

the Bill at all: the conditions are practically the same, with the exception that there are these restrictions for male employees and some others regarding exceeding the hours of work. They suffer restrictions under the Bill, and say, "If the clause is going to deal effectively with Chinese laundries, we are prepared to suffer; but it will not do that, and we are not prepared to suffer that."

4. The disadvantage on the Chinese side is that they have to close their shops at a certain hour, and cannot receive their delivery of washing. That would hinder their customers, and the customers will have to send their washing to the European laundry, to the advantage of your side and the disadvantage of the Chinese?—Well, let us work it out: Take Mr Lock's statement—He said there was one Chinese laundry with four employees, and six with two. Supposing they cannot get clear of it, they are only seven, but the other eight, with two working, will be in a great majority of cases two partners. They can quietly engage separate rooms for their work, so that the Bill will affect only seven, and five will get clear of it. I suppose that in stating this I am showing our friends the way to dodge it.

5. *Mr Fraser* ] If it did have a place, it would mean increased expenditure in the matter of rental and appliances?—Probably that would be the cheaper Mr Lock has told us that it is a business that does not require any expenditure of capital.

6. *The Chinese Consul.* ] Do the European laundries receive and deliver stuff before 8 in the morning and after 5 in the afternoon?—If the carriers do it, they are restricted to 47½ working-hours under the award, and they have to be paid overtime. If shops are kept open for the purpose of receiving or delivering, they are restricted by the Shops and Offices Bill to fifty-two hours.

7 Do you think if hours are prescribed they will be as severe to the Chinese as to the Europeans?—I should be afraid to stand up and say the hours of work should be increased. We are not asking for any increase in the working-hours.

8. But the hours of delivery and receiving are not limited?—You are putting aside the carriers.

9. Where drivers are employed to deliver?—They are restricted to 47½ hours right throughout the Dominion

10. Do they deliver after 5 o'clock?—They may, but they can only work 47½ hours throughout the week under their award.

11. What about working until 10.30 on Saturday night?—That may be, but if a man's time has gone over 47½ hours, then there is time and a half for it. Then, in regard to the depots, where people bring their stuff and go for it, they are controlled to a greater or lesser extent by the Shops and Offices Act. If there is going to be any legislation as far as the Chinese are concerned, the same will have to be provided for Europeans.

12 You state that the Chinese will treat their employees as partners what difference will that make?—I am only saying what I think I would do myself, and I am perfectly satisfied that if I were engaged in the business, if there were two engaged in partnership there would be another room taken for the second. That could be worked quite easily

13. They cannot do that because it will mean more expense?—A little more business will make up the increased expenditure.

14. If they remain as they do at present it does not make a difference, because the law states "where there are more than two employed"?—That is so.

15 If the Chinese have two or three working together, it is a factory, and they have to observe factory-hours. If they have a woman with them that place will be exempted?—Not unless there are two or three there.

16. The point is that if there are two Chinese working together, that is a factory, and they will have to observe the law?—That is so.

17 They would not split partnership?—Mr Lock has stated in his evidence that there are fifteen laundries in which there are two or more engaged, but then there are seventeen outside the Bill. The majority would still be outside it. My point is still strong

18. *Mr McLaren.* ] Do you represent all the European laundrymen in the city?—I have been appointed by the Employers' Federation to represent the laundry people of the Dominion.

19 What authority have you?—We represent a large number of those who are engaged in the industry

20. The people who waited on the Minister?—I have nothing to do with that.

21 Have you authority to represent the employees in European laundries?—No.

22 *The Chinese Consul.* ] In the European factories most of the employees are girls?—It is to a large extent female employment, but there are a considerable number of male employees.

23. Therefore this will put the Chinese on the same footing as the weaker sex?—It is doing the same so far as the European men are concerned; but, although there are forty-eight hours provided for for the man, when you make the women's working-time forty-five hours, you cannot have the one without the other

24. Is fifty-four hours too long for the Chinese?—I suppose if you gave Europeans the same privileges we should be satisfied; but we say, whatever is given to the Chinese should be given to the Europeans right throughout.

WILLIAM PRYOR further examined. (No. 4.)

*Witness* Taking the Bill generally, and omitting clause 3, in regard to section 2, subsection (c), we ask to insert the word "usually" before the word "employed." We ask in regard to subsection (3) to have the words "during ordinary working-hours" inserted after the word "time" in line 21, making it read, "The Inspector may at any time during ordinary working-hours require the occupier to verify the entries in the said book in such manner and form as may