

JOURNAL

OF

THE SENATE

OF THE

THIRTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Convened at Springfield, January 4, 1893, and adjourned *sine die* June 16, 1893.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.:
H. W. ROEGER, STATE PRINTER AND BINDER.
1893.

Mr. Wells, from the Committee on Judicial Department, to which was referred a bill, Senate Bill No. 83, for "An act to give greater security in the transfer of property and more easily to detect fraud in the acknowledgments thereof," reported the same back with the recommendation that the bill do not pass.

The report of the committee was concurred in, and the bill, On motion of Mr. Wells, was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Noonan, from the special committee appointed to investigate the "Sweat Shop System," made the following

REPORT AND FINDINGS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE
"SWEAT SHOP" SYSTEM.

To the Honorable Senate and the House of Representatives:

Pursuant to the joint resolution providing for the investigation of the "Sweat Shop" system by a joint committee, your committee respectfully submits the following report and findings, together with a transcript of the evidence of places visited, and witnesses heard by them, and which is made a part of this report:

On the 10th of February your committee met at the Sherman House, and for four days thereafter continued to visit the various tenement quarters of the city, and inspect the places where clothing was manufactured by persons in shops and in living rooms. The shops were located in basements, garrets, and in the rear of tenement houses, as well as in all kinds of tenement houses, and in most instances the living rooms were adjoining the shop.

The sanitary condition and arrangements of the shops were, in the majority of instances, very bad and unfit for human habitation. Where the shop itself was not injurious to the health of the men, women and children who occupied the same, it was rendered so by over-crowding and the lack of ventilation—*vide* shop 145 Division street, 20x40½, sixty-seven people employed therein with machines, cloth, presser's stove, tables and other things.

It was characteristic of all the shops visited by the committee to have bad smells and noxious odors. No precaution was taken against the severity of the winter weather. Men were found working upon the bare ground in basements. Girls were found working in basements with their throats wrapped up. Little children were found working fifty feet from the only means of heating, which was a presser's stove, twelve by eighteen inches. Shop owners stated to the committee that no heating was necessary; that "there were so many people working there, they would keep themselves warm." It was observed by the committee that in most of the basement shops machines were operated by lamp light during the entire day.

The committee further finds that in the manufacture of coats, vests, trousers, knee-pants, overalls, cloaks, shirts, purses, feathers, artificial flowers and cigars, it is the practice of the manufacturers to employ their own cutters, and have the work of cutting done under the supervision of a foreman employed by the firm, and some portion of the garments cut and manufactured in the so-called inside shop, which is owned by the wholesaler himself and conducted under the personal management of the firm or its employé. The remainder of the goods are given out to contractors who have shops, and also to persons who make the garments at their homes. The contractor in turn employs operators to run the sewing machines; shop finishers who finish the goods in the shop; pressers, children who sew on buttons and pull out basting threads, sew on tags, and do other work. The contractor further employs a very large number of women, who finish his garments in their homes and return them to him.

Your committee further finds from their visit to these shops that the sewing on these garments is done by men and women and young girls, who work from ten to fifteen hours a day, and in many instances seven days in the week. That the average compensation received by the men is from five to twelve dollars a week, and that for the women is from three to seven dollars a week, and for the girls is from seventy-five cents to two dollars and one-half a week. And the employes suffer a loss of time, by reason of the absence of work each week, and each season, which amounts to two or three months in the course of the year. The majority of the machine operators are paid by the piece, and the contractor or sweater compels them to work at the top of their speed, and the longest possible hours when the shop is full of work, and to sit idle at their own expense during those days in which the contractor is without work for them. A very large proportion of the machine operators were found to be women and girls, and this work is notoriously injurious to them, not only by reason of the ordinary injury wrought by running the machine by foot power, but because in the cloak and clothing trades they are obliged to use heavy cloth machines and to operate upon material which is often heavy, stiff, and dyed with dyes the dust of which is injurious.

The committee further finds that in nearly every shop they visited, employing from ten to one hundred and twenty people, the men, women and children were required to use the same water-closet, which was usually located in the yard, and in a most offensive condition.

Your committee observed that children who were employed in shops appeared to be only nine to twelve years of age, and in some instances so stated; and later on, after being coached by the owner of the shop, stated that they were fourteen years of age.

Your committee further finds that from their visits it was observed that clothing and wearing apparel in process of manufacture were stored in the living room, and in some instances used as part of the bedding by the occupants living therein.

Your committee further finds, from the sworn testimony of the witnesses who appeared before them, that the wholesale clothing manufacturers of Chicago, do an aggregate business of from twenty-one to thirty million of dollars per year; that about ninety per cent. is manufactured in Chicago, and the other ten per cent. is manufactured in the east, and that a large portion of the eastern manufactured goods is made in penal and reformatory institutions of New York, New Jersey and elsewhere. That of the goods manufactured in Chicago, about one-third is made directly by the manufacturer in his own factory, and the other two-thirds are made by contractors who own workshops, and by persons who do the work in their homes. That in dealings between the manufacturer and the contractor, some employe of the manufacturer is engaged to look after that portion of the work, and it is his duty to arbitrarily fix the price for which the contractor must make the goods. That there is great competition between the various contractors for the work of the manufacturers. That it is the practice for the manufacturer to have no knowledge of the sanitary condition of the workshops of the contractor or of the sanitary condition of the tenement houses where the persons live who take the work home. It is the practice for the manufacturer to have no knowledge of the wages or the piece price paid by the contractor to his operators, finishers, pressers or other employes, or the hours of labor per day which they may work, nor the prices the contractor may pay to the persons who may take the work out from his shop to be made at their homes and return to him; nor of the sanitary condition of such homes.

Your committee further finds the reason that a large amount of the manufactured goods which have been made in the penal institutions in the East and purchased in this market, is because the cost of them is a great deal less than they can be manufactured for here, that the average difference is from fifteen to twenty-five per cent., which is largely due to the difference in the cost of labor. That the manufacturers state that they can have their work done a great deal cheaper by the contractors and home-workers than they could by running a factory of their own;

that the cost of rent largely enters into this. There are from eight hundred to one thousand workshops, and the number of people employed therein is estimated to be from twenty-five to thirty-five thousand people in the city of Chicago. The testimony of the manufacturers is that the largest portion of the goods manufactured in Chicago are sold to country merchants.

Your committee is of the opinion that the long hours, low wages, overcrowding and lack of inspection on the part of the authorities upon these outside places are also greater causes of this cheapness.

Your committee further finds that the contractors, or proprietors, of the so-called "Sweat Shops" have no knowledge of the sanitary condition of the places where the goods are made or finished for them by persons living at home.

Your committee further finds from the testimony of practicing physicians that it is a very common occurrence for contagious and infectious diseases to exist in tenement houses wherein is carried on the manufacture of clothing, wearing apparel and other articles. That the germs, bacilli or microbes of any such contagious or infectious diseases may be spread, disseminated or carried in the garments so made or manufactured in these tenement houses to the purchaser buying them.

And your committee would state that in two instances were observed the presence of contagious and infectious diseases where clothing was being made at the time. That no precaution is taken by the employé or by the contractor, or by the manufacturer, to prevent the existence of any contagious or infectious diseases being carried in the garments, so made or manufactured, other than to press them with a hot iron in order to make the garments smooth and more attractive. That the said physicians stated that such pressing by a hot iron would not destroy or kill any germs of the infectious or contagious diseases if they were in the garment at the time.

Your committee finds that the "Sweat Shop" system is productive of moral and physical wretchedness to thousands of men, women and children in the State of Illinois; that it spreads infectious and contagious diseases throughout the land and its existence is detrimental to the health and welfare of the public.

And your committee respectfully reports two bills for the partial remedy of the evil, of the following titles:

1. "A bill for an act to regulate the manufacture of clothing, wearing apparel and other articles in this State, and to provide for the appointment of State inspectors to enforce the same, and to make an appropriation therefor."

2. "A bill for an act to regulate the sale in this State of products of convict labor."

And further recommends to your honorable body that the bills of the titles aforesaid be read for the first time and ordered to the second reading without reference. All of which is respectfully submitted,

EDWARD T. NOONAN, *Chairman*,
 JOSEPH P. MAHONEY,
 PLEASANT T. CHAPMAN,
 JOSEPH A. O'DONNELL,
 LUTHER M. DEARBORN,
 CHARLES S. DENEEN,
 STEPHEN D. MAY,

Committee.

February 27, 1893.

And the bill, Senate Bill No. 255, for "An act to regulate the manufacture of clothing, wearing apparel and other articles in

this State, and to provide for the appointment of State inspectors to enforce the same, and to make an appropriation therefor."

Which was taken up and read at large a first time, ordered printed, and,

On motion of Mr. Noonan, was referred to the Committee on Penal and Reformatory Institutions.

Senate Bill No. 256, for "An act to regulate the sale in this State of the products of convict labor."

Which was taken up and read at large a first time, ordered printed, and,

On motion of Mr. Noonan, was referred to the Committee on Penal and Reformatory Institutions.

Mr. Noonan also offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That five hundred copies of the report and transcript of evidence of the joint committee appointed to investigate the "Sweat Shop System" be ordered printed.

Mr. Noonan moved that the rules be suspended.

And the motion prevailed.

And the rules were suspended and the resolution adopted.

A message from the House by Mr. Wm. B. Morris, Assistant Clerk:

Mr. President:—I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has adopted the report of the conference committee appointed to reconcile the differences existing between the two houses in relation to the amendment heretofore adopted by the House to the Senate joint resolution relating to the proposed investigation of the so-called "whisky trust."

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT W. ROSS,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Salomon, from the conference committee in regard to the Senate joint resolution to investigate the "whisky trust," made the following report:

We the undersigned, the committee of conference, appointed by the Senate and House upon the resolution to investigate the so-called "Whisky Trust," beg leave to report that we recommend the adoption of the following amendment to the Senate joint resolution: "Amend by making the number of the committee eight, and insert word "eight" in original resolution where word "seven" occurs." And that the Senate concur in the House amendment.

And the report of the committee was concurred in.

And the President of the Senate appointed as such committee on the part of the Senate, Senators Salomon, Mahoney, Evans.

Ordered that the Secretary inform the House thereof.

Mr. Brands offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Chester Light, Water and Ice Co. has secured a franchise for the construction of an electric light and water plant for the city of Chester; and

Mr. Noonan asked unanimous consent to have Senate Bills Nos. 256 and 255 then on the calendar on second reading taken up for consideration.

Unanimous consent was given,

And the bill, Senate Bill No. 256, a bill for "An act to regulate the sale in this State of the products of convict labor," was taken up and read at large a second time.

And the question being "Shall the bill be ordered engrossed for a third reading?" it was decided in the affirmative.

Senate Bill No. 255, a bill for "An act to regulate the manufacture of clothing, wearing apparel and other articles in this State, and to provide for the appointment of State inspectors to enforce the same, and to make an appropriation therefor," was taken up and read at large a second time.

The following amendments offered by the Committee on Penal and Reformatory Institutions were adopted:

Amendments to Senate Bill No. 255.

Amend section one, line five, by inserting after the word "shirts" "ladies' waists."

Amend section one by striking out line seven and line eight up to and including the word "children."

Amend section one by striking out of line 16 the word "passage" and substituting therefor the words "taking effect."

Amend section three, line 3, by inserting after the word "shirts" the words "ladies' waists."

Amend section four, line 8, by striking out the word "or" and inserting the word "of."

Amend section seven by striking out in line 3 the words "for sale" and inserting after the word "part" the words "for sale or for wages."

Amend section seven, line six, by inserting after the word "sale" the words "or for wages."

Amend section six by striking out of line seven the words "with ages" and substituting therefor the words "ages and places of residence."

Amend section seven, line seven, by inserting after the word "shirts" the words "Ladies' waists."

Amend section seven by inserting after the word "workshop" in line nine the words "for the purposes of inspection."

Amend section nine by striking out of line two the words "two thousand" and substituting therefor the words "fifteen hundred."

Amend section nine by striking out of line three the words "fifteen hundred" and substituting therefor the words "one thousand."

Amend section nine by striking out of lines 4 and 5 the words "one thousand" and substituting therefor the words "Seven hundred and fifty."

Amend section nine by striking out of line one the word "passage" and substituting therefor the words "taking effect."

Amend section ten by striking out of line four the word "seven" following the word "twenty."

Amend section ten by striking out of line six the word "ten" and substituting therefor the word "eight."

Amend section ten by striking out of line nine the words "more than five" and substituting therefor the word "four."

And the question being, "Shall the bill as amended be ordered engrossed?" it was decided in the affirmative.

Mr. Wall asked unanimous consent to have Senate Bill No. 180 taken from the table and recommitted to the Committee on Finance and Claims.

Unanimous consent was given.

And it was so ordered.

Mr. Higbee asked unanimous consent to have House Bills Nos. 456 and 120, on the calendar on first reading, taken up and read at large a first time and committed to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds.

Unanimous consent was given, and the bills,

House Bill No. 456, a bill for "An act to provide for the payment of certain special taxes assessed and levied against property owned and controlled by the State of Illinois and located in the city of Mt. Vernon, for paving and curbing one-half of the streets abutting on said property and constructing sidewalks around said property,"

Was taken up and read at large a first time, ordered printed, and,

On motion of Mr. Higbee, was referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds.

House Bill No. 120, a bill for "An act to provide for the payment of certain special taxes assessed and levied against property owned and controlled by the State of Illinois, and located in the city of Ottawa, for paving and curbing one half of certain streets abutting on said property,"

Was taken up and read at large a first time, ordered printed, and,

On motion of Mr. Higbee, was referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds.

At 12:45 o'clock P. M., Mr. O'Connor moved that the Senate do now adjourn.

Which motion prevailed.

Mr. Ford introduced a bill, Senate Bill No. 350, for 'An act to amend section eleven (11) of article two (II) of an act entitled 'An act to establish and maintain a system of free schools,' approved May 21, 1889, in force May 21, 1889.'

Which was taken up and read at large a first time, ordered printed, and,

On motion of Mr. Ford, was referred to the Committee on Education and Educational Institutions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

The President of the Senate announced the item of unfinished business to be in which the Senate was engaged at the hour of adjournment Thursday, the further consideration of Senate Bill No. 255, a bill for "An act to regulate the manufacture of clothing, wearing apparel and other articles in this State, and to provide for the appointment of state inspectors to enforce the same, and to make an appropriation therefor."

The bill was read a third time Thursday, March 30.

And the question being, "Shall this bill pass?" it was decided in the affirmative by the following vote: Yeas, 40.

The following voted in the affirmative, Messrs.:

Allen,	Brands,	Evans,	Knopf,	Reavill,
Anderson,	Caldwell,	Farmer,	Mahoney,	Salomon,
Arnold,	Campbell,	Green,	Manecke,	Seibert,
Aspinwall,	Chapman,	Higbee,	Mussett,	Thiele,
Bacon,	Coon,	Humphrey,	Niehaus,	Wells,
Bartling,	Coppinger,	Hunt,	Noonan,	Wright,
Bass,	Craig,	Hunter,	O'Malley,	Zearing.
Berry,	Dunlap,	Johnson,	Paisley,	Yeas—40.
Bogardus,				

Ordered that the title be as aforesaid, and that the Secretary inform the House of Representatives thereof, and ask their concurrence.

SENATE BILLS ON THIRD READING.

Senate Bill No. 256, for "An act to regulate the sale in this State of the products of convict labor," was taken up for passage.

Mr. Noonan moved that the bill be re-called to second reading for amendment.

Which motion prevailed.

Senate Bill No. 306, a bill for "An act entitled 'An act to enable cities and villages to provide and maintain electric light plants, and to furnish light and power to the inhabitants,'" was taken up and read at large a third time.

Mr. Thiele moved that the bill be re-called to second reading for amendment.

Which motion prevailed.