

Personal Investigation by Representatives of The Inter Ocean.

NOT SO BAD AS REPORTED

Many Are Large, Light, and Well Ventilated.

Some of the Poorer Class Are Menaced by the Filthy Condition of the Alleys.

During the present controversy between the clothing manufacturers and the cutters and trimmers the sweatshops, or contract shops, of Chicago have opened employment. They have been denoted by the labor leaders as dens of misery, filth, and disease. All the adjectives available do not suffice to describe the condition of the shops in which the clothing manufactured in Chicago was made up.

These statements, if true, represented a state of affairs that should not exist in any civilized community and if it did not exist they would injure that great industry which amounted to nearly \$30,000,000, and indirectly react upon organized labor generally as well as those who were engaged in manufacturing garments in this city.

All along the manufacturers have denounced the assertions that their goods were made up into garments in such places as have been depicted by the speakers at the strikers' meetings. They have said repeatedly that if such black holes of disease and death exist they do not know of them. They do not deny that some may exist, but they claim that they do not patronize such contract shops and could not afford to send garments into such places in the city.

The Inter Ocean has undertaken to investigate some of these so-called dens. A long list was prepared from the books of some of the manufacturers and quite a number of these places have been visited.

Another list was prepared from the State Factory Inspector and a number of these places inspected. The latter list was made up of the sweatshops as the people understand the term. They naturally understand that term to refer to poorly ventilated, filthy, and disease-breeding places where clothing is made up and the atmosphere is so stifling that it would give a well person the head of the green apple reaching out after him.

In fact, the term as it is used by the Factory Inspectors and legislative bodies refers only to that system where garments are made up for a manufacturer under contract. This is found in shops located in the tenement districts by the employment of cutters. The average "sweatshop" or contract shop, in Chicago contains about twenty persons, the majority being girls.

All Are Not Dens of Misery.

The investigation of the southwestern district, which is said to contain the smaller shops, completely disproved the general impression of the sweating system employed in the manufacturing of clothing by the wholesale houses. Of about forty-five contract shops visited only a few, less than six, were what the general public would call a sweatshop.

Of these six all but one were located in the Jewish settlement, near Maxwell and Canal streets, in what is probably the poorest and most poverty-stricken portion of the city. It is claimed by persons who are acquainted with the system that this district has the worst sweatshops in the city. And it cannot be denied that they are not unhealthy places for any one to work in. The city is not without responsibility in this matter. The streets are in as bad condition as the shops themselves, and the filth is still worse. The mystery is that the death rate in this section is not greater than in the rest. Out of the shops visited in this section but one was found making gains, but whose cause could not be ascertained. A great many are engaged in the manufacturing of dresses and cloaks for small manufacturers.

The list taken from the clothing manufacturers' books, however, represented an entirely different state of affairs. This district was further west and the shops, with one exception, were light and airy. The rooms were large, clean, and in most cases freshly carpeted. The only thing that appeared unhealthy among these contract shops was the filthy alleys, all of which in some cases the garment makers are compelled to traverse.

The worst alleys and streets are found in the vicinity of Maxwell and Canal streets in the Seventh Ward, which, by the way, is the ward represented by Aldermen John A. Cooke and Edward Heaz, and in the Eighth Ward in the vicinity of Allport street and Eighteenth place. This ward is represented by Aldermen Frank Berube and John Demaris in the council.

Where Some of the Tallest Work.

The following is a partial list of contract shops in the southwest side:

- 1. Collins, No. 127 Lombard street.
- 2. Dusek, No. 121 Van Horn street.
- 3. Dunovsky, No. 102 West Eighteenth street.
- 4. Eland, No. 322 West Edman street.
- 5. Fager, No. 127 Edman street.
- 6. Hays, No. 321 Taylor street.
- 7. Hays, No. 11 Edward street.
- 8. Hirsch, No. 24 West Twentieth street.
- 9. Hirsch, No. 163 West Nineteenth street.
- 10. Hirsch, No. 34 West Nineteenth street.
- 11. Jankov, No. 67 West Twentieth street.
- 12. Jankov, No. 61 West Twentieth street.
- 13. Keller, No. 60 West Twentieth street.
- 14. Kress, No. 829 South Ashland street.
- 15. Kroll, No. 212 West Nineteenth street.
- 16. Kroll, No. 211 West Nineteenth street.
- 17. Kroll, No. 210 West Nineteenth street.
- 18. Kroll, No. 209 West Nineteenth street.
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- 43. Kroll, No. 184 West Nineteenth street.
- 44. Kroll, No. 183 West Nineteenth street.
- 45. Kroll, No. 182 West Nineteenth street.
- 46. Kroll, No. 181 West Nineteenth street.
- 47. Kroll, No. 180 West Nineteenth street.
- 48. Kroll, No. 179 West Nineteenth street.
- 49. Kroll, No. 178 West Nineteenth street.
- 50. Kroll, No. 177 West Nineteenth street.

In speaking of the sweatshops of Chicago, by which term she refers to those places doing work under contract. Florence Kelly, State Factory Inspector, says that this is the time when labor contract shops have set up at their best. She says that the greater part of the sweating system lies in the fact that the greater portion of them are in districts where power cannot be obtained for running the machines, and the result is girls are compelled to drive these machines through the cloth by foot power. She says that this is the hardest kind of work, and that few who have been in the sweatshops for years are able to keep up the pace.

How the Garments Are Made.

The manufacturers say they have only an indirect relation with the garment-workers, as the greater portion of the garments are made up in the contract shops. Kuh, Nathan & Fleischer, however, have an inside shop. Two pay rolls for Kuh, Nathan & Fleischer in the inside shop show that they employ twenty-five girls. The lowest wages paid are to girls employed on button threads. They receive \$2.30, and are but little over

14 years of age. Emma Schelle is the highest, and she receives, according to the pay roll, \$2.50. This is for a week of nine hours per day, and fifty-four hours per week. The pay rolls show that boys and men range from \$7.76 to \$17, with a majority at \$9.50, \$10.10, and \$11.

Kuh, Nathan & Fleischer exhibited their pay rolls of cutters for Jan. 23 and Feb. 1. The pay roll shows two cutters receiving \$24, one man, who is partially paralyzed, receiving \$14, and one old man, who is extremely slow on account of his age, \$13. Thirteen men get \$30, three getting \$21, two at \$20, one at \$20, and three, one at \$14, two at \$10. The head trimmer was receiving \$22, three at \$16, one at \$14, and two at \$12, one at \$12, and a boy at \$8. The maximum number of girls allowed under the rules of the union is fourteen, regardless of the weight of goods. The maximum allowed is far exceeded and get two for their and six for machine. A day consists of eight hours, while the manufacturers say they do not object to.

AMONG THE CONTRACTORS.

Most of Their Shops Are Well Lighted and Well Ventilated.

Those shops inspected were scattered, and they were taken haphazardly. An effort was made to find out the true conditions. Joseph Kozera of No. 414 West Nineteenth street is a contractor who feels that the contracting tailors have been grossly misrepresented by the sort of hoaxes that have been depicted by the press, which are said to represent the places in which the wholesale houses have their garments made up. He stated that he knew of no such places, and, while there might be some of that kind in the city, they could not be considered as in any way a fair example of the shops employing the tailors who work for wholesale clothing manufacturers' contractors.

"I think," he said, "that if any of these sweatshops exist you will find they do work for little custom tailors, and there are not many."

Mr. Kuzera has a large, dry shop, 3022 Canal, and, while it is not new, it has a neat appearance. The ceiling is 10 1/2 feet high, and the room is lighted from eight windows, located on three sides of the room, giving ample ventilation. He has one girl paid 14 years of age receiving \$2.50 and another receiving \$3. His men get \$12, \$11, and \$10. The machine girls get \$11, \$7, and \$6, while the hand-sewing girls receive \$7, \$6, and \$5.50. He has twelve employees, nine of whom are girls. He is working under police protection.

Thomas Zak of No. 750 Allport street employs Zak's band. He, like many of the other contractors, is favored over the tailors who work for contractors making garments for the wholesale manufacturers. He says that all he asks is for the Civic Federation committee to investigate by visiting these shops themselves and not take issue other person's word for it.

"I don't know what they mean by a sweatshop if that is one," said he. "I do not know of a real sweatshop in Chicago in this line of work."

Mr. Zak employs fifteen persons; ten are girls. Three machine girls get \$12, \$8.50, and \$6.50, and the hand-sewing girls receive \$7, \$6, and \$4, and 14, with one girl at \$4 who has been working about four weeks and received \$2.65. The five men range from \$10 down to \$7, the average being about \$9. The room is 25x29 feet in size, with a ceiling about 10 1/2 feet high. The shop has eight windows and good ventilation from three sides.

Shops on Taylor Street.

J. Sovell is a contractor at No. 216 West Taylor street. He has his shop in a three-story building on the second floor. The room in which the manufacturing is done is 12x22 feet in size, with a 10 1/2-foot ceiling. This room is comparatively new and has recently been painted and carpeted. It is well lighted and ventilated from seven windows. Mr. Sovell is closed down by the strike. His pay roll at the time of the strike consisted of eight girls and five men employed as follows: One machine girl received \$13 per week and the average paid to the hand-sewing girls, he said, was \$7 per week. The lowest wages he paid was \$7 to a 17-year-old girl, with six months' experience, to run errands and pull strings through. The pay roll shows that the wages paid to the five men amounted ranged from \$7.50 to \$11.50.

M. Vordelocher has a shop at No. 13 Washington avenue and employs eight women, three girls, and two boys. This shop is 18x29 feet in size. It is light and airy and has five windows. Mr. Vordelocher's shop was closed and the wage rate could not be obtained.

J. Hara has a shop at No. 11 Edward street, where he employs fifteen hands making coats for the wholesale manufacturers. Nine of these are girls, and their wages range from \$4 to \$12, and nine men, with wages ranging from \$4 to \$12. He has five machines run by girls. The shop is not running an account of the strikers' strike depriving him of garments to work on. The room is 18x29 feet in size, with a 10-foot ceiling, and has sixteen windows. It is poorly lighted, and the only unpleasant thing about it is the dirt and garbage that has accumulated in the alleys near by.

E. Nedyrnsky has a shop at No. 436 West Eighteenth street, in which he employs nine girls and three men. The machine girls receive the following wages: the machine girl, \$10, two at \$7.50; hand-sewing girls receive \$7.50 to \$10. The three men range from \$2.50 to \$11.50. The boys' work for 75 cents a day. The shop is newly white-washed and presents a clean, healthy appearance. The room is 25x7 1/2 feet, with an 11-foot ceiling, and is well lighted and ventilated from seven windows.

P. Malozick has a shop at No. 373 Taylor avenue in which he employs fifteen garment-makers in the busy seasons. Four of these are men; two receive \$11 as pressers, one \$10, and one boy \$7. The eleven girls range from \$2.50 to \$11. The machine girls average \$5. The room in which these people work is 35x22 feet, with a 10-foot ceiling, and is lighted by seven windows. The ventilation and light is good. About one-half of his employees are willing to work, they are afraid.

Joseph Dink has a contract shoe employes in his shop at No. 207 West Seventeenth street. Dink of these are girls; five run machines. The girls of various rates: First machine girl, \$11; second machine girl, \$8; third, \$8; fourth, \$7. Five men receive a total of wages as follows: Two at \$11 and two at \$7 and \$5 respectively for 10 hours per day. The room is 24x20 feet in size, with a 10-foot ceiling. The ventilation is poor, and the shop is comparatively new.

N. Macowich is a contractor who works for Hirsch, Eisen & Co., and his shop is located at No. 711 Allport street. He has three machine girls at \$11, \$9, and \$8 respectively, and seven hand-sewing girls, at from \$5.75 to \$7. The \$5 girl is an apprentice, a little past 14 years of age. Three men are employed at \$12, \$10, and \$8. The shop is 18 by 25 feet in size, with an 11-foot ceiling; it is well lighted and ventilated with eleven windows, arranged on four sides of the room.

Joe Mazzucch started his shop at No. 492 West Nineteenth street Friday. He employs sixteen persons. His pay roll runs for the six men, \$11, \$10.50, \$8, and \$6, the last 9 being a boy apprentice. The twelve girls range as follows: \$11, \$8, \$8, and \$5, and four hand-sewing \$5.50, \$5, and \$5. The smallest salary is for a girl who has been working two weeks and is 14 years old. She gets \$2.25 a

and a bread girl. The shop is a double or alcove room, 25 by 22 feet, and a 9-foot ceiling. It has nine windows, two glass-pane (one) and one wood-pane door. The windows are arranged on three sides.

Joseph Kalla has a shop at No. 684 Blue Island avenue. He also has a clothing store, but does contract work in the tailor shop in the rear. He has twenty-five employees. His shop is divided into two parts. The pressing shop is on the ground floor, and is 25 by 25 feet in size. In this room there are employed as pressers. The room is lighted by six windows on three sides. On the second floor is the tailor shop. It is 18 by 25 feet, with an 11-foot ceiling. The machines are run by steam power, and the shop is lighted by four-tale windows, arranged on three sides. In this room twenty-two employees work. The six machine girls get from \$6 to \$11.50, and the eight hand-sewing girls get from \$5 to \$9, according to experience and ability. The rate range from \$5 to \$11. This is based on a 10-hour day. The shop is running, and all at work are satisfied, they say.

Joseph Pines runs a shop at No. 542 West Eighteenth place, in which he employs 125 persons. Of these, three are men, receiving \$11, \$10, and \$5 respectively, and seven are girls. The machine girls receive \$10 and \$7.50, and the hand-sewing \$7 to \$8.50. One 18-year-old girl, with six months' experience, gets \$2.50 per week. The room has eight windows, located on three sides of the room. The shop is 25 by 15 feet in size, and is well ventilated and clean. It is closed at the time of the tailors' strike, because of the strike cutting off material to make up. Most of the employees are men, and in addition 10 work.

Male Employees Thirteen to Fifteen Tailors.

John Zak, who runs a shop at No. 496 West Eighteenth place, is at work, but he is visited only by committee. He has thirty-six employees. The twenty-two girls' wages on the machines run from \$10 to \$10, one girl getting \$12. The average hand-sewing girl receives between \$4 and \$6, while one small girl receives \$2 and one learner receives \$1. The wages of the fourteen men range from \$5 to \$14. This was the state of wages paid at the time of the strike for 100 hours work. Mr. Zak says he was compelled to take work at 25 per cent reduction and on one scale 20 per cent, he himself taking 10 per cent less. This, he says, is only temporary. The shop is 54 by 21 feet in size, with an 11-foot ceiling and two 10-foot skylights. At present only twenty-six persons are at work.

S. Bokal has a shop at No. 169 West Eighteenth street, in which he employs fifteen persons. This shop is closed. There are nine girls. The machine girls range \$12, \$9, and \$6.50, while the hand-sewing girls get from \$7 to \$5. Two get the minimum wages. One little girl of 14 years gets \$2.50 for pulling threads and running errands. The six men receive \$12, \$10.50, \$8, and \$5. The pressers receive \$10.50. The shop is 24 by 23 feet, with a 10-foot ceiling and is clean. Nine windows light the room from four sides. Not a word because of the cutters' strike (pressing them of material to work on) for two weeks ago.

At Nos. 257 and 256 South Paulina street live two tailors who work in their own homes. These men use the back rooms and work shops, living in the same flat. They employ no extra help.

John Busick of No. 711 Van Horn street employs four men and one boy. These men get \$10.50, \$10, \$9, and \$8, and the boy gets \$2.50. He has two machine girls, getting \$10.50 and \$6.50, and three hand-sewing girls at \$8, \$5.50, and \$5, and an errand girl at \$2.50. His shop has a nine-foot ceiling and is twenty-six by twenty-two feet in size. It is ventilated and lighted by nine windows on three sides.

John Vinograd of No. 707 Van Horn street has two girls and one boy. He has twelve employees, usually, and eight of these are girls. These machine girls range in wages from \$10 to \$7, and an apprentice receives \$5. There is one boy and one girl (two \$4.50). One errand girl in this shop gets \$2.25 and has worked about two months. The family men in wages run from \$10 to \$12. The shop has a ten-foot ceiling and is twenty-one by twenty-eight feet in size. It has twelve windows, three looking out to a building two feet away, and nine on an open yard. These windows are on four sides of the room. The shop is clean, and well equipped.

In Children's Bedrooms.

Vincent Jankov has a shop at No. 204 West Nineteenth street. He employs twelve hands, eight of whom are girls. The two machine girls receive \$10.50 and \$11, and the hand-sewing girls, \$6.50 and \$7. One errand girl gets \$2.50. There are two at \$12.50 and two at \$11. A boy receives \$7.50. The shop is irregularly in twenty-two feet, with a ten-foot ceiling and nine windows, located on three sides. The shop is clean and neat.

L. Bliskovsky of No. 127 Illinois street has been closed about six weeks on account of the cutters' strike. He employs sixteen persons. Four men receive \$12, \$10, \$11, and \$10, and one boy, \$5.50. Machine girls range as follows: Two at \$12, one at \$8, and one at \$6.50. The hand-sewing girls: Two at \$6.50, two at \$6, and one at \$5. A girl gets \$5. The shop is located on open ground, and is thirty by twenty-two feet in size, with an outside-eave ceiling. The room is well lighted and ventilated by nine windows looking out on three sides.

Paul Pines of No. 126 West Nineteenth street employs seventeen persons. The two men get \$11 and one \$10, while the ten girls receive \$7. The men average at \$10, and of the hand-sewing girls, two at \$10, one at \$8, one at \$6, one at \$5, one at \$4, and one at \$3, with one errand girl at \$4.50. This shop is thirty by twenty feet, with a ten-foot ceiling. It is lighted by nine windows, located on three sides. He has been closed out about a month.

John Bliskovsky has a shop at No. 102 Washington avenue. He employs fifteen persons, two men at \$11 and \$10 and one boy at \$5. He has eleven girls. The machine girls receive \$10, \$8, \$8, and \$4.50, and the hand-sewing girls \$8, \$6, \$5.50, and \$2. The shop is thirty-three by twenty-two feet, with a nine-foot ceiling, and nine windows on three sides. The shop is clean and in good condition.

Rudolph Dolan has a shop at No. 102 West Twentieth street. This is a parts shop and the work is done by the piece. The wages of the machine girls amount to an average of \$6. The building is let on a contract. The men average about \$5.50 to \$7 in this shop. The room is thirty by twenty-five feet, with a nine-foot ceiling and sixteen windows, opening on four sides. It is located on the first floor.

Joseph Kalla is a real tailor at No. 620 West Twenty-first street. He has twelve employees, two men at \$8 and one boy at \$5. Three machine girls receive \$10, \$8, and \$8, respectively, and the hand-sewing girls two at \$7, one at \$6, \$4.50, and \$2.50. The shop is thirty by twenty-five feet, with a ten-foot ceiling and seven windows, and two dormer-Shop has been closed about four weeks.

Amel Zamides, No. 322 West Twentieth street, employs ten persons. These men get \$12, \$10, and \$9.25. Machine girls get \$10 and \$8.25, while the hand-sewing girls get \$8, \$6, \$5, \$4, and \$3. The room is twenty by eighteen feet and a nine-and-one-half-foot ceiling. The windows look out and ventilate this room.

Anton Marek has a shop at No. 100 and Fifteenth streets. The shop is fifty by twenty-five feet, and has seventeen windows on all four sides. The building is entirely new and the shop is on the second floor. He pays two pressers \$11 and \$7, two male tailors \$10 and \$8. He has two girls at \$10, \$7.50, and \$5.50 on machine work and hand-sewing girls at \$7, \$5.50, and \$5, and one girl receives \$2.50 for pulling her gassing threads. He has been visited by strikers several times. He is sick from pneumonia and they have threatened to make him trouble, he says.

C. Scavronick runs a shop at No. 625 South Morgan street. He pays three boys \$4, \$4.25, and \$7, and his men from \$8 to \$12. He employs eleven men and three boys and three girls. He works on boys' goods. Of the girls one is 14, who is learner and three-pullers, two get \$2.50, two \$2.75, and two \$3. The rest of the girls range in wages from \$3.50 to \$7.75.

J. Minardich has a shop at No. 433 South Paulina street. These men range \$1, \$8, and \$11 per week. The girls receive all the way from \$2 to \$11.

C. Franz has a shop at No. 177 West Nineteenth street.

IN THE SWEAT SHOPS

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Some of the Poorer Class Are Menaced by the Filthy Condition of the Alleys.

During the present controversy between the clothing manufacturers and the cutters and trimmers the sweatshops, or contract shops, of Chicago have figured prominently. They have been depicted by the labor leaders as dens of misery, filth, and disease. All the negatives available do not suffice to describe the condition of the shops in which the clothing manufactured in Chicago was made up.

These statements, if true, represented a state of affairs that should not exist in any civilized community and if it did not exist they would injure that great industry which amounted to nearly \$50,000,000 and indirectly react upon organized labor generally as well as those who were engaged in manufacturing garments in this city.

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In fact, the term as it is used by the Factory Inspectors and legislative bodies refers only to that system where garments are made up for a manufacturer under contract. This is done in shops located in the tenement districts by the employment of salaried. The average "sweatshop" or contract shop, in Chicago employs about twenty persons, the majority being girls.

All Are Not Dens of Disease.

The investigation of the southwestern district, which is said to contain the smaller shops, completely disproved the general impression of the sweating system employed in the manufacturing of clothing by the wholesale houses. Of about forty-five contract shops visited only a few, less than six, were what the general public would call a sweatshop.

Of these six all but one were located in the Jewish settlement, near Maxwell and Canal streets, in what is probably the poorest and most poverty-stricken portion of the city. It is claimed by persons who are acquainted with the system that this district has the worst sweatshops in the city. And it cannot be denied that they are most unhealthy places for any one to work in. The city is not without responsibility in this matter. The streets are in so bad condition as the shops themselves, and the alleys are still worse. The mystery is that the death rate in this section is not greater than in its. Out of the shops visited in this section but one was found making gains, but what gains could not be ascertained. A great many are engaged in the manufacture of dresses and cloaks for small manufacturers.

The Jew labor from the clothing manufacturers' unions, however, represented an entirely different state of affairs. This district was further west and the shops, with one exception, were light and airy. The rooms were large, clean, and in most cases freshly carpeted. The only thing that appeared unhealthy among these contract shops was the filthy alleys, all of which in some cases the garment makers are compelled to traverse.

The worst alleys and streets are found in the vicinity of Maxwell and Canal streets in the Seventh Ward, which, by the way, is the ward represented by Aldermen John A. Cook and Edward Heas, and in the Eighth Ward in the vicinity of Albert street and Eighteenth place. This ward is represented by Aldermen Frank Biercka and John Demart in the council.

Where Some of the Tallest Work.

The following is a partial list of contract shops on the southwest side:

- 1. Cuttino, No. 127 LaSalle street.
- 2. Dusek, No. 131 Van Horn street.
- 3. Dumovsky, No. 102 West Eighteenth street.
- 4. Dural, No. 62 West Eighteenth place.
- 5. Egan, No. 127 Nineman street.
- 6. Egan, No. 131 Nineman street.
- 7. Hasek, No. 11 Seward street.
- 8. Hirsch, No. 243 West Twentieth street.
- 9. Hirsch, No. 245 West Nineteenth street.
- 10. Jankovic, No. 34 West Nineteenth street.
- 11. Jankovic, No. 35 West Twentieth street.
- 12. Keller, No. 101 South First street.
- 13. Krosk, No. 428 West Ashland avenue.
- 14. Krulik, No. 42 West Twentieth street.
- 15. Keith, No. 274 West Nineteenth street.
- 16. Kudla, No. 23 Albert street.
- 17. Kuka, No. 45 West Twenty-First street.
- 18. Kuznetsov, No. 131 West Twentieth street.
- 19. Labov, No. 42 West Eighteenth street.
- 20. Larkin, No. 129 South Ashland avenue.
- 21. Paul, No. 68 May street.
- 22. Peltz, No. 102 West Blue Island avenue.
- 23. Plevins, No. 328 West Nineteenth street.
- 24. Radke, No. 45 Morgan street.
- 25. Rasmussen, No. 43 West Nineteenth street.
- 26. Rasmussen, No. 102 West Twentieth street.
- 27. Saak, No. 271 LaSalle street.
- 28. Kleck, No. 138 Seward street.
- 29. Sirok, No. 80 West Taylor street.
- 30. Sirkhary, No. 121 Hamilton street.
- 31. Sirok, No. 123 West Eighteenth street.
- 32. Sirok, No. 23 West Ashland street.
- 33. Stock, No. 102 Oakley street.
- 34. Sushin, No. 68 Albert street.
- 35. Tash, No. 20 South Nineman street.
- 36. Vinson, No. 303 Van Horn street.
- 37. Zisk, No. 1120 Paul street.
- 38. Zisk, No. 42 West Twentieth street.
- 39. Zisk, No. 47 West Twentieth street.

In speaking of the sweatshops of Chicago, by which term she refers to those where doing work under contract, Florence Kelley, State Factory Inspector, says that this is the time when labor contracts were made up at their best. She says that the greater part of the sweating system lies in the fact that the greater portion of them go to districts where power cannot be obtained for running the machines, and the result is girls are compelled to drive these machines through the cloth by foot power. She says that this is the hardest kind of work, and that few who have been in the sweatshops for years are able to keep up the speed.

How the Garments Are Made.

The manufacturers say they have only an indirect relation with the garment-workers, as the greater portion of the garments are made up in the contract shops. Kub, Nathan & Fleisher, however, have an inside shop. Two pay rolls for Kub, Nathan & Fleisher in the inside shop show that they employ seventy-five girls. The lowest wages paid are to girls who pull the basket threads. They receive \$2.50, and try but little over

14 years of age. Emma Schelle is the highest, and she receives according to the pay roll, \$5.50. This is for a week of nine hours per day, and fifty-four hours per week. The pay rolls show that boys and men range from \$7.50 to \$17, with a majority at \$8.50, \$10.50, and \$11.

Kub, Nathan & Fleisher exhibited their pay rolls of cutters for Jan. 22 and Feb. 1. The pay roll shows two cutters receiving \$24, one man, who is partially paralyzed, receiving \$18, and one old man, who is extremely slow on account of his age, \$18. Thirteen were cut \$20, three getting \$21, two at \$22, one at \$23, and three, one at \$24, two at \$25. The head trimmer was receiving \$22, three at \$16, one at \$15, and two at \$12, one at \$12, and a boy at \$8. The maximum number of cuts allowed under the rules of the union is fourteen, regardless of the weight of goods. The maximum allowed to be marked and cut is two for shirts and six for machine. A day consists of eight hours, which the manufacturers say they do not object to.

AMONG THE CONTRACTORS.

Most of Their Shops Are Well Lighted and Well Ventilated.

Those shops inspected were scattered, and they were taken indiscriminately. An effort was made to find out the true conditions.

Joseph Kovars of No. 434 West Nineteenth street is a contractor who feels that the contracting laborers have been grossly misrepresented by the sort of novels that have been depicted by the press, which are sold to represent the places in which the wholesale houses have their garments made up. He stated that he knew of no such places, and while there might be some of that kind in the city, they could not be considered as in any way a fair sample of the shops employing the tailors who work for wholesale clothing manufacturers' contractors.

"I think," he said, "that if any of these sweatshops exist you will find they do work for little custom tailors, and there are not many."

Mr. Kovars has a large, airy shop, 3022 1/2 feet, and while it is not new, it has a neat appearance. The ceiling is 10 1/2 feet high, and the room is lighted from eight windows, located on three sides of the room, giving ample ventilation. He has one girl paid 14 years of age receiving \$2.50 and another receiving \$3. His men get \$12, \$11, and \$11. The machine girls get \$11, \$7, and \$5, while the hand-sewing girls receive \$7, \$6, and \$5. He has twelve employees, nine of whom are girls. He is working under police protection.

Thomas Zak of No. 720 Albert street employs sixteen hands. He, like many of the other contractors, is bothered over the reports that the sweating system exists among the tailors who work for contractors making garments for the wholesale manufacturers. He says that all he asks for is the Civic Federation committee to investigate by visiting these places themselves and not take some other person's word for it.

"I don't know what they mean by a sweatshop if this is one," said he. "I do not know of a real sweatshop in Chicago in this line of work."

Mr. Zak employs fifteen persons: two are girls. Three machine girls get \$12, \$8.50, and \$6.50, and the hand-sewing girls receive \$7, \$5, and \$4, with one girl of 10 who has been working about four weeks and receives \$7.50. The five men range from \$10 down to \$7, the average being about \$9. The room is 25x35 feet in size, with a ceiling about 10 feet high. The shop has eight windows and good ventilation from three sides.

Shops on Taylor Street.

J. Sovick is a contractor at No. 206 West Taylor street. He has his shop in a frame building on the second floor. The room in which the manufacturing is done is 10x22 feet in size, with a 10 1/2-foot ceiling. This room is comparatively new and has recently been painted and refurnished. It is well lighted and ventilated from seven windows. Mr. Sovick is closed down by the strike. His pay roll at the time of the strike consisted of eight girls and five men employed as tailors. One machine girl received \$10 per week and the average paid to the hand-sewing girls, he said, was \$7 per week. The lowest wages he paid was \$4 to a 14-year-old girl, with six months' experience, in running and pull binding threads. The pay roll shows that the wages paid to the five men averaged ranged from \$9.50 to \$11.50.

M. Vokorber has a shop at No. 13 Washington avenue and employs eight women, three girls, and two men. This shop is 18x29 feet in size. It is light and airy and has five windows. Mr. Vokorber's shop was closed and the wages paid could not be obtained.

J. Hara has a shop at No. 11 Seward street, where he employs eighteen hands making coats for the wholesale manufacturers. Nine of these are girls, and their wages range from \$4 to \$12, and nine men, with wages ranging from \$9 to \$12. He has five machine girls. The shop is not running on account of the cutters' strike depriving him of garments to work on. The room is 16x25 feet in size, with a 10-foot ceiling, and has two windows. It is poorly lighted, and the only unwholesome thing about it is the dirt and garbage that has accumulated in the alleys near by.

K. Niderovsky has a shop at No. 426 West Eighteenth street, in which he employs nine girls and three men. The machine girls receive the following wages: the machine girl, \$10, two at \$7.50; hand-sewing girls receive \$7.50 to \$10. The three men receive \$12.50 to \$14.50. The men work per day. The shop is newly white-washed and presents a clean, healthy appearance. The room is 20x7 1/2 feet with an 11-foot ceiling, and is well lighted and ventilated from seven windows.

P. Matoszek has a shop at No. 37 1/2 Centre avenue in which he employs fifteen garment-makers in the busy seasons. Four of these are men; two receive \$11 as pressers, and \$10, one as boy \$7. The seven girls range from \$2.50 to \$7. The machine girls average \$5. The room in which these people work is 26x22 feet, with a 10-foot ceiling, and is lighted by seven windows. The ventilation and light is good. About one-half of his employees are willing to work, but are afraid.

Joseph Libera employs eleven employees in his shop at No. 307 West Sixteenth street. Five of these are girls; four run machines. The wage of these girls is: four machine girls \$11; seven machine girls \$8, three \$6, four \$7. Four men receive a total of wages as follows: Two at \$10 and two at \$7 and \$6 respectively for 10 hours per day. The room is 28 feet in size, with a 10-foot ceiling. The workshop has a 16-foot ceiling. The room is well lighted by seven large windows. The shop is running under the protection of the police. They are working but have been at present. The above rates of wages is based upon a ten-hour day.

In the Eighth Ward Shops.

Joseph Libera employs eleven persons in his shop at No. 772 Albert street. Six of these are girls. The head machine girl receives \$12 and the second \$8. The hand-sewing girls receive an average of \$6 per week, and one girl who runs threads and pulls binding threads receives \$2.50. She has been employed three months, and is not yet 14 years of age. The next lowest wages paid in this shop is \$5. Two men are employed at \$12 each per week. Ten hours constitute a day. The shop is 28 by 24 feet in size, with a 10-foot ceiling. The room is well lighted and ventilated by twelve windows on all four sides, and the shop is comparatively new.

N. Miodowich is a contractor who works for Hirsch, Klein & Co., and his shop is located at No. 711 Albert street. He has three machine girls at \$11, \$9, and \$8 respectively, and seven hand-sewing girls at \$6.50 to \$5. The 5 girls are apprentices, a little past 14 years of age. Three men are employed at \$12, \$10, and \$8. The shop is 28 by 28 feet in size, with an 11-foot ceiling. It is well lighted and ventilated with eleven windows, arranged on four sides of the room.

Yao Baczynski started his shop at No. 492 West Nineteenth street Friday. He employs eighteen persons. His pay roll runs as follows: six men, \$11, \$10.50, \$8, and \$6, the last two are boys apprentices. The twelve girls receive on an average \$11, \$8, \$8, and \$5, and for hand-sewing \$7.50, \$7, and \$5. The smallest salary is for a girl who has been working two weeks and is 14 years old. She gets \$2.25 at

a strong girl. The shop is a double or alcove room, 28 by 22 feet, and a 9-foot ceiling. It has nine windows, two glass-panel doors, and one wood-panel door. The windows are arranged on three sides.

Joseph Kuba has a shop at No. 594 Blue Island avenue. He also has a clothing store, but does not work in the latter shop in the year. He has twenty-five employees. His shop is divided into two parts. The pressing shop is on the ground floor, and is 25 by 25 feet in size. In this room there are men employed as pressers. The room is lighted by six windows on three sides. On the second floor is the tailor shop. It is 25 by 25 feet, with an 11-foot ceiling. The machines are run by steam power, and the shop is lighted by four windows, arranged on three sides. In this room twenty-two employees work. The six machine girls get from \$6 to \$11.50, and the eight hand-sewing girls get from \$5 to \$8, according to experience and ability. The men range from \$5 to \$14. This is based on a ten-hour day. The shop is running, and all at work are satisfied, they say.

Joseph Kuba runs a shop at No. 542 West Eighteenth place, in which he employs 148 persons. Of these, eleven are men, receiving \$71, \$14, and \$5 respectively, and seven are girls. The machine girls receive \$10 and \$7.50, and the hand-sewing \$7 to \$6.50. One 14-year-old girl, with six months' experience, gets \$2.50 per week. The room has eight windows, located on three sides of the room. The shop is 25 by 15 feet in size, and is well ventilated and clean. It is closed at the time of the tailors' strike, because of the strike cutting off material to make-up. Most of the employees are said to be anxious to work.

Zak Employes Thirty-Six Tailors.

John Zak, who runs a shop at No. 406 West Eighteenth place, is at work, but he is visited by committee. He has thirty-six employees. The twenty-six girls' wages on the machine run from \$10 to \$10, one girl getting \$12. The average hand-sewing girl receives between \$4 and \$10, while one small girl receives \$2 and one learner receives \$3. The wages of the fourteen men range from \$8 to \$14. This was the scale of wages paid at the time of the strike for 100 hours work. Mr. Zak says he was compelled to take work at 25 per cent reduction and in one case 50 per cent, he himself taking 10 per cent loss. This, he says, is only temporary. The shop is 54 by 21 feet in size, with an 11-foot ceiling and two 10-foot skylights. At present only two men are at work.

Joseph has a shop at No. 529 West Eighteenth street, in which he employs fifteen persons. This shop is clean. There are nine girls. The machine girls range \$12, \$9, and \$7.50, while the hand-sewing girls get from \$7 to \$5. Two get the minimum wages. One little girl of 14 years gets \$2.50 for pulling threads and running threads. The six men receive \$12, \$10.50, \$8, and \$5. The presser receives \$10.50. The shop is 24 by 23 feet, with a 10-foot ceiling and is clean. Nine windows light the room from four sides. Not a word because of the cutters' strike depriving them of material to work on four weeks ago.

At Nos. 257 and 258 South Paulina street live two tailors who work in their own homes. These men use the back rooms and work shops, living in the same flat. They employ an extra hand.

John Busk of No. 711 Van Horn street employs four men and one boy. These men get \$10.50, \$10, \$9, and \$8, and the boy \$2.50. He has two machine girls getting \$10.50 and \$9.50, and three hand-sewing girls at \$8, \$7.50, and \$5, and an ironed girl at \$2.50. The shop has a nine-foot ceiling and is twenty-six by twenty-two feet in size. It is ventilated and lighted by nine windows on three sides.

John Vinopal of No. 799 Van Horn street has added his own work for two months. He has five employees, all men, and eight of these are girls. These running machines carry the other from \$10 to \$7, and an apprentice receives \$5. These are being by hand receive from \$4 to \$5.

One street girl in this shop gets \$1.25 and has worked about two months. The furniture range in wages from \$10 to \$12. The shop has a ten-foot ceiling and is twenty-four by twenty-eight feet in size. It has twelve windows, three looking on to a building two feet away, and one on an open yard. These windows are on four sides of the room. The shop is clean, and well equipped.

In California Settlement.

Vincenzo Jankovic has a shop at No. 264 West Twenty-first street. He employs twelve hands, eight of whom are girls. The two machine girls receive \$10.50 and \$11, and the hand-sewing girls, \$6.50 and \$7. The three men get \$2.50, \$2.50, and \$2.50. They are men get \$12.50 and two at \$11. A boy receives \$7.50. The shop is equipped by twenty-two feet, with a ten-foot ceiling and plain windows, located on three sides. The shop is clean and neat.

L. Briskhart of No. 127 Nineman street has been closed about six weeks on account of the cutters' strike. He employs sixteen persons. Four men receive \$12, \$10.50, and \$8, and \$9 and \$9, and one boy, \$5.50. Machine girls range at \$10.50, \$10, and \$8, one at \$7. The hand-sewing girls: Two at \$10.50, two at \$8.50, and one at \$7. A girl gets \$2. The shop is located on open ground, and is thirty by twenty-five feet in size, with an eleven-foot ceiling. The room is well lighted and ventilated by nine windows looking out on three sides.

Emil Piner of No. 1267 West Nineteenth street employs seventeen persons. The two men get \$11 and one \$10, while two boys receive \$5. The wages paid to the machine girls are two at \$10 and one at \$8.50, and of the hand-sewing girls, two at \$10, one at \$8, one at \$5, one at \$7, one at \$5, and one at \$7, with one extra girl at \$2.50. This shop is lighted by twenty feet, with a ten-foot ceiling. It is lighted with nine windows, located on three sides. He has been closed out about a month.

John Jankovic has a shop at No. 285 Washington avenue. He employs fifteen persons, two men at \$11 and \$10 and one boy at \$5. He has eleven girls. The machine girls receive \$10, \$8, \$7, and \$6.50, and the hand-sewing girls \$8, \$6, \$5.50, and \$5. Two small girls get \$4 and \$2.50. The shop is thirty-three feet by twenty feet, with a nine-foot ceiling, and five windows on three sides. The shop is clean and in good condition.

Rudolph Miodowich has a shop at No. 429 West Twentieth street. This is a pants shop and the work is done by the piece. The wages of the machine girls amount to an average of \$6. The finishing is let on commission. The men average about \$5.50 to \$9 in this shop. The room is thirty by twenty-five feet, with a nine-foot ceiling and several windows, opening on four sides. It is located on the first floor.

Joseph Kuba is a tailleur at No. 620 West Twenty-first street. He has twelve employees, two men at \$8 and one boy at \$5. Three machine girls receive \$10, \$8, and \$6, respectively, and the hand-sewing girls two at \$7, one each at \$5, \$4.50, and \$2.50. The shop is thirty by twenty-five feet, with a ten-foot ceiling and seven windows and two doors. The shop has been closed about four weeks.

Charles Schneider, No. 329 West Twentieth street, employs ten persons. Three men get \$12, \$10, and \$9.50. Machine girls get \$10 and \$9.50, while the hand-sewing girls get \$8, \$6.50, \$6, and \$5. The room is twenty by eighteen feet and a nine and one-half foot ceiling. Six windows light and ventilate this room.

Anton Mareklo has a shop at Locust and Fifteenth streets. The shop is fifty by twenty-five feet, and has six windows overlooking all four sides. The building is entirely new and the shop is on the second floor. He pays two pressers \$11 and \$7, two male tailors \$10 and \$8. He has two girls at \$10, \$7.50, and \$5.50 on machine work and hand-sewing girls at \$7, \$6.50, and \$5, and one girl receives \$2.50 for pulling up binding threads. He has been visited by strikers several times. He is sick from pneumonia and they have threatened to make him trouble, he says.

C. Schwabach runs a shop at No. 523 South Morgan street. He pays three boys \$4, \$4.25, and \$7, and his men from \$8 to \$10. He employs eleven men and three boys and thirty-three girls. He works on extra grade. Of the girls under 14, two are tailors and three pullers, two get \$2.50, two \$2.75, and two \$3. The rest of the girls range in wages from \$3.50 to \$7.75.

J. Miodowich has a shop at No. 83 South Paulina street. Three men range \$8, \$10, and \$11 per week. The girls receive all the way from \$2 to \$11.

C. Franz has a shop at No. 477 Seventeenth