

World Civilization II (OA)

Prof. Lyndell O'Hara

Research and Writing - The Sadler Report

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The people who testified were Joshua Drake, Mr. Matthew Crabtree, Mr. John Hall, Elizabeth Bentley, and Peter Smart,

The working conditions that are described were quite horrible and unsanitary. The workers included children as young as 6 years old who worked fourteen to nineteen-hour days with only 40 minutes to an hour for lunch breaks, barely giving them enough time to eat. They would be covered in dirt and dust and really couldn't enjoy their food, often not finishing it all. They would be on their feet all day and because of the position in which they had to stand, their knees would become crooked. The long hours would cause them to oversleep. If they came to work late, were drowsy, or couldn't keep up, sometimes they would be fined and other times severely beaten, including the girls. Crying was heard very often inside the factory. Some would try to run away only to be brought back and beaten again. Often a doctor would be called to examine them when they didn't look well.

The rules and expectations of the employers were that the workers had to be on time. They were to work long hours to produce a certain quantity of work. Breaks would be at a bare minimum, and they were to work for little or no wages. Some workers would live at the mill and be locked up only receiving four to five hours of sleep per day. Sometimes the workers could become overseers, and they too were expected to continue the harsh treatment of the workers.