barrels of turnips in a year, and they would bring him in about \$700; those he can sell in the market in St. Stephen, and very often right at his own door, for there are very often half-a-dozen customers at his door ready to buy his produce. The most of the goods bought in this way go to the States; some of it goes to St. John, but the chief part of it goes across the line.

Q. Do you find any neglected or forsaken farms in your travel? A. They are very rare to be met with. I met a man yesterday outside of St. Andrews who had been out to British Columbia, and who had travelled around there about four years

looking for something to do, and he had come back to New Brunswick well satisfied to settle down and take his farm. The cases of people leaving their farms are very rare indeed; in fact, our people are coming back more than anything else, for everything here is cheaper than it was; I do not think there ever was more wealth in Charlotte county than at present.

Q. I am very glad to hear that, sir? A. Thank you. There is one matter I did not explain to you fully, and that is our meat business. In the fall of the year meat is very low, and beef can be bought from 4 to 5 cents a pound.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is that for the fore-quarter? A. Four cents would be the fore-quarter and 5 cents the hind. Then there is another matter I did not speak about, and that is butter, which we sell here for 20 cents a pound. We sell the best prints for 24 cents; we buy it for 22 cents and retail it for 24 cents, and we always find a ready market for it. Good, packed butter we sell at 20 cents. We send lots of eggs to Boston, for there is no duty on them, and the farmers bring them in here and we send them to the States; they bring in thousands and thousands of dozens, for which they have a ready sale. They also find a ready sale for their calf-skins and hides in this market, and always at good prices.

ST. GEORGE, N.B., 7th May, 1888.

ALEXANDER MILNE (Coutts, Milne & Co., Granite-stone Manufacturers), called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a manufacturer of stone—granite.

Q. How long have you been connected with that business? A. For about ten years, I guess.

Q. How many men have you employed in that industry? A. Do you want to know the number of men we employ?

Q. Yes? A. We have fifty-two men employed now.

Q. Is that just the number of men you have employed in the stone-cutting establishment, or in both it and the quarry, or in all your works? A. No; that is not the stone-cutters; it is the quarry and all.

Q. About how many men do you have working at the polishing? A. Fourteen.

Q. How many men have you engaged at the stone-cutting? A. Twenty-six.

Q. What is the average pay of a polisher? A. Their average pay would be \$1.12.

Q. A day? A. Yes; they earn from 75 cents up to \$1.50.

Q. What is the average pay of a stone-cutter? A. Two dollars a day.

Q. Do polishers and stone-cutters find employment all the year round? A. They principally work the most of the year; they lose about a month at Christmas times, when we shut down for a month; but as a general thing they work pretty steady all the year, except at this time.

Q. How often do you pay your hands? A. Once a month.

Q. Do you pay them in full? A. Yes.

Q. Do you have a store connected with your business? A. We have had a store this last year.

Q. Do you compel the persons who are in your employment to purchase goods from your store? A. No.

Q. Do you pay your hands in cash and let them deal at the store, or do you deduct what goods they may get at the store when you are settling with them? A. At the time of paying our hands we deduct their accounts from their wages. I think that every man has a pass-book, and whatever he gets is marked down on this book, and whatever he gets from the store is deducted from his wages when he is being paid.

Q. Do you give any preference in employment to a man who will purchase goods from your store to a man who will not do so? A. No; none whatever.

Q. Do you often hear of your men getting hurt in the quarries? A. No; very, very seldom.

Q. If a man is hurt in the quarries does the concern pay his doctor's bills? A. We have never had a man hurt in the quarries as yet. A man may get his fingers jammed, and in that way lose one or two days' work, but we never had a serious accident occur in the quarries.

Q. Do you know whether any of your men own houses of their own? A. Yes; they do.

Q. How many of them? A. Mostly all of the married men.

Q. Do most of the married men own houses of their own? A. Yes; some of them live in rented houses.

Q. Did those men purchase those houses while they were employed by you? A. Some of them did.

Q. Do you know whether any of your men have money invested in the savings bank or in the other banks? A. I could not tell you about that.

Q. What are the general habits of the men employed by you—are they sober or not? A. They are steady, sober men, generally.

Q. Did you ever work at your trade in any other country? A. I did work in other places.

Q. Where did you work? A. I have worked in the United States and I have worked in England.

Q. Could you state to the Commission what is the difference between the wages of the workingman in your business in the United States and this country? A. At the time I was working in the States there were good times there then, and of course the pay was pretty high, but that was fifteen years ago.

Q. What part of the United States did you work in? A. I worked in Maine.

Q. What is the usual pay given to stone-cutters in Maine? A. The usual pay that stone-cutters received at that time was \$4 a day. Since that time I have been in other States, I guess eleven or twelve years ago, and the pay then was \$3 a day; besides that, it was outside work, and a man could not make as much work as they could here.

Q. Why could not stone-cutters get steady employment there at that time? A. Because they had to do outside work, and on wet days they could not get employment.

Q. What is the number of hours a day that you work your men? A. They work ten hours per day.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What wages do the men earn who work in your quarries? A. They earn from \$1 to \$1.60 a day.

Q. Are they paid according to their skill? A. According to skill.

Q. How many months in the year do they get work in the quarries? A. About nine months.

Q. Do they have to stop work on wet days in the quarries in the summer? A. Yes.

Q. Could you form an estimate of the average days' work made by the men in your employ? A. Well, I should think they would average twenty days.

Q. Twenty days a month? A. Yes.

Q. During each of the nine months? A. Yes; I should think so.

Q. Do you supply your men with tools and powder? A. Yes; we supply everything.

Q. Then they have to pay for nothing out of their wages? A. They pay for nothing out of their wages.

Q. Do you take any apprentices? A. Yes.

Q. How long do they serve with you? A. Three years.

Q. Are they indentured? A. No; we have no indentured apprentices.

Q. You just make an agreement with them that they shall work with you for three years? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay those apprentices? A. We pay them 50 cents a day for the first year, 75 cents for the second, and \$1 for the third year.

Q. Do you take any special pains to teach those apprentices their trade? A. Yes.

Q. Do they, as a rule, remain with you for their three years? A. Yes.

Q. After their time is up do they remain with you, or do they go elsewhere to look for work? A. Some of them go away and some of them stay with us.

Q. Is there any great advantage in their leaving here and going to the quarries in Maine looking for work? A. They seem to think so.

Q. Do many of them that go to Maine return to this place? A. Yes.

Q. Do they seem to be glad to come back after trying both places—do they think that they can do as well here as they can there? Do they think that, all things considered, they can do as well in Canada as in Maine? A. Some of them come back, and after coming back they have got married and settled down here; some of them who have been away for years have done so.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How many men have you working in the quarry? A. We have eight.

Q. Where do you find a market for your output? A. Principally in Ontario.

Q. Do you send any of your stone to the Maritime Provinces at all? A. Not very much; occasionally we send a monument.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do you use any machinery? A. Yes.

Q. What kind of machines? A. Polishing machines; we use different kinds of polishing machines.

Q. Do you use any lathes? A. Yes.

Q. Do you use any saws? A. We use no saws, but we use lathes, column-cutters and Jenny Linds.

Q. Do the machine-men get better pay than the column-cutters? A. We have one man for the column-cutters.

Q. Is the machinery that you use dangerous? A. We have never had any accident happen from our machinery—not one.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How do you send your stone to Ontario—by rail or water? A. By rail.

Q. What competition do you mostly meet with in Ontario? A. We meet with the most competition from Scotch granite.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is it rough or manufactured? A. Manufactured. The freight charged on the railway to send out stone to Ontario is so high that their dealers claim that they can get Scotch granite sent across from the old country by way of Halifax on the Intercolonial Railway as cheap as they can get it sent from St. John.

Q. Does it go to Ontario by way of Halifax? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. With regard to that lathe of yours, I would ask: have you any means of keeping the dust away from the men who are working at it? A. We have no means.

Q. Is that dust unhealthy—is that occupation unhealthy? A. The stone-cutters have just as much dust around them.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. How far west do you send your products? A. We send them as far as Manitoba and British Columbia.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Does the Scotch granite come out to this country manufactured in the same way as you manufacture your stone? A. Yes; and it is pretty hard to compete with it.

Q. Why? A. Owing to the freight rates.

Q. Is there any duty on the Scotch granite? A. Yes; there is a duty on it.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. It comes out in ships to Halifax in ballast? A. Yes; but the dealers have special arrangements made on the Intercolonial Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway, by which they get it taken cheaper from Halifax to Ontario than they can from St. John.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. How does your granite compare with the Scotch granite? A. I guess it compares favorably with the Scotch granite.

Q. Does your stone take as high a polish as the Scotch granite? A. I do not think that it will take as high a polish as the Scotch.

Q. When the Short Line is finished can you compete with the Scotch granite? A. I think that we could then.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Then you produce your granite as cheaply as they can in Scotland, outside of the freight rates? A. No; we cannot.

Q. What is the great difference? A. We pay higher wages to our men; labor is higher here than it is in Scotland.

Q. Have you ever worked in Scotland? A. Yes.

Q. What is the usual pay that stone-cutters receive in Scotland? A. In Scotland stone-cutters get from 25 to 30 shillings a week.

Q. Were you a married man when you were in Scotland? A. No; that was years ago, and I was a boy then.

Q. Do you know what was the rate of rents for houses in Scotland? A. I know very little about rents in Scotland, but I do know that rents are very high in the cities in that country, but their labor is very cheap, for their polishers only get 2 shillings a day, while the men here are paid \$1.25 for the same work.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Then the only trouble you have in competing with the Scotch granite in Ontario is the freight rates on the railways? A. The freight rates—yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Did you ever send any communication to the Government complaining about this matter? A. We never did so.

Q. Do you not think it is a part of your duty to do so? A. Yes; if we could all combine together and send up, I should think we ought to do it.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. I suppose that the duty on the other granite is enough to protect you? A. Well, a little more duty on the article sent from Scotland would not hurt us; so far as the United States is concerned, we can compete with them.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You say that you send granite to British Columbia? A. Yes; we do.

Q. Do you find any competition from the Scotch granite in British Columbia? A. We have not sent any great amount of stone to British Columbia—only a few hundred dollars' worth.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you ship any of your goods to the United States? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Have you anything else to tell the Commission that has not been brought out by the questions? A. Yes; we pay a pretty high duty on pean hammers.

Q. Are they not made in this country? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Where is your machinery principally made for this business? A. In Worcester.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Do you send abroad for anything else beside the pean hammers? A. Yes; the steel points that we use for cutting. We get that either from the old country or the States.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Do you ship your goods by rail to British Columbia? A. By rail.

Q. Can you get a through rate from St. John there? A. Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q. Do you know that the Intercolonial Railway rates discriminate in favor of the Scotch granite? A. I do not know that they do, but a customer wrote to us from Toronto saying that he could get Scotch monuments by way of Halifax cheaper than we could send them from St. John.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Do you know if any of the tools that you use are made in any part of Canada? A. I never saw any of them made here.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Are not some of the tools that you use made in Galt, Ontario? A. No.

Q. Are not the pean hammers made there? A. No; we have never seen any of them made of Canadian steel.

Q. Does not Broad, of St. Stephen, make those hammers? A. I think he is making them, but if he is doing so he is not making them out of Canadian steel.

Q. Is there not only one steel concern in Canada? A. Yes; but it is a pretty difficult matter to make those hammers, and make them good enough to stand.

Q. Where are those hammers made now? A. Some of them are made in England and some in Jersey City.

Q. Which do you prefer to use? A. I prefer the Jersey City pean hammer.

Q. Can you see any reason why they should not be made here? A. I do not see any reason.

Q. You would not object to use them if they were made here? A. I would sooner use them, because it would be easier to get them, and I would save the duty.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q. What do you consider would be the value of any of the houses owned by any one of your workmen? A. About \$600 or \$700.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. In the places where you worked in the United States were the employes in the habit of purchasing goods from the employers? A. Yes.

Q. Would you have any objections to telling us what per cent. of the wages earned by your men are left in the shop? A. I do not know that I could tell you that; some of them leave considerable with us, and some do not leave any money at all with us.

Q. What would be a fair average? A. May be 20 per cent.

Q. Have you got any single men working for you? A. Yes; a great many.

Q. The majority of your men, I presume, are married men—that is, those who deal with you in the store? A. Yes; the single men do not take anything out of the store.

Q. Are there any of the married men who do not deal with you? A. Yes; some of them do not deal with us; some of them only get a half-a-pound of tobacco from us in a month.

Q. What is the duty on pean hammers? A. Thirty-five per cent.

MICHAEL COFFEE (Epps, Dodds & Co.), called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am engaged in the granite business, and I am a member of the firm of Epps, Dodds & Co.

Q. How many men do you employ? A. Thirty-seven at the present time.

Q. Do you operate in the quarry as well as polish granite? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do you pay your men? A. From \$1.50 to \$2 a day.

Q. Did you hear the estimate made by the last witness, Mr. Milne, as to the number of days the men make in a month? A. I did.

Q. How many men have you employed in the quarry? A. Nine.

Q. Two dollars a day would be the pay for the foreman? A. Yes; there are two boys with us, who get from 60 to 75 cents a day, or something like that.

Q. Do you think that Mr. Milne's estimate is a fair estimate of the number of days made by your men in a month? A. Some seasons we make more than we do others; I would not be prepared to say what would be the average, though I think what Mr. Milne says would be a fair average.

Q. What wages do you pay to stone-cutters? We pay to stone-cutters working by the day \$2.

Q. Do any of the stone-cutters work by the piece? A. Yes.

Q. Do they earn more or less than those who are working by the day? A. Their wages will vary according to their ability; some of them earn \$60 a month, and some only \$38 or \$39.

Q. Do they get constant employment the year round? A. They do, but there is a slack season in the winter time, generally, that lasts four or five weeks, when some of them are out of work.

Q. Then, except for that time, they get pretty constant employment? A. They do.

Q. That is, if they are willing to work? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do you pay polishers? A. The polishers are paid from \$1.50 to \$2.25 for men, and the boys, when they go to learn their trade, get 50 cents a day, and their wages are raised according as they learn the trade.

Q. You say some of them earn 50 cents a day? A. Yes; that is the wages of the boys.

Q. Do those boys serve three years at the business? A. Not exactly; they generally stay the first month for 50 cents, and then their pay is raised to 75 cents; this they receive till about the end of the fourth month, and they generally command about \$1 a day. We have men working for us at polishing for \$1.25 and \$1.50 a day.

Q. Do any of your hands own houses? A. Well, the married men that work for us do.

Q. Do you know whether any of your men have invested money in the savings bank, or otherwise? A. I could not tell you.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. Once a month.

Q. Do they frequently come to you asking for advances during the period between pay-days? A. Very seldom; the married men never come to us, I may say, for advances, but sometimes the young fellows that work with us, when there is an excursion or something like that, come to us and ask for money.

Q. As a rule, do you think that the married men have enough money to carry them from one pay-day to another? A. Yes; I am satisfied they have.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Have the men ever asked to be paid more than once a month? A. They never have.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Has there ever been any labor difficulties among the employers and the men in stone-work in quarries here? A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Have you ever had any strikes? A. No strikes.

Q. Can you corroborate the testimony of the last witness, Mr. Milne, as to the sobriety and habits of the men generally? A. Yes; I can.

Q. Has there been any improvement of late years in that respect, or have they always been temperate, within your recollection? A. The majority of the men have always been temperate, and we have had no good reason to find fault with the intemperance of our men at all.

Q. Are the boys with you indentured? A. Yes; our apprentices are all indentured—that is, all that have remained with us after four months.

Q. How long do these apprentices remain with you? A. Three years.

Q. Do they stay with you till their time is up? A. Yes; we bind ourselves to give them employment as well as to teach them the trade.

Q. After their time is out and they have learned their trade do they generally remain with you? A. They generally stay with us, as a rule.

Q. Do they do so as a general rule? A. Out of five apprentices that were with us last year and who finished their time then, four remain with us.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long have you been in this business? A. Five years.

Q. During all that time have you been connected with the firm of Epps, Dodds & Co.? A. I have.

Q. Was that concern in existence before you came into the business? A. It was not.

Q. Then it was a new firm? A. Yes.

Q. Do you keep any store in connection with your business? A. No.

Q. And you do no "truck system"? A. No.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Where do you find a market for your product? A. Chiefly in Ontario; two-thirds of our goods go there.

Q. Can you sell as cheap as the Ontario men, or do you furnish a better class of goods? A. There are scarcely any manufacturers of our kind of goods in Ontario; we generally supply the wholesale dealers as well as the retail.

Q. Do you know that there is a large factory of that kind in Ottawa? A. We do not supply anything at Ottawa, but I think we can compete with them, on account of their quarry; I cannot say for certain about that.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Have you found that the railway freights were against you? A. Yes; we have found the freights are against us; last fall the freights were raised from 33 to 64 cents.

Q. Was that a hundred weight? A. Yes; and they were lowered to 36 cents this spring.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How many hands did you employ three years ago? A. I cannot tell you the exact number; I should think we employed about twenty or twenty-five; I would not be certain about it, though.

Q. Have you any idea of what amount your output was that year? A. I could not tell you now.

Q. Can you tell us what your output was the last year? A. Last year I think it amounted to somewhere near \$30,000.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you find some difficulty in getting points and hammers suitable for your purpose? A. We do not use any Canadian points for hammers; our steel points are imported from England, and we get our hammers from the States.

Q. Did you ever try any hammers of Canadian make? A. We have tried Mr. Broad's pean hammers and we found they would not work.

Q. What was the objection to them? A. We found they were too soft; I do not know whether you understand what I mean by that.

Q. I understand you? A. I mean that they were too soft to stand the strain of our work.

Q. Have you any machinery in your factory? A. We have polishing machinery.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you use any steam power? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you use any polishing lathes? Yes.

Q. Is your machinery protected from accidents taking place—have you had any accidents take place from your machinery? A. We have had no accidents so far—that is, serious accidents.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. When you pay your men up are they paid up to the day they receive their money, or are they paid up to the last of the month? A. They are paid on the tenth day of the month, up to the end of the month previous, so that there are ten days that they are not paid for on pay-day. Those ten days' pay they get on the next month's pay-day.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. So that there are ten days' pay kept back from them every month? A. Yes.

THOMAS COLEMAN, Manufacturer of Granite, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Did you hear the evidence given by Mr. Coffee? A. Yes.

Q. Can you corroborate what he states? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything to add to the statement made by him? A. No.

Q. Have you any grievances to complain of? A. Nothing at all, except the freights on the Intercolonial Railway, as Mr. Coffee stated; they charge us too much freight on that line of railway.

Q. How often do you pay your men? A. We do not employ many men now; when we do, we pay them once a month.

Q. How long is it since you have started business? A. A year.

Q. Have you a quarry? A. No; we have given up our quarry; we found our business was not large enough to keep up our quarry.

Q. Do you purchase the stone as you want it? A. Yes; we purchase it from another firm.

NICHOLAS MEATING (Tate, Meating & Co., Granite Works), called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Will you please state to the Commission what is your business? A. I take charge of the polishing for our firm.

Q. Are you a member of the firm of Epps, Dodds & Co.? A. No; I am a member of the firm of Tait, Meating & Co.

Q. How long have you been in business? A. Three years.

Q. How many men do you employ? A. Twenty-one.

Q. How many of them are polishers? A. Five.

Q. How many of them are stone-cutters? A. There are nine stone-cutters.

Q. Have you a blacksmith? A. We have a couple of blacksmiths.

Q. Do you have a quarry of your own? A. We have a quarry.

Q. And do you keep the balance of your men in the quarry? A. Yes.

- Q. What do you pay your polishers a day? A. We pay them from \$1 to \$1.35.
- Q. Have you any working at less than \$1 a day? A. No.
- Q. What do you pay your stone-cutters per day? A. We pay them \$2 in one department.
- Q. Do they work piece-work? A. Yes.
- Q. What is the average pay that those men make? A. I suppose they will make, take them month in and month out, \$2.25; sometimes they go over that and sometimes they make less.
- Q. What do you pay your quarrymen? A. \$1.25, \$1.40 and \$1.50 a day.
- Q. Have you a foreman in the quarry, or does one of the partners do that work? A. One of the partners looks after the quarry.
- Q. You mean, one of the partners takes charge of the quarry? A. Yes.
- Q. How often do you pay your men? A. We pay them monthly.
- Q. Do you pay them up to the day they draw their money? A. No; we pay them on the 15th of the month up to the end of the month previous. As a rule, we pay them the first Saturday after the 10th of the month; we always try to pay by the 10th, or as soon after as possible, but sometimes it goes a little over and sometimes it falls a little under; we generally pay somewhere about the 15th.
- Q. Do you pay the hands in full? A. Yes—that is, we keep fifteen days or so back.
- Q. Do you have any store in connection with your business? A. No.
- Q. Do you have anything to do with the "truck system"? A. No.
- Q. You never keep back anything from the men but those fifteen days? A. Nothing else.
- Q. Do you take any apprentices on to learn the business? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you any now? A. Five.
- Q. What do you pay those apprentices? A. 50 cents the first year, 75 cents the second, and \$1 a day the third year.
- Q. Have you any indentures drawn up? A. No.
- Q. How do you engage them—verbally? A. Yes; that is all we have done, so far.
- Q. Have you ever found any difficulty in keeping those boys after their time is out? A. No.
- Q. Do the apprentices, as a rule, stay with you after they have served their time? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you any now with you who are out of their time? A. We have one who is out of his time.
- Q. Is he inclined to stop with you? A. Yes.
- Q. What pay does he receive now? A. Two dollars a day.
- Q. After being with you three years? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you inquire whether those boys who come to learn their trade with you can read or write; or is it necessary to ask them if they can read or write? A. No; it is not necessary to do so, for we know that they can all read and write.
- Q. What are the general habits of the men working with you—are they sober? A. Well, yes; middling sober; we can find no fault with them. Once in a while some of them break out and go on a time. Some of them are sober men and some of them take a little to drink.
- Q. Do you think that if your men were paid oftener they would be able to get their goods cheaper than they do now? A. I do not know whether it would be any advantage to them to be paid oftener or not. I know they have never asked for it, and they seem to be satisfied with the way they are paid.
- Q. Monthly payment is the way business is generally done here, I suppose? A. Yes; I do not think that even if they got paid oftener they could buy their goods any cheaper.
- Q. Have you ever had any strikes with the men in your business? A. We have never had any strikes.
- Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles with your men? A. No.

Q. Have you any complaint to make with regard to matters that might prove detrimental to your business? A. I do not know of anything much, unless it is the freight rates on the Intercolonial Railway. We have a little complaint to make with regard to them, because last fall I think they used us very bad—at least, I consider they used us very bad.

Q. Will you just state your grievance in regard to that matter? A. I think they are charging too much for freight right through. Two years ago last fall they raised the rate up almost double what it formerly was to Toronto, and in consequence of this raise we lost quite a lot of orders. Last fall their rates did us a great damage and we had to hold over quite a lot of work that should have gone there; we had to hold it over all the winter, and we lost considerable money doing so.

Q. Did you ever make a report of this matter to the Government? A. No; we have presented the matter to the officials of the railroad, though.

Q. Do you not think it would be advisable for all the people in St. George who are connected with this granite business to place a memorandum before the Government, stating the exact nature of the grievance and make complaint in person? A. I do not know how that would work; I could not say whether it would be of any advantage to us to make such a complaint.

Q. Would it not make a place where you could settle your grievances? A. I do not know; there are a good many things that the Government could do to help us out that they do the other way; they charge a duty on a good deal of the stuff we have to use and have to import from the States.

Q. What sort of goods do you have to get from the States? A. We have to get our glass and putty from the States.

Q. Are not any of those goods made in Canada? A. I do not know of any person who makes the goods we want.

Q. Have you ever worked outside of St. George? A. Yes.

Q. At stone-cutting? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any men in your employ who own houses of their own? A. No; I do not think so.

Q. Are the men generally prosperous and happy? A. Fairly so.

Q. Do you think that some of them have at least a little means saved up? A. I do not know about that; I think that if they have as hard a time to get along as the bosses they have not got much money laid by.

Q. Do you think that the men in your employ are better off to day than they were three or five years ago? A. I do not know as I could say they are, for I do not know as they are.

Q. Do you think there is more prosperity in St. George, generally speaking, than there was three years ago? A. I do not know as there is.

Q. Is the town going back, or is it remaining at a standstill? A. I should judge it was about the same; I could not say, though, as it is as far back as it was six years ago.

Q. Has not the granite business increased? A. I do not know as it has.

Q. Do you not do more business than you did five years ago? A. We only commenced business three years ago, and we did little or nothing to speak of then.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. In the event of any of your men wanting to leave, from any cause whatever, would they have any difficulty in receiving their money? A. They never have, so far.

Q. Could they get it at any time? A. They could, if they asked for it; I do not know as they would get their whole pay.

Q. In the event of their leaving your employ could they get their money? A. Then they could get it at any time. I think another thing that the Government might do is to look out a little more sharply for some matters than they do. They look out sharp enough for some things we have to use in our manufacture of granite, such as putty, steel and articles like that, which we have to get from

the United States and pay duty on; they look sharp enough on the duty on that, but there are some things that they seem to be very loose about, such as, for instance, the Scotch granite that comes into Canada from the old country. This Scotch granite is brought from the old country all the way to Toronto at a less cost than we can manufacture and send it there. This is done by the Scotch manufacturers being allowed to value their goods too low.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you think that the duty or the amount that they are allowed to value the goods at in the invoice for duty is too low? A. I do not think that they can manufacture granite any cheaper in Scotland than we do here, but I think that the duty and freight might be levied in a little different manner to what it is levied.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Why do you not make a representation of this matter to the Government? A. I do not know that it is any use for us to do so.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. You have a representative in Parliament from this county? A. Yes.

Q. Could you not represent the matter to him and let him attend to it? A. We might do so.

ALEXANDER TAYLOR, Manufacturer of Granite, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What business are you engaged in? A. I am engaged in the manufacture of red granite.

Q. How long have you been manufacturing red granite? A. I have been at work at the business forty-four years.

Q. Have you been in business in this town for forty-four years? A. I have been here about thirteen or fourteen years.

Q. How many men do you employ? A. About thirty.

Q. How many polishers do you employ? A. I have about a dozen polishers.

Q. How many stone-cutters? A. About the same number as polishers.

Q. Do you run a quarry? A. Yes.

Q. How many men do you employ in the quarry? A. About six.

Q. What do you pay your polishers a day? A. From 50 cents up to \$1.50.

Q. What do you pay your stone-cutters? A. Do you mean journeymen or apprentices?

Q. Journeymen? A. From \$1.50 to \$2.50 a day.

Q. Have you any who are working for you by the piece? A. Yes.

Q. What is the average pay made by a journeyman stone-cutter who is a good, first-class hand? A. Sometimes they make \$3 or \$4 a day; it is all according to the job they have.

Q. What would a good stone-cutter average here the year round? A. A good stone-cutter in St. George should average about \$600 a year.

Q. How many months in the year should a stone-cutter work to earn that amount of money? A. I should say about ten months.

Q. Do you take any apprentices? A. Yes.

Q. How do you take them on? A. We engage them for three years.

Q. How much do you pay them? A. 50 cents for the first, 75 for the second and \$1 a day for the third year.

Q. Do you ever place them under indenture? A. I have never had any indentured apprentices yet.

Q. Do any of your men own houses of their own? A. I guess there are a few of them who do.

Q. Do you know of any of them directly yourself? A. I could hardly mention

any by name right here, but I think there are two or three of our men who own houses in this neighborhood.

Q. Do you know if any of your men have money saved up in any other way besides owning houses? A. I could not tell anything about that.

Q. What are the general habits of your men—are they sober, steady and industrious? A. My men are generally sober men, and industrious, too; the most of them are pretty steady.

Q. How often do you pay your men? A. Once a month.

Q. Do you pay them right up to the date of pay-day? A. No; we keep from ten to twenty days off the men.

Q. You keep ten to twenty days' pay off them? A. Yes.

Q. In the event of a man leaving your employ without filling out the time till pay-day does he get paid up to the day of leaving, or would he have to wait for his money till next pay-day? A. He would have to wait till next pay-day.

Q. Have you ever worked in the United States? A. I have worked in the United States.

Q. Did you work there by the day or by the piece? A. When I worked in the States I worked by the piece.

Q. How much do stone-cutters get there? A. I could make, working by the piece there, when I was there, \$10 a day; and by the day, \$4 to \$5.

Q. What do the men average there now? A. They average \$3 to \$3.50.

Q. Did you ever work in Scotland? A. Yes.

Q. What are the average wages made by good stone-cutters in Scotland? A. When I was there the average wages were 26 shillings.

Q. Was that a day? A. No; a week; 26 shillings a week was the regular pay.

Q. Were you married while in Scotland? A. Yes.

Q. Did you keep house there? A. Yes.

Q. How does the cost of living compare there with the cost of living here? A. We could live there on a little less than half what it costs here.

Q. Would you have as many rooms in your house there as in this country? A. We would have much the same—perhaps a little different.

Q. Have you any complaints or grievances to make? A. There are a great many grievances in our trade around here; in the first place the freight on our goods to Canada is the principal grievance we have to make. The Intercolonial Railway charges us an enormous freight on our goods from St. John to Montreal and Toronto; our customers find that they get stones out from Glasgow and take them all the way to Toronto cheaper than we can send them from here to there; I do not know how this can be, for it is a shorter route from here to Toronto than it is from Glasgow there; I know this is a great drawback to us.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are the high rates caused by the delay on the road? A. No; the railways charge high rates on our goods, anyhow.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you ever made any complaints in reference to this matter? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever get any satisfaction from the Government about it? A. No; we made our complaints to the railway officials.

Q. Do you think that all the apprentice boys who are employed by you can either read or write? A. I do not think there is one with us that cannot read or write.

Q. Have you been in business here for thirteen years? A. Yes; all of thirteen years.

Q. Has your business increased within the last three or five years? A. It has increased a great deal.

Q. What do you think is the volume of your business? A. About \$18,000 a year; I am not very willing to state that, because I have seen statements made by parties in the same business far above that amount, but I know they are exaggerated; I do not believe in any exaggeration.

By Mr. CLARKE.—

Q. You want to tell the truth? A. I want to tell nothing but the plain truth.

Q. If this Scotch granite was ruled out of the market could you supply the market in Canada? A. I do not think there would be any difficulty in our doing so; we have facilities in our factories to manufacture all descriptions of granite work; I have all the machinery placed in my establishment that I can get into it, and I would place more in it if we had a full and free chance of supplying the Canadian market.

Q. Have you ever asked for a duty to be placed upon Scotch granite coming into this country? A. I have never asked for anything of that kind to be done.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is there any other information that you wish to give the Government or Commission that has not been brought out by the questions asked? A. I do not know of any other information that I have to give them.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. In the event of your making a saving in the reduction of railway freights, and getting an increased Customs duty on Scotch granite, would you raise the wages of your workmen? A. Well, that would be of no benefit to us to do so.

Q. Then the man who is working for you would not receive any benefit from the increased profit you would make on the lowering of the railway charges or the enlarged market you would receive if duties were placed on Scotch material? A. If there is any benefit to be gained from those things I think we should receive it ourselves.

Q. When you were working as a journeyman yourself did you have to wait for your money after you had earned it? A. Yes; I waited once three months for my money from the United States Government.

Q. But you were doing something else in the mean time? A. Yes; I was working all the time.

Q. If you discharge one of your men who is working six days with you would he have to wait sixty days for his money? A. In that case I would pay him right up.

Q. I understand you to say that if a man were dismissed he would have to wait till the next pay-day for his money? No; I said if he left; if he were dismissed I would pay him right up.

Q. But if he were dismissed by you you would pay him? A. I would.

CHARLES JOHNSON, Manufacturer of Granite, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am in the stone business—the red granite.

Q. Do you carry on business for yourself? A. Yes.

Q. What firm do you represent? A. Milne, Coutts & Co.

Q. How long have you been connected with Milne, Coutts & Co.? A. About three years.

Q. How long have they been in the business? A. Five years.

Q. How many men do you employ? A. I think we employ about fifty men.

Q. How many of your men are there who are polishers? A. I think I put them down on the list as being fourteen, and on looking over the list I find we have fifty-two men altogether.

Q. How many of those are stone-cutters? A. Twenty-six, counting apprentices and all.

Q. How many men do you have to work in the quarry? A. We have eight just now.

Q. About what is the usual pay given to polishers? A. They range from 75 cents a day to \$1.75; some of them get \$1.25, some \$1.50 and some \$1.75.

Q. What do you pay stone-cutters a day? A. On day-work they will average \$2 and \$2.25 a day.

Q. What do you give what you call good stone-cutters working by the day? A. Two dollars.

Q. And what do you give to men working piece-work? A. They make all the way from \$35 to \$75 a month; they will average \$50 to \$60 a month; some of them will make 50 per cent. more one month than another.

Q. What is the average pay of a good stone-cutter? A. I should say a good stone-cutter would make \$2 a day straight through by the piece.

Q. But that would only be for the time he would work? A. Yes.

Q. How many months a year do you work? A. We average about eleven months; I think we were shut down about four weeks last winter; some winters we only shut down two weeks.

Q. But you think a good stone-cutter would average \$2 a day for eleven months in the year? A. I think he would.

Q. What do you pay your apprentices? A. We pay them 50 cents a day for the first year, 75 cents the second and \$1 a day the third year.

Q. Have you any journeymen working with you now who served their time as apprentices with you? A. There is only one now in the shop that has learned his trade with us; I have only been in the concern three years.

Q. How much does he get now? A. I do not know; I think he gets 40 cents a foot.

Q. Have you a store? A. Yes.

Q. Do you supply your men with orders on the store? A. Yes; if they want them; we keep the store for our own convenience.

Q. Do you give any preference of work to the men who would deal in the store? A. No; some of the hands do not get anything out of the store; we pay them once a month, and they do not get anything in the store from one month's end to another.

Q. Do you pay your men in full on pay-day? A. Yes; we pay on the 15th of the month for the month preceding, up to the end of the month before pay-day; we pay about the 15th of the month.

Q. What wages do your quarrymen get? A. As a rule, they get from \$1 to \$1.50 and \$1.60 a day; I think they average \$1.50 a day.

Q. Have you ever had any strikes in your concern? A. We have never had any strikes.

Q. Do your men seem perfectly satisfied? A. I never heard anything to the contrary.

Q. Have you any grievances to complain about? A. Yes; we have one grievance, and that is with reference to the freight rates on the Intercolonial Railway; they discriminate against us in the matter of carrying Scotch granite.

Q. Have you ever made any representation to any body about this matter? A. We have made reference about this freight matter to the railway officers.

Q. Do you know where the real trouble lies? A. With the railways; we have complained to both the Intercolonial Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway about the matter.

Q. What are the habits of your men—are they sober, as a rule? A. I am of the opinion that they are.

Q. Do you find the men always steady and sober? A. Yes.

Q. Do any of the men employed by you own houses of their own? A. Several of them do.

Q. Did they make the money to pay for the houses while in the employ of Milne, Coutts & Co.? A. They did.

Q. Do you know whether there are any workmen in your employ who have saved money? A. I know three of our men just now who have bought property of their own and built houses for themselves; I cannot say how many more there are who may have saved money.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do you use machinery in your establishment? A. Yes; we use a great deal of machinery.

Q. What power do you have? A. Water.

Q. Is your machinery well protected? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had any accidents happen from the machinery? A. There have never been any accidents by machinery in our establishment, to my knowing, since we commenced business.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you charge your workmen the same as any body else for the goods they buy in the store? A. We charge the workmen the same price as we charge ourselves; there are five of us in the firm, and a book-keeper, and we charge the members of the firm, book-keeper, and the workmen all the same price for goods.

Q. What is the name of your firm? A. Milne, Coutts & Co.

Q. How long have they been in business? A. I could not say; about eight or nine years.

Q. Are all the employers of labor in this community sober men? A. Did you say employers?

Q. Yes—employers? A. I think they are all sober, without any exception. •

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. How do you know that the railway freights from this town to Toronto are such on granite that you cannot compete with the Scotch material? A. From a letter we got last December from Mr. Gullett, in Toronto. I think I have the letter in my pocket now (producing letter); in this letter Mr. Gullett said that he had got two lots of granite from Glasgow at a cost of 27s. 6d., and that they came through by way of Halifax, and at the same time we were paying 65 cents from here to Toronto.

Q. Were his goods delivered in Toronto? A. Yes; delivered in Toronto by way of Halifax.

Q. Would that be freight and duty that he means? A. No; freight alone.

Q. You pay freight by the hundred pounds, I suppose? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay 39 cents by the ton? A. We have paid that.

Q. And they pay 27s. 6d. from Glasgow? A. Yes; and we all combined together in the matter, and the Government brought the rate down to 36 cents.

Q. Have you ever represented this matter to your member in Parliament? A. We have talked about it, but I do not think we have represented the matter in Parliament. I will now read you a portion of Mr. Gullett's letter. He is a sculptor in Toronto, and his place is on the corner of Church and Lombard streets. He says:—"You should get Mr. Chipman to interview the Minister of Railways with regard to the freight rates from St. John to Toronto, or Ontario, in fact. They raised the rate from 33 to 60 cents a hundred pounds since the last of October, while on two lots that I received from Glasgow since that date *via* Halifax we got a rate, including ocean charges, of 27s. 6d. per ton through to Toronto." This letter was written on 28th December, 1887.

Q. Are there any other grievances that you have to complain of? A. They are very heavy duties that we are paying on hammers and steel; on the hammers we pay 35 per cent., and on the steel 12½ per cent.

Q. Are those duties excessive in your business? A. They are against us.

Q. Why is the duty against you? Can you not get steel in this country? A. We cannot get chilled steel here.

Q. Can you not get chilled iron here? A. We can get it, but it is not as good as the American. There is one thing I should like to speak about. We have been told the Scotch granite was sent out to Canada without specifying its dimensions. When we send granite into the United States we have to send a description of it, and the size of each monument, as a check for its valuation at the Customs, but in

Scotch granite coming into Canada there is nothing of the kind required. On pean hammer steel the duty is 35 per cent. In 1886 it was 30 per cent.; other grades of steel the duty is 12½ per cent.; putty and powder the duty is 20 per cent.; chilled iron the duty is 20 per cent. People who handle our stone in Upper Canada tell us that Scotch granite is brought into Canada with no valuation placed upon it, and there is no check kept as to its importation. This, we hold, is discriminating against us.

JAMES DODDS (Epps, Dodds & Co., Manufacturers of Granite), called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Did you hear the evidence given by Mr. Coffee? A. Yes.

Q. What business are you engaged in? A. I am in the granite business; I am one of the firm of Epps, Dodds & Co.

Q. How long have you been connected with the firm of Epps, Dodds & Co.? A. I think we are in business six years.

Q. Are you one of the original partners of the concern? A. Yes.

Q. How many men do you employ? A. I think we have in our employ now thirty-seven—that is, if my memory serves me right.

Q. How many polishers have you? A. Seven.

Q. How many stone-cutters? A. I think we have fourteen.

Q. What do you pay your polishers a day? A. From \$1.50 down to 50 cents.

Q. What do you pay the men who are working at stone-cutting? A. The men we have working for us at stone-cutting we are paying \$2.25 a day.

Q. What do the men who work at piece-work earn? A. Do you mean on the average?

Q. Yes? A. From \$35 to \$60 a month.

Q. Do they have steady employment right straight along? A. Yes; our stone-cutters for the last two years have not loafed more than a couple of months; the last year we worked eleven months out of the year.

Q. Do you take any apprentices? A. Yes.

Q. How many apprentices have you at present? A. We have seven now.

Q. What do you pay your apprentices? A. 50 cents the first year, 75 the second and \$1 a day the third.

Q. Have you any boys working with you now who served their time with you? A. Yes.

Q. What pay do they get? A. From \$35 to \$60 a month.

Q. How often do you pay your men? A. Once a month.

Q. Do you pay them in full up to pay-day? A. We pay them up on the 15th day of the month to the end of the preceding month. We always keep back ten or fifteen days.

Q. Where is your principal market? A. Principally Ontario and the Maritime Provinces.

Q. Do you find a pretty strong competition in your business? A. We do.

Q. Where does your competition come from generally? A. The old country; the greater part of it from Aberdeen, Scotland.

Q. Do they seem to get the stone out any cheaper than you can here? A. They seem to do so.

Q. Is the quality of stone as good as your stone? A. I do not think it is; I think our stone is better than theirs; I do not know that from experience, but from what old country men tell us—some of them that have worked with us—the old country stone is not as good as ours; I know that ours works up better than theirs.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. How does the competition from the old country come in—do they sell their stone cheaper than you? A. Yes.

Q. Do they bring the stone from the old country into Ontario cheaper than you can send it there? A. They send the stone out to Ontario from the old country cheaper than we can send it from here. The freight from the old country over to Toronto is cheaper than we can put the stone in Toronto from here.

Q. What port does it come through in this Dominion to go to Toronto? A. I am told they go through Halifax chiefly, or principally—at least, so I am told.

Q. How does this competition from Halifax to Toronto affect you—is it the rates of railway freight being lower? A. I presume it is; I believe it is that.

Q. Do you know whether there is much of this Scotch granite coming over here from the old country? A. There is a good deal of it that comes over here; I cannot give you the amount; I am not prepared to say the number of tons, but I know that a good deal comes over here.

Q. Is there any of it that goes to the United States? A. Yes; there is some of it going into the United States.

Q. Is there any of it coming into this Province or into the Nova Scotia? A. I do not know of any coming here of late years—I mean in this Province; I know some that came ten or twelve years ago to St. John.

Q. How long have those quarries been running here? A. I think about fifteen years altogether.

Q. Is it since those quarries have been running that this Scotch granite came to St. John? A. I cannot be positive now, but I think it is since they started; I think it is about fifteen years since the granite business started in St. George—that is, if my memory serves me right.

Q. Was it before the granite business started here that this Scotch granite you speak of came to St. John? A. I am not sure whether it was before or not.

Q. Is there any grievance in your business that you have to complain of? A. I do not know of any just now but the high railway freights.

Q. Where do you get all your steel points, and hammers, and material of that kind? A. We have been buying those articles in the States, mostly.

Q. Did you ever try any that were made in this country? A. Yes; we tried some last winter as a sample; they were pean hammers.

Q. Where did you get them from? A. From Broad, of St. Stephen; they were not good, though.

Q. Did you ever get any from Ontario? A. No; I did not know that they made them up there.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are those polishers to whom you pay 50 cents a day boys? A. They are.

Q. What are the lowest rates you pay to men polishers? A. 90 cents and \$1 a day; 90 cents the first month, and then as they improve we increase their wages.

Q. I suppose those 90-cent polishers would be those that have never had any experience in the business? A. Yes.

WILLIAM COUTTS (Milne, Coutts & Co.), called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Please state to the Commission what business you are engaged in? A. I am quarrying up in the mountains for Milne, Coutts & Co., taking out the stone.

Q. Is that the part of the business that you undertake to do? A. Yes.

Q. How many men have you quarrying stone? A. About nine men.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten hours per day.

Q. Do your men in the quarry find employment the year round? A. Yes; mostly all the year, for when we shut down we generally give them work cutting wood.

Q. What kind of wood? A. Hard wood.

Q. Do you have a tract of land there? A. Yes; we cut cord-wood mostly all the winter months, so we do not shut down more than a month.

Q. I suppose there is more stone cut, therefore, than you need for your own consumption? A. We have no more than we can use.

Q. Are you a stone-cutter by trade? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever work in the States at your trade? A. I have worked there.

Q. Did you ever work at your trade in the old country? A. Yes.

Q. Will you state to the Commission how the wages compare in the United States and old country with what is paid here? A. We are paying just as much to our quarrymen as they get in the States—\$1.50 a day. I worked in Cape Ann, and the ordinary quarrymen got \$1.50 a day there then; that was twelve or fourteen years ago.

Q. How does the pay of stone-cutters here compare with the pay in the United States? A. It is a little lower here; not much, though.

Q. Is the cost of living here less than in the United States? A. It is lower here.

Q. Is it correspondingly lower to the difference in the pay? A. I do not know as it is; I can hardly tell you for certain, but I think stone-cutters get \$3 a day in the States. That is the largest pay they give there, and we have men here that will make from \$2.50 to \$3 a day working piece-work; sometimes they make \$3 to \$3.50.

Q. Where do you find your principal competition comes from? A. From the old country—Scotch granite.

Q. Where do you find your market for your stone? A. Principally the States and Ontario.

Q. Is there any reason why you cannot manufacture your stone as cheaply as they do in the old country? A. The pay is one thing; there is quite a difference here in the pay of the men.

Q. What difference would there be in cutting stone in the old country and here? A. There would be about one-half—there would be the difference between \$2.50 and \$3 here, and 5 shillings a day there.

Q. Is there any grievance that you have to complain of? A. Nothing, except the railway freights. The manufacturers of Scotch granite can send their stone out from the old country and place it in Toronto cheaper than we can send it from here to there.

Q. Why can they send their stone cheaper from the old country to Toronto than you can send it there? A. Because their freights are lower than ours are.

FRED. BOGUE, Granite-worker, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a stone-cutter—granite-cutter.

Q. How long have you been engaged in the business? A. Thirteen years.

Q. Did you ever work in any other place besides St. George? A. Yes; I have worked in the States some.

Q. How does the pay here correspond with that received by stone-cutters in the United States? A. When I worked in the States by the day I got \$2.50; I think that was the largest pay I got when I was there.

Q. What is the largest pay you get here when working by the day? A. I get \$2.25 a day here.

Q. Did it cost you more to live in the States than here? A. I think it did.

Q. Correspondingly more than your wages amount to? A. Yes; I think it cost correspondingly more.

Q. Do you ever work piece-work here? A. Not very often.

Q. When you work piece-work do you make any more than when you are working by the day or by the week? A. No; I do not think I can average any more.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten; that is what we are supposed to work.

Q. How often do you get paid? A. I get paid once a month, if I wait that long for it; I get my pay oftener, sometimes; sometimes I get money two or three times a month.

Q. Do you feel satisfied with being paid once a month? A. I am satisfied.

Q. Are you perfectly satisfied? A. Yes; I have no reason or room to be dissatisfied with the way in which I am paid.

Q. How do they pay stone-cutters working in the same line of business in the United States? A. I have worked in places where they paid once a week; others where they paid once a fortnight; others, again, where they paid once a month, and still other places where they did not have any regular pay-day, but generally paid once a month.

Q. Are you paid on pay-day right up to date? A. I am paid on the 15th of the month up to the end of the last month.

Q. Then there are some days that you are not paid for on pay-day? A. Yes; about ten days.

Q. How are the relations between employers and employés in your establishment? A. Good.

Q. Is there no dissatisfaction existing between them? A. I am satisfied with the way I am treated.

Q. Are you so well satisfied that you have no complaints to make? A. I have no complaints to make.

Q. Do you think that ten hours is a fair day's work for a man to do? A. I would rather work seven hours and get the same pay that I do now; I would rather work ten hours unless I got as much pay for working seven.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q. Do you think that you could do as much work in seven hours as in ten? A. I do not think so; I might.

Q. Are there any grievances existing in the stone-cutting business that you wish to state to the Commission? A. I have not any that I know of.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Are there any apprentices working in your shop? A. I could not say how many there are altogether, but I think there are about nine or ten—somewhere about that number in our concern.

Q. Did you serve your apprenticeship here or in the States? A. I served it here.

Q. Were you indentured or bound here? A. Yes.

Q. How long did you serve? A. I served three years.

Q. Do you think it better that a boy should be indentured, or that he should be free? A. I think it is better for him that he should be indentured.

Q. Do you think that by being indentured that he gets a better knowledge of the trade? A. I think so.

DAVID McADAM, Granite-polisher, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a granite-polisher.

Q. How long have you been employed at the business—polishing? A. Fourteen or fifteen years, I do not know which.

Q. Have you always worked at polishing? A. No; not always.

Q. Are you a stone-cutter by trade? A. I used to work at mill-work.

Q. And after polishing got going in St. George you went into that business? A. Yes.

Q. About what is the average pay received by a polisher here? A. I could not tell you that.

Q. I suppose you know what your own pay is? A. Yes; I know what my own pay is.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Can you give us an idea of what men working at your trade in St. George get? A. They get \$1.00 and \$1.25 a day; some of them get \$1.35.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Is there any skill required in the business of polishing? A. Some think there is not, but I think there is.

Q. Is the business injurious to the health? A. Some think it is.

Q. Do you think so? A. I cannot say I do; I have always had pretty good health, and I would not have polished for fourteen years if it did not agree with me.

Q. Whereabouts is the skill required in your business? A. I could hardly explain it to you.

Q. Are there any boys taken on to serve their time at polishing? A. We do not take them on to serve any time at all; they are just hired for any time we can get them, and if we do not get them we get along without them.

Q. How often do you get paid? A. Once a month, or pretty near that.

Q. Are you perfectly satisfied with the way you are paid? A. I am satisfied with the way I am paid.

Q. Do you have to take any orders on stores in pay? A. Not without I want to.

Q. Is there any store in connection with your establishment? A. There is.

Q. Do you take any kind of goods out of it. A. I can say I do.

Q. Are you at perfect liberty to do so or not? A. We are.

Q. Are the goods sold there as cheap as anywhere else? A. I guess they are the same price as anywhere around here.

Q. Do you have to take orders on any other store in payment of your wages? A. No; we do not go into that kind of business.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a property of your own? A. Yes; I have a house.

Q. Did you build it while in the employ of the concern you are in now? A. No.

Q. Did you have it before you worked at the business of polishing? A. I did.

Q. Do you know of many men employed in the polishing business who own houses of their own? A. I guess there are not more than three or four.

Q. Then, if I understand you, you are perfectly satisfied with affairs as they exist in your concern—you have no grievances to complain of? A. What do you mean by grievances?

Q. Anything to complain of in connection with the hours of labor or the way in which you get your pay? A. The hours are all right; they are not so long as I used to work.

Q. Then you used to work longer hours than now? A. I did work longer hours.

Q. Do you think that ten hours a day is not too long to work? A. I would sooner work seven and a-half or eight hours if I got the same pay as I get for ten.

Q. Then you do not think that working ten hours is working a man too hard? A. I cannot say that it is.

Q. Then you have no grievances to make? A. No; I do not know as I have any grievances to make against the parties I am employed with.

GEORGE MARSHALL, Granite-polisher, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a granite-polisher.

Q. How long have you been polishing granite? A. Some number of years—about fourteen years.

Q. What pay do you get a day? A. I get \$1.35.

- Q. Does it require any skill to work in the business you are in? A. I do not know that it requires very much.
- Q. Does it not require a man to be very attentive to his business? A. It does; it requires a man to serve a little time at it.
- Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you a family? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you own a property of your own? A. No.
- Q. Do you live in a tenement house? A. Yes.
- Q. How many rooms are there in the house that you occupy? A. There are five in the house I am in now.
- Q. What rent do you pay for that house? A. About \$40.
- Q. Forty dollars a year? A. Yes.
- Q. Does the concern you work for own the building? A. Yes.
- Q. Is there a store in connection with the concern you work for? A. There is not.
- Q. Are you compelled to take orders on any store in town in payment for your wages? No.
- Q. Have you any complaint to make in connection with your employers. A. I have not.
- Q. Is everything agreeable to you? Yes.
- Q. Have you ever worked outside this town in the polishing business? A. I have not.
- Q. Have you ever worked at any other business? A. I followed lumbering before this polishing of stone came into vogue here.

PATRICK DRUMGOLD, Stone-cutter, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY.—

- Q. Will you state to the Commission what your occupation is? A. I am a stone-cutter.
- Q. How long have you been working at stone-cutting? A. I have been at the stone-cutting business altogether twenty years; I have been at stone-cutting all the time.
- Q. Have you been working at stone-cutting in this town for twenty years? A. No; I have been at work in this town for about fifteen years.
- Q. What is the usual pay of a good stone-cutter in this town? A. Their pay varies, but \$2 a day is generally about the average pay they get.
- Q. Do you work piece-work or day work? A. Piece-work.
- Q. About what do you receive per week? A. You could hardly get at it by the week.
- Q. Could you give us a statement of your receipts during the run of the year? A. During the run of the year a stone-cutter will get from \$450 to \$475.
- Q. Would it ever run over \$475 a year? A. Some years it might run a little over that and some under, but it never comes to \$500.
- Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you a family? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you own a house of your own? A. Yes.
- Q. Did you pay for it out of your earnings as a stone-cutter? A. I built it a couple of years ago.
- Q. Do you know many stone-cutters who own houses of their own in St. George? A. There are a few who do, but not many.
- Q. Do you know of many who own real estate? A. There are a few who do, but not a great many.
- Q. Is there a store in connection with the concern that you work with? A. Yes.
- Q. Are you compelled to take goods from that store in consideration of your wages? A. No.

Q. Are you ever solicited to take goods out of the store? A. I take goods out of the store, but I need not take them; I can take money or goods, for the bosses do not force me to take goods.

Q. How often are you paid? A. Once a month.

Q. Do you get your cash in full up to the time you are paid? A. No; there is some time kept back.

Q. How much back time? A. About fifteen days.

Q. Are you perfectly satisfied with the way things are conducted in your establishment? A. Certainly.

Q. Have you any complaint to make? A. No.

Q. Have you any information of things around the town that you could give the Commission? A. I do not know of any information that I could give you; I suppose that there are a good many grievances around the town that could be spoken off.

Q. Are there any new industries springing up in this town? A. There is no such a thing, that I know off.

Q. Do you think that things would be quiet if it were not for the granite works? A. There would not be anything doing here if it were not for the granite; I know that one of our concerns that had been going for a year burst up.

Q. Do all the stone-cutters and polishers that are working here belong to St. George? A. They do not all belong here.

Q. Are they Scotch or American, as a rule? A. They are Scotch, Irish, English, Dutch, Blue-noses and Americans.

Q. Have you ever worked in the United States? A. I have never worked in the States.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Have the stone-cutters and polishers ever had a combine or society of their own? A. They have no combine or society.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Do you think they would be any the better for having one? A. I do not know whether they would; they have such societies in other places among the workingmen, so why not have one here.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q. How is the assessment of tax in St. George? A. The taxes here are pretty high, but not quarter as high as in the cities, for we have no water or gas tax.

Q. Can you tell us the amount that is levied on the \$100? A. I could if I had my memorandum book with me, but I have not got it, so I cannot tell you exactly.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. What taxes would a workingman pay who earned \$400 and had no property? A. His taxes would be \$3.80 or \$3.90.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Would his school tax be included in that amount? A. Yes; it would be.

Q. Then he pays for school tax, county tax and road tax? A. Yes; amounting to about that sum.

Q. If it is a fair question, what taxes do you pay? A. I pay about \$6 or \$7 on the little place I have down below the corner.

Q. What is the valuation placed on your property? A. I could hardly tell you.

Q. You know that your taxes cost you \$6 a year on it? A. Yes; between \$6 and \$7.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. Does the amount of goods that you receive from the store have to be deducted from your account before you get your money on pay-day? A. It has to be.

Q. Would it be a fair question to ask you how many dollars of your money does the store receive every month? A. The question is fair enough. Some months the store gets \$20; it runs all the way from \$10 to \$20 a month; some months I only leave \$14 or \$15; some months I get more goods than others; but the amount of goods I get from the shop runs all the way from \$10 to \$20 a month.

Q. Do you not think that you could do better with your money if you were paid fortnightly instead of monthly? A. I do not know as it would be of any advantage to me here.

Q. Do you not think that you could do better if you bought for cash instead of going on the credit system? A. I do not know as it would be much better here in St. George; it might be better, but I do not see that it would be much. I am satisfied with the way things are going on and with the manner in which we are being paid.

GUY CLINCH, Stone-cutter, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Will you state to the Commission what is your occupation? A. I am a stone-cutter.

Q. How long have you been engaged at stone-cutting? A. About fourteen years.

Q. Did you serve your apprenticeship at the business in St. George? A. Yes; and the fourteen years includes my time of service as an apprentice.

Q. When a boy serves his time to the stone cutting-business how long is he required to serve before he becomes a journeyman? A. I served three years.

Q. Were you indentured? A. Yes.

Q. When your articles of indenture were drawn up did your employers agree to teach you the trade? A. They agreed to instruct me in the art of stone-cutting.

Q. What wages did you receive? A. I got \$3 a week the first year and the last year I got \$4.

Q. After you were out of your time what did you get? A. I worked for the same company three months by piece-work.

Q. Do you work now by the day or by the piece? A. By the day.

Q. Have you any objections to answering what you receive per day at present? A. I make \$2.25.

Q. How often are you paid? A. Once a month.

Q. Are you paid up to the day you receive your money? A. No; up to the first of the month.

Q. Is there a store in connection with the concern that you work in? A. There is a store.

Q. Have you ever bought goods from the store? A. I have bought goods at the store.

Q. Do you think that you get your goods from the store as cheap as you could buy them outside? A. I think I get goods as cheap there as I could buy them any where else.

Q. Are you a married man? A. I am not married.

Q. Do you board out? A. I live with my mother.

Q. Do you know what is the usual charge for board? A. Do you mean in St. George?

Q. Yes? A. I think it is about \$3 per week.

Q. Do you get pretty steady employment the year around? A. I lost a month and a-half last year.

Q. Could you get pretty steady employment the year around—does the shop shut down for a month or so in the year? A. I do not think that I could get steady employment the year around.

Q. Do you keep a correct account of what you earn per year? A. I have never kept a memorandum of my earnings.

Q. Are you charged for the sharpening of the tools that you use in your work?
A. I am not charged for them.

Q. Are you compelled to have any tools of a certain kind to work with? A. Such as hammers—we are.

Q. What does a kit for a stone-cutter cost? A. About \$30.

Q. Are all the required tools outside of the sharpening of chisels paid for and run by the concern? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any grievances, or any objections to make to the manner in which you are paid? A. I have no objections.

Q. Do you think that ten hours is a fair day's work for a stone-cutter? A. I have no objection to it.

Q. Do you think the shortening of the hours of labor would be an improvement?
A. I think nine hours would be better if a man got the same pay as he does for the ten.

Q. Do you think that you could do as much work in six hours as you could in ten? A. I do not think I could.

Q. If there is any information bearing on your trade that you have, the Commission would be glad to hear from you? A. I do not know as I have any information to give you; still, there is a matter I would like to speak of; it has probably been brought before the notice of this Commission before. There is no law in Charlotte county, or in this Province, for the collection of wages from imperfect companies, or companies who fail; the creditors are paid first and the laborers come in afterwards.

Q. Have you made any representation of this matter to the member for this county in the Local Legislature? A. I have not done so individually, but I believe the members for this county in the House of Assembly have been interviewed on the matter and have promised to look into the law.

Q. Of course, you know that this Commission is not appointed by the Local Government, and have no power to act in such matters? A. Yes.

Q. Still, we will make a note of what you say? A. Thank you.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are you working with the people that you served your time with? A. Yes.

Q. Did you serve your time in St. George? A. I served my time with the Bay of Fundy Company.

Q. Is it the custom to indenture apprentices in St. George? A. I know it was the custom to do so in the Bay of Fundy Company, and I think that some apprentices are indentured in St. George.

Q. Do you think that an apprentice gets a better education in the trade by being indentured instead of being free? A. I cannot say about that; I know I got a good education at my trade.

HARRY MCGOWAN, Blacksmith, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Will you be kind enough to state to the Commission what your occupation is? A. I am a sharpener of tools—a blacksmith.

Q. Did you serve your time at that business? A. I served my time with my father.

Q. What business did he follow? A. He was a blacksmith.

Q. How long have you been working at the sharpening of tools? A. Six or seven years.

Q. What is the usual pay received by blacksmiths who are engaged sharpening tools? A. I do not know, I am sure; I get \$2 a day.

Q. Do you get steady employment the year round? A. Yes.

Q. Do you make no lost time? A. Well some—yes; in the holiday season—Christmas and New Year's.

Q. About how much time do you lose during the year? A. We lose about a fortnight during the holiday time of the year.

Q. Are you a married man? A. No.

Q. Are you a single man? A. I believe so.

Q. Do you board out? A. I live with my father; I live at home.

Q. Do you know what board usually costs an unmarried man who works in St. George? A. About \$3 a week.

Q. Did you ever work at blacksmithing any where outside of St. George? A. Yes; in Maine.

Q. What wages do blacksmiths who are engaged in the same line of work as yourself receive in the State of Maine? A. They receive about \$2.25 or \$2.50 a day.

Q. Does it cost more to live in Maine than in St. George? A. I did not pay any more for my board than I would here; I paid \$3 a week there.

Q. Did it cost you any more for clothing in Maine? A. No.

Q. Then there is not much difference in the wages of blacksmiths in Maine and St. George? A. There is about 25 or 50 cents a day difference.

Q. How often are you paid here? A. Once a month.

A. Are you paid up to the day you get your money? A. No; there is some days' pay kept back.

Q. Do you make any objections to the manner and mode in which you are paid? A. No; not in the least.

Q. Are the payments perfectly satisfactory to you? A. Yes.

Q. You have no objections, in any way, to make to the manner in which the affairs of the concern where you work are managed or conducted? A. No.

Q. Are you ever asked to take orders on stores, or goods, in payment of wages? A. No.

Q. At the end of the month you get what cash is due you in full? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you work in the winter months at the blacksmith trade? A. Yes.

Q. Are your shops pretty comfortable to work in in the winter? A. Yes.

Q. How are the shops where they cut stone and polish it? A. I do not know anything about them.

RUSSELL ARMSTRONG, Stone-cutter, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? I am a stone-cutter.

Q. How long have you been employed at stone-cutting? A. I have been stone-cutting for about twelve years.

Q. Did you serve your time at the trade in this town? A. No; I never served any time at the trade.

Q. Do you, at the present time, work piece-work or day-work? A. I work piece-work.

Q. What is the average pay made by stone-cutters in this work? A. \$50 to \$60 a month.

Q. Do you get work the year round? A. I worked about seven months last year.

Q. Is work at stone-cutting going on in this town the year around? A. We shut down for a short time last winter; it is slack in the winter.

Q. In the concern that you work in do they usually keep working all the year round? A. They usually shut down for a month in the year.

Q. How is it, then, that you only made seven months last year? A. Well, I was the last taken on and the first laid off.

Q. How often do you get paid? A. Once a month.

Q. Is there any store in connection with the concern in which you work? A. No.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten.

Q. Do you think that ten hours a day is little enough for a man to work? A. I think a man can do all the work that is in him in ten hours at stone-cutting; he can do as much in ten hours as he could in twelve.

Q. Have you any grievances that you would like to lay before this Commission? A. None whatever.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a family? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a house of your own? A. Yes.

Q. What taxes would you pay on a property, say of \$600? A. I do not know what the taxes would be on such a property.

Q. How many rooms does your house occupy? A. I do not understand you.

Q. How many rooms are there in the house that you occupy? A. Seven.

Q. Do you know what valuation is put upon that house by the assessors? A. I think it is put down at \$1,000.

Q. What taxes do you pay on that house? A. I pay about \$25 a year; I am taxed on some other property; I am taxed on both income and real estate.

Q. And your taxes come to \$25 a year? A. I think I was taxed about \$25 last year.

LAWRENCE MURPHY, Granite-polisher, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Will you kindly state to the Commission what your occupation is? A. I am a granite-polisher.

Q. How long have you worked at that business? A. Thirteen years, or very nearly that length of time.

Q. Did you serve any time at the business? A. No.

Q. What did you do previous to working at granite-polishing? A. I was lumbering.

Q. And when this business started up you went into it? A. Yes.

Q. Does it require any skill to polish granite? A. I consider that it does.

Q. What is the average pay made by first-class granite-polishers? A. Speaking from my experience, I should say that they would average \$1.30 a day—may be a little more.

Q. Do you have work the year around? A. All the year, with the exception of a few holidays.

Q. How long do those holidays last? A. We generally have two weeks.

Q. Then, you would have work the year around, with the exception of those two weeks? A. Yes.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a family? A. Yes.

Q. Do you own a house of your own? A. Yes.

Q. How many rooms are there in the house? A. Six.

Q. About what would a tenement of six rooms rent for in this town? A. I do not know that I could tell you the exact amount.

Q. Come as near as you can to it? A. I think you could rent such a house as mine in this town for \$40 to \$50 a year.

Q. Is the land on which your house is built owned by yourself? A. Yes.

Q. About what taxes do you pay on that property? A. I think I pay \$8.

Q. Do you know what is the valuation placed on that property by the assessors? A. I think it is valued at \$600.

Q. Are you ever solicited by the men for whom you work to take orders on stores for goods in payment for wages? A. No.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do many of the workmen of this town purchase homes for themselves out of their earnings? A. I think not.

Q. Do you think that they prefer to invest their money in the some other way to buying real estate? A. I think it takes all the money that they earn to live—that is, those who work in the same line of business as I do.

Q. Is the shop that you work in comfortable in the winter? A. Yes; very comfortable indeed.

FREDERICK CRAWLEY, Stone-cutter, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Will you be kind enough to state to the Commission what your business is? A. I am a stone-cutter.

Q. How long have you been engaged at that business? A. Ten years.

Q. Did you serve your time at the business in this town? A. Yes.

Q. Were you indentured for two years? A. No; for three.

Q. What wages did you receive the first year? A. Three dollars a week.

Q. What did you get the next year? A. We were raised every six months; we got \$3 a week for the first six months, \$4 for the next six, and so on, till we got \$4.50, \$5, \$5.50 and \$6. That is the way apprentices were paid when I served my time.

Q. Do you work by the day now? A. No; I work by the piece.

Q. What is the average pay made by stone-cutters working by the piece in St. George? A. I should say from \$2 to \$2.10 a day; I would not put it any higher than that for the year round.

Q. Would they earn that the year round? A. I think \$2 a day would be a fair average for the year round.

Q. Do you think that a good stone-cutter would make \$600 a year in St. George? A. If he had steady work he would—that is, if he did not have to lose too much time.

Q. What would be the outside figures that a good stone-cutter would make in this town, taking one week with another? A. Not over \$600 a year, and he would have to be a good man to make that sum.

Q. Are there many here who make that sum? A. Yes.

Q. Are there many who make over that amount? A. There are not many; I think there are quite a number making \$600—more making that than under it.

Q. Do you think that there are a great many making under \$500? A. I do not know that there are a great many, although there is a good deal of lost time.

Q. Did you ever work in the States? A. Yes.

Q. What are the wages received there by stone-cutters? A. I could not say what they are there this year; I always had \$2.75 and \$3 a day when I worked there.

Q. Did you have to work any harder there than you do here? A. As a general thing, I did not have to work as hard.

Q. Were the hours of work any longer? A. No.

Q. Were they any shorter? A. No.

Q. Would they average the same? A. Yes—ten hours.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a property of your own? A. No.

Q. Do you rent a house? A. Yes.

Q. How many rooms are there in the house that you occupy? A. Four.

Q. What rent do you pay for your house? A. I pay \$40 a year.

Q. Is there a well on the premises? A. No.

Q. Are there any conveniences in the house? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know if any of the workingmen of St. George own real estate of their own? A. Some of them do; but then, again, there are a good many that don't.

Q. Are there any apprentices in your shop? A. Yes.

Q. What is the inclination of the bosses towards those boys? A. The employers watch the boys.

Q. Are they inclined to learn the boys their trade? A. I can only speak for the concern I work for, and I know they do what is right by the apprentices.

Q. Do they ever kick or beat the boys? A. No; nothing of that kind takes place in this town.

Q. Do you know whether those boys who are learning their trade can read or write? A. I think they can; I do not think there are a great many boys in this place who cannot read and write; I do not know of any boys who are learning their trade that cannot both read and write.

WAVERLY MURRAY, Granite-polisher, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a polisher.

Q. How long have you been a polisher? A. About five years.

Q. Did you serve your time at the polishing business? A. Yes; I guess so.

Q. How long did you serve learning the business? A. I do not know—about a year; I think I worked two years before I got the pay I am getting now.

Q. Can you learn the trade of polishing in a year or two as well as those who have been at it for years? A. Some can, and some can't.

Q. How much did you receive the first year you were working at the business? A. Fifty cents.

Q. A day? A. Yes.

Q. And what did you get the second year? A. One dollar, I think.

Q. What wages do you receive now? A. One dollar and twenty-five cents.

Q. Are you a married man? A. No.

Q. Do you board out? A. No.

Q. Have you any grievances to complain of? A. No.

Q. How often are you paid? A. Once a month.

Q. Are you paid in cash up to the end of the month? A. Yes.

Q. Are you paid up to pay-day, or is there any time kept back from you? A. Up to the time that the settlement takes place, we are always paid up to the end of the month preceding pay-day.

Q. Are you paid in full up to the end of the month? A. Yes.

Q. Do you work ten hours a day? A. Yes.

Q. Is the shop warm and comfortable to work in in the winter? A. I think so; you were there yourself to-day and should know about that matter.

ELYMER A. YOUNG, Apprentice, Stone-cutting, called and sworn.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. What are you working at? A. Stone-cutting.

Q. How long have you been at work at that business? A. About two years and a-half.

Q. Are you serving your time at the business? A. Yes.

Q. Are you an indentured apprentice? A. Yes.

Q. Do your employers give you all the necessary instructions to learn your trade? A. Yes.

Q. Do they give all the boys learning the trade all needed instruction? A. I think they do.

Q. When you ask for information do they generally give it to you without much solicitation? A. Yes.

Q. And do they sometimes come to you without solicitation and show you how to do your work? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any grievances to make? A. No.

Q. Do you get too much money a week? A. Sometimes I do not get enough.

Q. Do you think that ten hours is too long for you to work? A. I am satisfied, but a shorter time would do me.

Q. Have you any grievances to make against the concern you work for? A. I have none.

Q. Do you ever hear the men in your shop make any complaints against the concern? A. No.

Q. Is everything in the shop satisfactory? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Would you care to tell us what wages you receive while you are working as an apprentice? A. Fifty cents.

Q. A day? A. Yes.

Q. Would that be the first year? A. Yes.

Q. What do you get the second year? A. Seventy-five cents.

Q. What do you get the third year? A. A dollar a day.

Q. Are you not on the third year now? A. Yes.

Q. How often are you paid? A. Once a month.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you get work all the year round, or do you have to stop work when the concern shuts down? A. I have to shut down in the winter when the shop is closed down.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are you living at home, or boarding? A. I am living at home.

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TANNER.—Samuel Lane, St. John, 15. William Todd, Fredericton, 432.

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CONFECTIONER.—J. R. Woodburn, St. John, 36—Ample provision against accidents.

COTTON MILL.—R. S. Hocken, Moncton, 300—Partial provision against accidents. Peter Duxberry, spinner, Moncton, 327—Ample provision against accidents. Louis Dexter, St. Stephen, 486—Ample provision against accidents.

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- GIBSON, A., *Marysville Cotton Mills and Lumber,* - - - - - **443-448**
Manufactures 25,000,000 long lumber, 16,000,000 laths and 14,000,000 shingles a year. Men employed getting out logs, are 700. Their wages. Employs also 200 men stream-driving. Their wages, 443. Employed about seven months in the year. Hours of work in lumber mill. Pays monthly; cash. Four hundred and twenty-five hands employed in cotton mill, 444. Rent of houses. Many operatives have money in savings bank. Others have real estate. No fines. Sells his goods all over Canada, 445. Is not a member of cotton combine. Moral standing of operatives good. Allows no liquor to be sold in the town, 446. Most of his people live in the town. Has had no strikes. Business increasing, 447. Exported from Marysville in 1887 \$761,000. Imported \$418,000. Is prepared to build a brick post office and savings bank if the Government will use it.
- GIBSON, W., *Upholsterer St. Stephen,* - - - - - **494-496**
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- GILMOUR, J. W., "*Proprietor Daily*" *Telegraph, St. John* - - - **179-186**
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Orders on stores in payment of wages, 409. House rent not increased during past five years. Goods are cheaper. Wages about the same, but working people are paid in cash now more than they were twenty years ago. Farm produce generally finds a local market. A man who tends his farm, and tends to nothing else, can always make a decent living, 410. Laboring people in better condition than they were. Lumber trade not so flourishing as it was, 411. Only forty paupers in the whole county, 412.	
MOONEY, P., <i>Mason and Builder, St. John</i>	94-97
Wages paid. Employs men from March to December, 94. Hours of work. Has had labor troubles. Organization caused them. Apprentices, 95. Extent of business done. Brick-makers' wages. No lien law, 96. Pays fortnightly, 97.	
MOORE, E. C., <i>Nail Manufacturer, St. John</i>	99
Hands employed. Wages. Area of market. Fuel. Uses Nova Scotia coal, 99.	
MOORE, G., <i>Machinist, Intercolonial Railway</i>	359
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MOORE, G., <i>Driver Street Cars, St. John</i>	258-259
Agrees with evidence previous witness. Drivers not allowed to sit down. Must be prompt in mornings, 258. Does not know if company pays wages to men when sick, 259.	
MORAN, H., <i>Machinist, St. John</i>	230
Wages. Employment. Paid weekly. Machinery. Hours of work. Constant employment, 230.	
MUIRHEAD, H. A., <i>General Merchant, Chatham</i>	379
Tug-boat men's wages. Plenty of work. Wages of clerks, 379.	

- MUIRHEAD, W., Foundryman, Chatham** - - - - - **365-366**
Men employed. Wages, 365. Apprentices. Pays weekly in cash and in full. Some of the men own their own homes. Rents. Very few paupers in Chatham. No labor troubles. Majority of working people own their homes, 366.
- MUNRO, G., Trunk-maker, St. John** - - - - - **137**
Takes exception to statements of previous witness as respects comparative quality of Canadian and American trunks. Thinks Canadian-made more substantial, 137.
- MUNRO, J. J., Trunkmaker, St. John** - - - - - **135-136**
Hands employed. Wages. Weekly cash payments of wages. Area of market, 135. Business increasing; never had so many orders as this year. Complains of operation of the tariff. Competition comes from Montreal and Toronto, 136.
- MURCHIE, J., General Merchant, St. Stephen** - - - - - **501-506**
Comparison prices of staples during ten years, 501. Trade in healthy condition—"very much so." Prices of fuel. Prices of clothing. Very little poverty. Scott Act made improvement in habits of people, 503. Education in New Brunswick ahead of Maine. Working people good pay. Houses for working people greatly improved, 504. Rents 50 per cent. lower than in United States. Assessment of taxes. Farmers around great deal better off. Stock of agricultural implements owned by farmers greatly advanced. "Never was more wealth in Charlotte County than at present", 506.
- MURDOCK, J., Overseer Carding Department, Marysville** - - - - - **460-461**
Hands in department. Dust, removal as complete as any. Average wages, 460. Likes present factory better than other factories where he has worked. Lives as cheaply here as elsewhere, 461.
- MURPHY, F., Confectioner, St. Stephen** - - - - - **490-491**
Wages. Cannot live as cheaply in the United States as in St. Stephen. Paid fortnightly in cash and in full. Apprentices. Ventilation good. Operatives far superior class of people to those I have worked with in the United States—"better educated," 490. Hours of work. Cost of board. Continuous work, 491.
- MURPHY, L., Granite Polisher, St. George** - - - - - **531**
Wages. Constant work. Own his home. Taxes, 531.
- MURRAY, J., Carter, St. John** - - - - - **42-43**
Corroborates, generally, evidence of previous witness. Wages. Keep of horses. Price of hay and oats, 42. Complains of corporation of city, 43.
- MURRAY, J., Foundryman, Newcastle** - - - - - **409**
Earnings. Wages, 409.
- MURRAY R., Police Magistrate, Chatham** - - - - - **380-382**
Very little crime in Chatham. Very little drunkenness, Northumberland being a Scott Act county. Scott Act enforced strictly, 380. Disputes between men and employers about wages not frequent. No garnisheeing of wages. Thinks people in very fair condition. Not much litigation, 381. Discusses the Scott Act, 382.
- MURRAY W., Granite Polisher, St. George** - - - - - **533**
Wages. Paid in cash monthly. Hours of work. No grievances, 533.
- MYERS, W. F., Machinist, St. John** - - - - - **81-82**
Agrees with previous witness. Work in St. John increasing. Men go away and come back. Apprentices. Education of boys might be better, 82.
- MYLES, F. H., Artist St. John** - - - - - **45**
Gives instruction in mechanical drawing. Pupils desire fuller information. Thinks public schools cannot give the kind of education mechanics specially want, 45.

- MYLES, J. C., *Artist, St. John* - - - - - **43-44**
 Discusses technical education. Details of his efforts to supply St. John with such, 44.
- NASE, I., *Carpenter, Intercolonial Railway* - - - - - **356-357**
 Wages. Over-work. Carpenters insured, 357.
- NAVES, R., *General Helper, Cotton Mill, St. John* - - - - - **265**
 Wages. Works same hours as the rest, 265.
- NELSON, C. L., *Paper Manufacturer, St. John* - - - - - **48-51**
 Makes Manilla paper. Hands employed. Wages, 48. Cost of living. Separate conveniences. Area of market. Paper-bag industry, 49. Some men own their homes. Accidents. Hours of work, 50.
- NICHOLS, J., *Foreman, Brass Foundry, St. John* - - - - - **296**
 Wages. Constant employment. No serious accidents. Apprentices. Boys go away to get better employment, 296.
- NIVEN, J., *Tanner, Newcastle* - - - - - **414-415**
 Wages. Work all year round, 414. Area of market. Whence stock is obtained, 415.
- NIXON, Miss, *Brushmaker, St. John* - - - - - **145-146**
 Wages. Girls employed. Ventilation, 145. Hours of work. Constant employment. Weekly payments. Board of young women, 146.
- NUGENT, J., *Machinist, Intercolonial Railway* - - - - - **358**
 Wages. Apprentices, 358.
- NUGENT, R., *Brassfinisher, St. John* - - - - - **298**
 Wages. Good many boys learning the trade, 298.
- O'BRIEN, R., "*Evening Globe*," *St. John* - - - - - **119-121**
 Hands employed. Wages. Night work. Apprentices, 119. Trouble between proprietors and the men, 120.
- OLIVE, A. E., *Conductor, Intercolonial Railway* - - - - - **352-353**
 Day's work. Bonus and allowances. Rest after labor, 352. No objections by the management to the Conductors' Association, 353.
- O'NEIL, W., *Boot and Shoe Maker, Moncton* - - - - - **341-342**
 Men employed. Hours of work. Apprentices. Wages, 341. Competition heaviest from Quebec. Great improvement in Canadian material during past few years.
- OSBURN, H., *Dyer, Marysville Cotton Mill* - - - - - **467-468**
 Wages. Steady employment. Board. No grievances, 467.
- PARKER, W. R. *Wood-worker, Moncton* - - - - - **330-331**
 Wages, 330. Knows nothing about business being done by notes, 331.
- PARKS, J. H., *Manager Cotton Mills, St. John* - - - - - **30-32**
 Employs 500 hands. Wages to children. Wages to other operatives. Fines, 30. Hours of work. Pays wages weekly. Amount of fines collected, 31.
- PARKS, J. H., *Re-called* - - - - - **133**
 Fines. Statement of how hands are discharged, 133.
- PATTERSON, S. B., *Savings Bank, St. John* - - - - - **216-220**
 Classes of depositors. Limit of deposits. Great many mechanics reach the limit of \$1,000, 216. Great many withdraw money in spring to build houses for themselves, 217. Deposits from sewing women. Laboring people better able to make savings now, for they never were so comfortable, 218. Many workingmen in the States

send their deposits to St. John saving's bank, intending to come back. Liquor licenses, 219. Temperance element stronger in Portland, N. B., than in St. John; savings, therefore, greater. Scott Act, 220.

PATTON, J., *Spool Factory, Newcastle* - - - - - **412-414**

Hands employed. Wages. Apprentices, 412. Wages better here than in Scotland. Believes he and family are better off here than there, 413

PENDER, J. *Manufacturer Horse-shoe Nails, St. John* - - - - - **1-3**

Hands employed. Wages. Area of market. Whence the iron comes, 1. Hours of work. Can successfully compete with United States makers in West Indies, Australia and South America. Pays weekly. No labor troubles. States an objection he has to the tariff, 2. Discusses his objection, 3.

PETERS, J., *Manager Record's Foundry, Moncton* - - - - - **305-307**

Stoves made chiefly. Hands employed. Wages. Apprentices. Earnings. Time employed in the year, 305. No labor troubles. No labor organization. Imports his patterns. Ventilation. Pays weekly, in full and in cash, 306. Area of market, 307.

PETERS, S., *Lumberman, Moncton* - - - - - **337**

Wages. Pays weekly, in cash, 337.

PETERS, W., *Tanner, St. John* - - - - - **132**

Wages. Hours of work. Men save money. Apprentices, 132

POOL, J. H., *Rolling Mill, St. John* - - - - - **288**

Wages. Great skill required, 288.

PORTEOUS, G., *Cooper, Moncton* - - - - - **345-346**

Agrees with last witness (page 344), substantially. Thinks coopers work nine out of twelve months. Rents, 345.

POTTINGER, D., *Chief Superintendent Intercolonial Railway* - - - - - **308-317**

Wages, 308. Miles constituting a trip. Time for rest, 309. Guarantee required from all men handling money. Running-board. Bell and rope. Couplers, 310. Air-brakes. Men injured. System of benefits, 311. Memorandum on same, 312-313. Earnings of men in car shops. Apprentices, 314. Color test. No objection to men because they belong to labor organizations, 315. Fines, 316. Telegraph operators. Train dispatchers. Frogs. Crossings. Accidents, 317.

QUIGLEY, G., *Rolling Mills Superintendent, St. John* - - - - - **107**

Competition considerable. Ventilation. Heats turned out a day. Some men have saved money, 107.

QUIGLEY, J., *Roller, St. John* - - - - - **106**

Wages. Hours of work. Comfortable place to work in, 106.

QUINN, E., *Cigar-maker, St. John* - - - - - **76-77**

Agrees with previous witness. No system of punishment, 76.

QUINN, P., *Cigar-maker, St. John* - - - - - **76**

Hands employed. Wages. No separate conveniences, 76.

RANKINE, T. A., *Manufacturer Biscuits, St. John* - - - - - **58-59**

Hands employed. Wages. Area of market, 58. Statistics of his trade. Uses Canadian flour altogether. Competition from Ontario and Quebec. Slaughter prices, 59.

REED, R., *President Owens Art Institute, St. John* - - - - - **271**

Makes statement respecting this institution. Success attended effort. Commencing in 1884 with twenty pupils. The list now includes 157. From different provinces and from two States, 271.

- REYNOLDS, J., *President Aid and Relief Society, St. John* - - - - **86-88**
Describes formation of society in connection with the great fire of 1877. Thinks there is not much distress in St. John. Less distress last winter than usual, 88.
- RIPPEY, W., *Foreman Record's Foundry, Moncton* - - - - **324-326**
Hours of work. Wages. State of foundry, 325. Constant employment. Hands paid weekly. Ventilation. Area of market. No labor troubles, 326.
- RISTEEN, J. C., *Sash and Door Manufacturer, Fredericton* - - - - **435-439**
Makes everything needed for building, 435. Hands employed. Apprentices. Wages. No accident in eighteen years, 436. Great improvement in farm houses recent years; also improvement in artisans' dwellings. Scott Act a benefit. More hardwood finishing materials used, 437. Men employed ten and a-half months in year. Several his hands own their homes. Pays weekly, in cash and in full, 438. Poll-tax, 439.
- RTTCHIE A., *Lumber Mill Newcastle* - - - - **407-408**
Wages. Orders on store; men can do as they like about taking them, 407. Wages of clerks. Same prices in store to men and general public, 408.
- RTTCHIE A., *(re-called) Lumber Mill* - - - - **423-424**
Stumpage tax heavy, 423. Comparison with other Provinces, 424.
- ROBERTSON J. C., *Car-builder, &c., St. John* - - - - **121-125**
Employs 282 hands. Wages. Hours of work, 121. Nearly all employes trained up in the establishment. Business increasing. Men stick to the place. Area of market. Whence materials come. In sixty years never had a strike, 122. Use Londonderry pig iron. Several men own their homes. Men paid fortnightly, in cash, 123. Make their own patterns, 124. Ventilation. Sanitary condition, 125.
- ROBINSON A., *Carriage-builder, Chatham* - - - - **375-376**
Hands employed. Obtains parts of carriages from Ontario. Has apprentices. Used to think American springs best, 375. Uses English varnishes. Indenturing system, 376.
- ROBINSON, W., *Carriage maker, Newcastle* - - - - **420-421**
Wages. Competition from Ontario, 420. Gets most his material from Ontario, 421.
- RUDDOCK, J., *Ship repairer, St. John* - - - - **223-225**
Wages, 223. Number own their homes. Thinks St. John should have a dry dock. Can do repairs 50 per cent. cheaper than New York, 224. Men says it costs double when in Boston compared with St. John, 225.
- ROGERS, W., *Operative Brush Factory, St. John* - - - - **38-40**
Hands employed. Machinery. Material comes chiefly from United States, 38. Is paid Saturday. Area of market. Pretty constant employment, 39. Competition comes from Central Prison Toronto, 40.
- RUSK, J. W., *Clerk Freight Department, Intercolonial Railway* - - - - **248-249**
Men employed in department. Wages. System of checking. Work increased, pay not, 248.
- RUSSEL, J., *Spool Manufacturer, Newcastle* - - - - **401-404**
Employs fifty hands. Wages. Hours of work. Ages. Had to get skilled hands from Great Britain. Pays by orders, in part, 401. Pays once a month. Market is in Paisley, Scotland. No accidents. Excelsior is sold in Canada. Find the wood on the spot, 402. Railway rates against extension of sales. Rents, 403. Business increased, 404.
- RYAN, W., *Lumberman, Newcastle* - - - - **421-422**
Wages. Character of work, 421. Pays monthly, 422.

- RYDER, J., Blacksmith, St. John** - - - - - **150**
 Wages. Hours of work. Paid weekly, 150.
- SCHLYER, J., Engineer, Fredericton** - - - - - **433**
 Hours of work. Some of the men own their houses. Thinks workingmen do not get enough wages. They would not ask aid from the City Council, though, 433.
- SCOFIELD, S., Ship Broker, St. John** - - - - - **207-216**
 Cost of loading steam and sailing vessels in St. John, 207. Subject continued, 208. Labor troubles, 209. Labor troubles have hurt the port. Ship Laborers' Society, 210. Stevedores and their rates, 211. Why rates of loading are higher in steamers than in sailing vessels, 212. House rents lower, 213. Discusses the Quebec Act, 214.
- SCOFIELD, S. (re-called), Ship Broker, St. John** - - - - - **283-284**
 Explains about charges of stevedores in Quebec. Usefulness of stevedores, 283. Yearly earnings of ship laborers, 284.
- SEDERQUEST, N. E., Cabinet-maker, St. Stephen** - - - - - **499-500**
 Hands employed. Hours of work. Wages. Apprentices, 449. Wages better than across the line. Costs more to live in Minnesota. Many Canadian workmen glad to get back. Accidents trying to stop the buzz-planer with the fingers. Paid weekly in cash. As many persons live on American side of the line and work on the Canadian as the reverse, 500.
- SEYMOUR, S., Printer, St. John** - - - - - **170-171**
 Partly agrees with previous witness. Objects to plate-matter. Believes in indenturing apprentices, 170. Printers are organized. Public school books should, he thinks, be printed in the province. Rents have increased. Good feeling between proprietors and printers, 171.
- SHARP, D., Furniture Maker, St. John** - - - - - **153**
 Corroborates foreman's evidence. Thinks workingmen can't save much, 153.
- SHAW, C. E., Overseer, Marysville Cotton Mill,** - - - - - **459-460**
 Hands in department, 459. Wages. Corroborates evidence of previous witness. Paid monthly, in cash and in full, 460.
- SHAW, N., Carriage Builder, St. John** - - - - - **18-20**
 Wages. Constant employment. Apprentices, 18. Area of market. Competition. Technical education, 19. Hours of work. Gets woods from the States, 20.
- SIMONSON, G. F., Paper-box Manufacturer, St. John** - - - - - **187-188**
 Hands employed, 187. Wages. Market, 188.
- SIMMS, T. S., Broom-maker, St. John** - - - - - **3-5**
 Wages, 3. Hours of work. Suffers from competition of prison-made goods. Pays every week in cash, and in full. Ventilation, 4. The freight from Toronto tells in favor of his goods. Could employ more hands if Upper Province competition out of way, 5.
- SMITH, A. C., Chairman Water Commission, St. John** - - - - - **272-273**
 Rates of charges. No classes exempt. Collect from the landlord, except special agreement in lease, 272. Sewage system pretty good, 273.
- SMITH, C., Carder, Marysville Cotton Mill** - - - - - **486-487**
 Wages here better than in New Hampshire, Comparative hours of work, 486. No dissatisfaction. Separate conveniences. Ventilation good, 487.
- SMITH, D. G., Journalist, Chatham** - - - - - **382-384**
 Population of Northumberland. Number of paupers. Population of Chatham. Police force, 382. Wages of corporation laborers. Condition of workingmen "remarkably good." Education. Aspirations of people, 383.

- SMITH, J., *Pattern-Maker, St. John* - - - - - **288**
Wages. Technical education, 288.
- STEPHENSON, E., *Machinist, St. John* - - - - - **46-47**
Wages. Apprentices. Boys go away, 46. No demand for workmen beyond present supply, 47.
- STERLING, W. C., *Manager "Sun," St. John* - - - - - **172-174**
No disposition to grind down the men. Use of plate matter does not diminish work for men, 172. Do not recognize Printers' Union, 173. Hours of work, 174.
- STEVENS, A., *Hosiery Manufacturer, Moncton* - - - - - **335-336**
Hands employed. Hours of work, 335. Steady employment. Women's earnings. Machinery used. Whence the stock comes, 336.
- STEVENS, J. G., *Policeman, Intercolonial Railway* - - - - - **177-178**
Wages. Hours of work. Wants hours shortened. Paid monthly, 177.
- STEWART, J., *Locomotive Engineer, St. John* - - - - - **245-247**
Engaged on Intercolonial. Average pay, 245. Some have accumulated property. Paid monthly. Accident and benefit fund, 246. Color test. Use all Canadian coal, 247.
- SULLIVAN, J., *Brush-maker, St. John* - - - - - **151**
Constant employment. No labor troubles. Trade increasing. Hands employed. Raw material chiefly imported, 151.
- SUTCLIFFE, A., *Overseer Cotton Mill, St. John* - - - - - **260-261**
Hands employed. Wages. Child labor, 260.
- SUTHERLAND, W., *Fireman of Quarry, Newcastle* - - - - - **416-417**
Hands employed. Wages. Men paid monthly. Store orders, 416. Prospects bright. Area of market, 417.
- SYNNOTT, G., *Laborer, Chatham* - - - - - **389**
Mill-men's wages. Paid fortnightly. Store orders. No due bills. Payments satisfactory, 389.
- TAPLEY, F., *Chief Clerk, Freight Office, Intercolonial Railway* - - - - - **249-250**
Wages, 249. Holidays. Hours of service. Extra night work, 250.
- TAPLEY, G., *Beamer, Marysville Cotton Mills.* - - - - - **462-463**
Wages, 462. Never had any trouble with foreman, 463
- TAPLEY, J., *Lumberman, St. John* - - - - - **88-91**
Men employed. Wages, 88. Charge for transport of logs. Tows from Fredericton, 50,000,000. Works not on time, but on tide. Perfect harmony between raftsmen and employers. No organization, 89. Boiler inspection. System of river lights. Old English law about rule of the road on the river, 90. Objects to the new bridge built over the river at Fredericton. Wants Government to look into the matter, 91.
- TAYLOR, A., *Granite Works, St. George* - - - - - **516-518**
Men employed. Wages. Apprentices. Some of his men own their houses, 516. Men sober and industrious. Pays monthly. Comparison wages with the United States. Cost of living in Scotland. Complains of Intercolonial Railway freight rates. "Business increased a great deal," 517.
- TAYLOR, J., *General Merchant, Moncton* - - - - - **338**
Hours of work. Earnings of clerks. Work people in Moncton generally paid in cash. Prices of staples. Pays clerks weekly. Cash arrangements, 338.

- THOMAS, J. C., *Caulker, St. John* - - - - - **142-144**
 Wages. Statement of yearly earnings for twenty-three years, 142. Hours of work.
 Iron vessels. Organization of caulkers, 143. Rents, 144.
- THOMPSON, G. F., *Paint Manufacturer, St. John* - - - - - **134-135**
 Hands employed. Wages. Hours of work. Pretty steady employment all the year
 round. Mostly young men employed, 134. Area of market. Competition, 135.
- THOMPSON, F. P., *Manufacturing Agricultural Implements, &c., Fredericton* **440-443**
 Hands employed. Wages. Apprentices. Hours of work. Pays fortnightly in
 cash. No labor troubles, 440. Nearly continuous employment. Quite a number of
 his men own their houses. Prices of building lots, 441. Taxation. "Our experience
 is that we are paying higher wages than we ever paid before." Rents, 442.
- THOMPSON, F., *Furniture Finisher St. John* - - - - - **111**
 Wages. Apprentices. Hours of work, 111.
- THOMPSON, J., *Ship-owner, St. John* - - - - - **63-67**
 Shipping decreasing in St. John. Annual trade not more than two-thirds of what it
 was five years ago. One reason for decrease is, laborers' association fixed rate of
 wages too high. Another is, small towns and villages ship direct. Business over
 whole Province is equal to what it ever was. Comparisons between Quebec and
 St. John, 63. Prices loading ships and steamers compared. Laborers' wages for
 loading deals, 64. Stevedores, 65. Steamers coming to St. John in a year, 66.
 Wooden *vs.* iron ships. Repairing active. Day for wooden vessels about over, 67.
- TITUS, B., *Foreman, Intercolonial Railway* - - - - - **361-362**
 Wages, 361. Sticks to his engine until relieved. Examinations, 362.
- TODD, W., *Tanner, Fredericton* - - - - - **431-432**
 Larrigan-makers' wages. Hours of work, 431. Pretty steady work all the year.
 Rents. Prices of articles. Pays monthly, in cash. Number of men employed.
 Carriers' pay, 432.
- POWER, ANNIE, *Spinner, Cotton Mill, Moncton* - - - - - **334**
 Wages. Child labor. Board, 334.
- TRAYNOR, P., *Housecarpenter, Chatham* - - - - - **387-388**
 Wages. Wages in winter time cut down, 387. Condition of the times, 388.
- TRUEMAN, G. H., *Conductor, Intercolonial Railway* - - - - - **242-244**
 Hours of work. Wages, 242. Some of the conductors save money. Coupling of
 cars, 243. Running-boards. Covered bridges, 244.
- VAIL, ANNIE, *Stitcher, Cotton Mill, Moncton* - - - - - **333**
 Wages. "Everything nice and comfortable in the mill." Young girls, 333.
- VAIL, RUTH, *Carder, Cotton Mill, Moncton* - - - - - **333-334**
 Wages, 333. Holidays. No fines, 334.
- VROOM, C. N., *Manufacturer of Slippers and Larigans, St. Stephen* - - - - - **488-489**
 Hands employed. Hours of work, 488. Earnings. Apprentices. Area of market.
 Whence material is procured. Pays weekly, in cash and in full. Is partner in drain
 pipe factory. Hands employed. Area of market, 489.
- VROOM, W. F., *Furniture-maker, St. Stephen* - - - - - **472-473**
 Hands employed. Wages. Apprentices. Hours of work. Constant employment.
 Workingmen sober, 472. Rents. Area of Market. materials imported, 473.
- WALMSLEY, J., *Overseer of Weavers, Moncton* - - - - - **322-323**
 Women employed. Children engaged. Hours of work. Fines, 322. Treatment of
 children, 323.

- WALSH, P., *Blacksmith's Helper, St. John* - - - - - **238-239**
Hours of work. Wages. Ventilation. Wages less than they were, 238.
- WARNER, D. B., *Lumber and Lime Manufacturer, St. John* - - - - - **275-276**
Explains treaty privileges enjoyed by Americans on River St. John. Lumber on United States soil floated down St. John river and sent to United States may be sawn in New Brunswick by citizens of United States, 275. One hundred and thirty million feet of this lumber shipped. Value lime industry, 276.
- WATT, G., *Ship Chandler, Chatham* - - - - - **373**
Wages. Hours of work. Ships smelts. Average prices of smelts. Smelt fishery brings in \$25,000 or \$30,000 a season, 373.
- WEIR, J., *Iron Machinist, Moncton* - - - - - **320-321**
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- WHALEN, T., *Mule Spinner, St. John* - - - - - **262**
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- WHEELER, B., *Operative, Marysville Cotton Mill* - - - - - **465-466**
Wages, 465. Men kind and willing to instruct, 466.
- WHEELER, F., *Operative, Marysville Cotton Mill*, - - - - - **463**
Wages. Never been chastised in the mill, 463.
- WHITE, B., *Packer, Moncton Sugar Refinery* - - - - - **348-349**
Wages. Paid monthly, 348. Doesn't feel it close economy to support a wife, 349.
- WHITE, J. A., *Manufacturer Earthenware, St. John* - - - - - **221-222**
Complains that Government took the duty off firebrick. Wages. Night-work. Boys' wages. Gets clay from New Brunswick, New Jersey and Jersey (Eng.), 221. Area of market; fuel, 222.
- WHITE, P., *Sugar Refinery, Moncton* - - - - - **351**
Hot work. Wages. Paid monthly, 351.
- WHITE, S., *Engineer, Moncton* - - - - - **346**
Wages and hours of work. No certificate, 346.
- WIER, J. P., *Engineer, Moncton* - - - - - **348**
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- WILLIAMS, T. P., *Superintendent Moncton Sugar Refinery* - - - - - **318-319**
Hands employed. Wages. Night-work. Pretty constant employment, 318. Pays monthly "square up." Combines, 319.
- WILLIAMSON, F., *Machinist, St. John* - - - - - **81**
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- WINSLOW, J., *Currier, St. John* - - - - - **110**
Wages. Paid weekly, in cash and in full. Gets constant employment. Area of market, 110.
- WILSON, J. C., *Minter, St. John* - - - - - **266**
Wages. Paid weekly, in cash and in full. Number of hands. Speaks about the school books, 266.
- WINTER, S., *Tinsmith and Stove-dealer, Moncton* - - - - - **321**
Wages. Apprentices. Hours of work. Gets material in Canada. "Quite a few workmen own their homes." Pays weekly, in full and in cash. No labor troubles, 321.

- WOOD, F., *Slasher Tender, Marysville Cotton Mill* - - - - **458-459**
 Wages. Hours of work. Works one hour a day less than he did in the United States. Wages about the same as in the United States. Paid rent of house. Never had any trouble while here. Fire protection. No complaints to make.
- WOODBURN, J. R., *Confectioner, St. John* - - - - **36-37**
 Business probably doubled since 1873. Number of hands. Wages. Apprentices. Women employed. Ventilation of factory. Area of market, 36. Competition from Ontario—lots of it. Price of sugar. Canadian better. Scotch, 37.
- WOODS, J., *Stevedore, Chatham* - - - - **378**
 Wages. Square timber. Season for loading ships. A great many ship laborers own their homes. Never had any labor troubles. No Sunday work, 378.
- YOUNG, L. H., *Manager Nut and Bolt Works, St. John* - - - - **280-282**
 Uses Canadian iron wholly. Hands employed. Wages. Boys, as a rule, remain with him. Hours of work, 281. Machinery. Area of market. Night-work. Competition, 282.
- YOUNG, E. A., *Apprentice, Stone Cutting, St. George* - - - - **533-534**
 Employers give instructions, 533. No grievances. Everything satisfactory. Wages, 534.
- ZEBLEY, H. B., *Street Car Company, St. John* - - - - **178-179**
 Hands employed. Hours of work, 178. Wages. Most of the men remain. Sunday work, 179.