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The Sadler Report

In Joshua Drake's interview he was pretty straight forward and forth coming. In Joshua's statement, he preferred to get moderate labor and lower wages but as long as he had a job it was a must to do what he needed to do. Furthermore, when Joshua was asked the wages of the children based on the time frame they worked he stated they got 3s or 6s and or 7s which means shillings. Regardless if they worked little or more hours they still were paid less, half a penny, stated Joshua. That being said, the conditions of the jobs were very harsh. Joshua was asked why he allowed his children to work under those conditions and he stated that it was a necessity and that if he found employment he would go to get more jobs.

The interview that I found a little harsh was Matthew Crabtree. He was a twenty-two-year-old, a blanket manufacturer. He started when he was eight years old, worked for fourteen hours straight. No breaks, granted they got an hour for lunch and dinner but what time did he get for himself or for his family. Matthew described the treatment of the employer was that, if he and or the children seemed "drowsy" and or far behind in their work or even late, they would get beaten. In that harsh treatment they tried to keep awake to avoid getting beaten by the employer. Therefore, Matthew would go home, either ate supper and if it was not done he would rather sleep so that he could keep up at factory.

In reading the interview of Mr. John Hall, it was difficult to comprehend the magnitude of the way the children were treated. His description was that the children were distorted, he stated that there were children that were sent to the worse mills and children body's became severely crooked from the repetitive movement of the job.

Elizabeth Bentley's interview she started working at age 6 in a flax-mill. She worked for, 5 in the morning till 9 at night. Elizabeth working conditions were mostly on her feet, it was nonstop collecting bobbins of machines. Therefore, the workers break for any meals were only minutes as she described. If the work was not in compliance they had to leave their meals and or finish it at a later time and their dinning meals were in the mill. She described that if the workers were late or lagged in their work they would get strapped, all workers including the children, boys and girls. Fortunately, Elizabeth has never been beaten, she explained that her mother was up by 2 or 4 am in the morning just to get to the mill on time to avoid harsh punishments.

Peter Smarts interview was the harshest. In his statement that his working conditions was that of being locked up night and day. If they were to run away the overseer would have administered harsh punishments. Peter was asked if he ran away and he stated that he ran away twice. Therefore, for running way he was taken to the "masters" loft and beaten. In his case thrashed and or whipped. Peter stated that he was bound (contracted) to the mill for six years and that his mother got 15 shillings for that contract. He then proceeded to give accounts of how he became an overseer and was asked if he gave the same treatment that he was given and his response was that he was not work as a "slave but a slave driver." The expectations to work in a water and steam mill were even much worse than the others interviewed. They had children working the mill, they all has set wages, they were beaten if they did not complete their work, the children were ill, fatigues however beaten if the job was not completed and bound for years at a time and or locked up. And lastly if they children were very ill sort of speak they would call the doctor in which if the child was too ill to perform they were given at least four to five hours bed rest. Ugh, the harshest statements I have ever read.