

Matteo Guerrini

02 / 23 / 2022

Prof. **LYNDELL O'HARA**

Class: Word Civ 2

The Sadler Committee, which was formed in 1832, played a significant role in exposing the appalling conditions faced by textile workers in England during the Industrial Revolution. The committee was named after Michael Thomas Sadler, a member of parliament who was deeply concerned about the welfare of the working class.

The investigation by the committee revealed the harsh living and working conditions that laborers in textile factories had to endure. Joshua Drake and Matthew Crabtree were among those who testified and provided first-hand accounts of the brutal conditions. Drake, who had no regular wages, was forced to send his children to work in the factories out of necessity, despite the ill-treatment and long hours they faced. Crabtree, who had worked in a factory since he was eight years old, testified that he had to work for 14-16 hours every day, with only an hour-long break for lunch and no breakfast breaks. The workers were frequently beaten, sometimes severely, if they were late or failed to meet their production quotas.

The employers' expectations and rules were to maintain high production quotas, even if it meant treating workers harshly. The Sadler Report, which was published in 1833, revealed the harsh realities of the textile industry and led to the passage of the Act of 1833. This act limited the hours of employment for women and children in textile work and was a significant step towards labor reform.

The report created a public outcry, and it was clear that changes needed to be made to improve the working conditions of laborers in factories. Although the Act of 1833 was a step in the right direction, it did not completely solve the problem. It took several years and many more acts and reforms before the working conditions of factory workers improved significantly.

In conclusion, the Sadler Committee's investigation and subsequent report brought to light the inhumane treatment of textile workers and played a significant role in initiating labor reforms in England. The findings of the Sadler Committee exposed the harsh realities of the Industrial Revolution and sparked a movement towards better working conditions for laborers.