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REPORT

OF THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

STATE OF THE CHILDREN

EMPLOYED IN

The Manufactories of The United Kingdom.

25 *April*——18 *June*

1816.

[COMMUNICATED BY THE COMMONS TO THE LORDS.]

Ordered to be printed 4th May 1818.

Veneris, 7° die Junii, 1816.

SIR ROBERT PEEL, Baronet, in the Chair.

Richard Arkwright, Eſq. called in, and examined.

R. Arkwright, Eſq.

DID not the ſpinning of cotton by machinery originate with your father, the late Sir Richard Arkwright?—Yes, it did.

Did he invent the machinery which gave riſe to the fundamental part of the throſtle and mule-machines?—He did.

As well as of the water-frame-ſpinning?—Certainly.

How many perſons have you employed, at any one time, in all your mills?—About eighteen or nineteen hundred in mills which were my own, and in mills with which I was connected.

Have they been apprentices, or free labourers?—Chiefly free labourers; I never had any apprentices of my own; but in one of thoſe mills in which I was connected there were about fifty or ſixty at the moſt.

What is your opinion of the Act known under the name of Sir Robert Peel's Bill?—I could wiſh to confine myſelf to facts as much as poſſible.

What have you known of that Act?—That Act has not been followed up, with reſpect to the viſiting of magiſtrates, for theſe thirteen years. I think they viſited my mills at Cromford twice.

Did they give riſe to any inconvenience by the viſits they made?—Not at all; I was very glad to ſee them.

What made them diſcontinue their viſits?—I fancy they did not think they were neceſſary.

But it is well known that the power under which they acted is not taken away from them?—I believe it is not taken away.

The ſame power exiſts, if there was to be any abuſe?—No doubt.

At what age do you admit children into your mills?—Not till they are ten years of age.

Do you think any benefit would ariſe to you, if children were admitted into your mills at an earlier age?—I think not, at Cromford.

What are the hours of work per day in your mills?—Thirteen hours, including meal times.

That is from ſix to ſeven?—From ſix to ſeven in the ſummer, and from ſeven to eight in the winter.

What time do you allow for meals?—An hour for dinner. As to breakfaſt, it is very irregular. In the ſummer-time the bell rings for breakfaſt at half paſt eight; thoſe who go to breakfaſt, which includes the workmen, but not the ſpinners, go and ſtay half an hour. There is a room called the dinner-houſe, in which there is a range of hot plates or ſtoves, much the ſame as in gentlemen's kitchens; the mothers, or the younger ſiſters of the hands employed, bring the breakfaſts into this room; they bring them probably a quarter of an hour before the bell rings. As ſoon as the bell rings, a number of boys, perhaps eight, carry thoſe breakfaſts into the different rooms in the factory; thoſe who come firſt may receive their breakfaſts probably in two minutes; thoſe who come later may not receive it for a quarter of an hour; ſo that poſſibly ſome of the hands may have eight-and-twenty minutes at breakfaſt, others cannot have more than fifteen, they cannot have leſs. In the afternoon the bell rings at four, and they are ſerved in like manner; but very few have their refreſhment, probably not one in five, I ſhould think.

That is the afternoon refreſhment?—Yes; ſo that there may be from forty to forty-five minutes allowed in the whole, in the morning and afternoon.

The machinery does not ſtop?—The wheels never ſtop during working hours, excepting at dinner; all that machinery, which is worked partly by hand and partly by water, ſtops.

That which is turned entirely by water never ſtops?—That which is worked entirely by water never ſtops during the working hours, excepting at the dinner-hour,

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From your own experience and intimate knowledge of the buſineſs, do you conſider thoſe hours the beſt for the perſons employed, and for the benefit of the maſter?—I have always conſidered them ſo, in ſuch a ſituation as Cromford.

Do you know that other mills have been worked a greater number of hours per day?—I do not know it.

Have you heard it from pretty good authority?—I have heard it, and believe that they have.

Have the proprietors of thoſe mills, which you have reaſon to believe have been worked more hours than your own, any advantage over you in the trade you carry on?—It does not ſeem as if they had; I know of none.

Are you of opinion that Sir Robert Peel's Bill, which paſſed in the year 1802, has accompliſhed much benefit for children, for whoſe protection it was intended?—I certainly thought that the diſcuſſions upon that Bill, and the Bill itſelf, did a great deal of good, but that can be only matter of opinion.

Are you of opinion that ſimilar advantages would ariſe from legiſlative meaſures applied to the protection of children who are now employed in cotton mills?—That can only be matter of opinion; I cannot think it would; there is not the room for it there was then; great improvements have taken place ſince.

What ſecurity would the country have, if the buſineſs was to be carried on without
ction to the children employed in cotton factories?—The preſent
m if there is any improper conduct.
Bill applies only to pariſh apprentices?—And to all mills where
ſons are employed, with reſpect to cleanlineſs and ventilation.
go into thoſe factories where no apprentices are employed?—
ere none in mine; I never had one.
, that in one mill in which you had a concern, there were nearly
I did; I was ſpeaking of the mills at Cromford, in which I have never had any apprentices. With reſpect to Mr. Oldknow's works, I cannot ſpeak to that.

Had you an intereſt in thoſe works?—Yes, I had, at the time of paſſing that Act; but I cannot ſpeak to the number of apprentices, nor to the viſitations of the magiſtrates.

There have been conſiderable alterations in the machinery ſince the paſſing of the Act alluded to?—Great improvements have been made in the management of the machinery ſince that Act was paſſed.

And in the ventilation?—Yes; particularly in cleanlineſs and ventilation.

There is no rule laid down for the mode of ventilating mills?—That Act only ſpeaks of there being ſufficient windows for the admiſſion of air, but nothing about ventilation.

By the alterations that have taken place, are not you aware that younger children are introduced into cotton factories than were formerly?—I never heard of any children being employed ſo young as five till I came into this room.

What other ages have you heard of their being taken into factories at?—I have heard of their being taken in at ſix.

You never were in the habit of taking them in yourſelf under ten?—Not theſe ten years.

How are the children employed before they arrive at the age of ten?—I do not know that boys have any employment but going to ſchool; girls have employment.

Are not both boys and girls, in general, educated before they are received into your factories?—It is a rule at Cromford never to admit any children under ten years of age, nor till they can read.

If a contrary practice was to prevail, would the children have any opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of reading?—They would acquire it at Sunday ſchools.

Are you of opinion, that working all the week is not ſufficiently oppreſſive to young children to excuſe their attending Sunday ſchools?—I never ſaw any children who ſeemed oppreſſed by their work.

You have not ſeen any under ten years of age?—Formerly they were taken in at Cromford younger.

At what age were they taken in there formerly?—I think, ſeven or eight, from the inquiries I have made; probably ſeven.

Do you recollect what gave riſe to the alteration?—There were ſeveral reaſons for it; I think the principal reaſon was, that they might learn to read before they

came;

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came; I do not think their health was taken into conſideration, as no injury ever appeared to me to ariſe to it.

If the maſters of factories through the kingdom were at liberty to take them at what age they thought proper, and afford them no education, what ſecurity would the public have reſpecting the health and morals of young children?—I do not know that they would have any ſecurity; I do not know that any ſecurity is neceſſary.

Are you of opinion, if no Act was in exiſtence reſpecting the employment of young children in factories, that no legiſlative regulations would be requiſite for their government?—It is a queſtion I cannot anſwer.

Are you of opinion, that if the hours of labour in factories were fixed at twelve working hours, the trade we have with foreigners in cotton goods would be injured from that circumſtance?—I ſhould never conſider that queſtion at all in its connexion with foreign goods or foreign commerce. I ſhould think every manufacturer would make goods as cheap as he could, all things conſidered; and he would work thoſe hours, and follow thoſe modes, that he thought would make his goods the beſt and the cheapeſt.

Then you have no decided opinion what would be the effect upon the foreign trade, if the time of work in factories was limited to twelve hours?—I ſhould ſuppoſe that muſt have ſome ſmall effect, probably; it is a queſtion I cannot anſwer; I ſhould not conſider the queſtion at all.

Are you in the foreign trade?—No, not at all.

Were not children from ſeven or eight to fifteen years of age, principally employed in cotton-mills ſome time after the invention of Sir Richard Arkwright?—Yes.

Was not the uſual time of working twelve hours a-day, incluſive of breakfaſt and afternoon's refreſhment?—Thirteen hours, incluſive of all their refreſhments.

That included dinner?—That included dinner.

Did you find the health of the children impaired by that employment?—Not by that employment, I think.

Not when they were taken in ſo early as ſeven or eight?—I think not.

Did you ever obſerve that their intellects were impaired?—Certainly not.

Did you ever obſerve that their growth was ſtinted, or that they became deformed in conſequence of their employment?—I have known of their becoming deformed; but I do not think that has been from the length of employment.

Or from the nature of it?—I have never known any that were employed in the day any number of hours, who have become deformed.

From your knowledge of the factories, do you conceive that the children employed in thoſe factories are quite as ſharp compared with children employed in other buſineſs?—I ſhould think they are quite as ſharp.

Are the perſons now employed in cotton-ſpinning generally older, and is there a greater number of adults amongſt thoſe employed than there was formerly?—I do not know any thing of the mule-ſpinning.

Are the perſons now employed in water-ſpinning generally older, and is there a greater proportion of adults than there was formerly?—Certainly there is a greater proportion of adults.

And are the children taken generally rather at a more advanced period of life?—I think they are in general; perhaps I may add, ſuch young children cannot ſo well be employed, in water-ſpinning as they could formerly, and as they can, I underſtand, be employed in mule-ſpinning.

Under this change of circumſtances which you have alluded to, if your mills were placed in a populous town or neighbourhood, where various means of manufacturing employment were offered, and where the habits of the people were irregular, and little under your control, would not you judge it expedient to introduce ſome regulations into thoſe mills that had ſome conformity with the wiſhes and habits of your work-people, particularly as to the hours of labour?—I ſhould think it would be neceſſary in a large town.

In ſuch a ſituation do you conceive that you could have the ſame control over your work-people that you have at preſent?—Certainly not.

Did you alter your hours of working, or introduce any new regulations into your mills, in conſequence of the viſits of the magiſtrates?—I conſidered my mills at Cromford at that time clean, and in very good order, and well ventilated: at the ſame time I certainly examined into every thing, to ſee that things ſhould be as correct as the nature of the caſe would admit, expecting the magiſtrates to come. There are ſome rules in the Act which were troubleſome, and could

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could anſwer no purpoſe, and was one reaſon why I examined particularly into the ſtate of the mills: it mentions that every room and apartment in and belonging to thoſe mills ſhall be white-waſhed twice a year. Now there are a great many rooms and apartments belonging to a large manufactory, which, to be at the trouble of white-waſhing twice a year, could anſwer no purpoſe, ſuch as warehouſes, and a variety of rooms; and it was neceſſary to ſee that all thoſe were done, or I ſhould be liable to the penalties of the Act. With reſpect to cleanlineſs and ventilation, they were matters that I had thought about, I think I may ſay, more than any other perſon, and on theſe points I certainly did not think it neceſſary to look over the works.

Then is the Committee to underſtand, that in point of fact no important regulations relating to the hours of employ, or to the health of your work-people, have been introduced by you into your mills in conſequence of that Act?—None into my mills.

Since the time that magiſtrates have ceaſed viſiting factories, do you not conceive that a great improvement has taken place in the condition of thoſe factories, and in the management of them?—I think improvements have been conſtantly making, particularly with reſpect to ventilation and cleanlineſs, for the laſt twenty years. I have no doubt the diſcuſſion upon Sir Robert Peel's Bill facilitated thoſe improvements.

Is it your opinion then that the diſcuſſion upon the ſubject, by drawing the general attention to it, operated favourably upon the condition of the factories rather than the Bill itſelf?—I think more than the Bill itſelf.

Have you ever compared the effect of labour upon the adults, and upon the children?—I never ſaw the children affected at all by the work; and it is very extraordinary, from my houſe, I ſee the children playing in groups in the ſummer time till it is dark.

Then in fact the hours of labour do not appear to have any injurious effect upon the children?—I do not think the hours of labour have any injurious effect; I ſpeak of the labour at Cromford.

You have mentioned, that with regard to deformity, ſince the employment by night had been diſcontinued, you remarked that nothing of that ſort had occurred?—I think not. There are two boys at Cromford now who are deformed, and I have inquired the cauſe of it from medical men; no ſatisfactory account has been given; and as there are only two, I cannot attribute it to ariſe from their employment. I think there are many inſtances of boys who became deformed from working in the night.

But, ſince that has been diſcontinued, you have not obſerved deformity?—Since that has been diſcontinued, I do not think it has occurred.

Do you think that aroſe from their employment in the night?—I think not; there were once at Cromford 164 boys employed in the night; they were ſo employed for about twenty-two years; thoſe boys got extravagant wages, and were extremely diſſipated, and many of them had ſeldom more than a few hours ſleep.

Then did the evil that exiſted in that caſe ariſe more from the conduct of the boys during the day, than from any employment during the night?—I think it did; but the rooms were not ſo well ventilated as they are now, and they might receive ſome injury from that; they might be weakened from that cauſe.

You have paid particular attention to the ventilation of rooms?—I have.

Will you inform the Committee what you have done in that reſpect?—It is by the admiſſion of a current of warm air; it is admitted into the mill, in a column of probably four feet ſquare in general, but there are different conſtructions; an aperture out of this column is made into each room, that aperture is more or leſs as circumſtances may require, and in conſequence a regular flow of air goes into each room; an outlet is made at the greateſt diſtance from this inlet, which allows the foul air to eſcape.

Of courſe your rooms are kept in a conſtant ſtate of ventilation, whatever may be the ſtate of the weather?—In a conſtant ſtate of ventilation as well as warmth.

What is the general ſtate of the heat in your mills?—About 60°. I conſulted Doctor Darwin upon that, and he ſaid 60° was the beſt heat.

Winter and ſummer?—In ſummer it muſt be higher than that; it is kept as cool as it can be in ſummer.

Does any part of the operation require heat?—None.

You have had the means of making a compariſon between the morals of children employed in your works at Cromford, and thoſe employed in agricultural purſuits; what

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what is your opinion with reſpect to the comparative morality?—I think they are quite as good, in every reſpect, in point of morality, at the cotton mills at Cromford.

Have you any returns of the health of the people at the cotton mills at Cromford?—Upon the average of two years, there have been ſeven upon the ſick liſt.

Will you ſtate the number of perſons employed in your mills at Cromford?—725 at this time altogether.

Can you ſtate the relative ages of the perſons employed?—269 between 10 and 18, of whom there are only four under 11, 22 under 12, 25 under 13, 39 under 14, 49 under 15, 58 under 16, 32 under 17, 40 under 18, making altogether 269 under 18.

How many are ſick at this time?—Seven; I do not know whether there are ſeven now, but there have been ſeven on an average for the laſt two years upon the ſick liſt.

Have you any account of the deaths for any number of years?—No; I have no account of their deaths at all; they live in different pariſhes.

Is that the average number of all that are ſick out of the whole number of 727?—Yes; and they are ſure to be on the ſick liſt when they are ill; when they are ill they receive half wages, ſo that they are ſure to be put on the ſick liſt if they have the leaſt complaint.

Do you conſider it to be the intereſt of any perſon working by water-ſpinning to employ children always above ten years of age, provided he can procure them?—It would not be ſo well to let it be much longer, becauſe in that particular part that requires the beſt hands; it requires ſome years to learn the buſineſs, and if they were not to go till they were twelve or thirteen, they would be leaving when they became uſeful. According to the ſtatement I have made, the greateſt number are at fifteen, after that the number decreaſes.

If a perſon engaged in the ſpinning of water-twiſt had the command of population, do you conceive it would be his intereſt to take the children generally from ten to twelve years of age, and none under?—Nine or ten; the rule at Cromford has been not to take them under ten; it is not ſo well to alter rules; it is always attended with inconvenience; but I ſhould think if boys were taken at nine it would be better: I ſee them often running about, and in miſchief.

You mean girls too?—No; they have to nurſe their younger brothers and ſiſters, or they work at home, or they do ſomething; but boys have nothing to do unleſs they go to ſchool.

You think ten would be better for girls?—Yes; it is matter of opinion; but I ſhould take boys a year ſooner if I had a new regulation to make.

If any regulation were to be adopted by Parliament which would prevent the working of water-ſpinners more than eleven hours in the day, ſuppoſing them now to work twelve hours in the day, do you conceive that the quantity of twiſt produced would be in exact proportion to that reduction of time, the velocity of the machinery not being increaſed?—I ſhould think very nearly ſo; I would ſay exactly ſo, but it would not be exactly ſo; there would be a leſs proportion produced, to ſpeak nicely; perhaps it would be ſpinning the matter too fine: but I think it would be rather leſs, the machinery going the ſame.

The proportion for the twelve hours would be greater than for the eleven, the machinery going the ſame?—Yes, in practice; in theory it would be the ſame of courſe.

Will you have the goodneſs to explain your reaſon for thinking ſo?—Every one who has been in a cotton-mill knows there is a great loſs of time in beginning and ending; I am ſpeaking of my own mill, for I know nothing of any other perſon's. If I were to go into the mill at Cromford twenty minutes or a quarter of an hour before the wheels ſtop, I could ſee the hands preparing to go away. It muſt be the ſpinning that produces the quantity; and in the ſpinning they would be changing their ſhoes, taking off their aprons, and putting them on, ſtopping the machinery in part rather than piecing the threads. In the beginning they would be ſome minutes before they got to their places and ſet the whole of the machinery to work, ſo that there would be a loſs of time.

Do you ſpin very fine threads at your works at Cromford?—Not very fine.

What is the general average?—Perhaps twenty, or five-and-twenty; very low; it is water-ſpinning.

Do you underſtand that mills are much warmer than yours where fine yarn is ſpun?—Yes.

Conſiderably warmer?—Yes, they are warmer conſiderably.

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Do you apprehend, from your extenſive knowledge of the buſineſs, that where children under ten years of age are employed for fifteen hours in a day, with only one hour's intermiſſion for meals, ſuch employment would be injurious to their health?—I cannot ſpeak to that; I do not know.

From your extenſive knowledge of the buſineſs of cotton mills, do you apprehend that children could be employed more than twelve hours a day, if under ten years of age, in the mills where fine yarn is ſpun, and conſequently where the heat is conſiderable?—I know nothing of that.

Is it your opinion that the inſpection of cotton mills by the magiſtrates would be generally uſeful, or otherwiſe?—It certainly would not be ſo uſeful as it has been; there are not ſo many ill conducted mills as there were.

Has their inſpection been of ſervice in times that are paſt?—I ſhould think it muſt; I have no doubt of it.

Do you apprehend it would be any material inconvenience to trade, if children under nine years of age were not to be allowed to be employed more than twelve hours a day?—I cannot ſpeak to that; we do not employ any.

Were you acquainted with the unhealthy ſtate of the cotton mills at Manchester previous to the introduction of Sir Robert Peel's Bill?—Very little.

You do not know the particulars of the ſubject?—No, very little; I know nothing of the mule buſineſs at all. I have gone frequently into the mills at Manchester as a viſitor, to ſee them. I have been into Meſſrs. Philips and Lees mills, and ſome other of the principal mills.

Do you underſtand that the mills fifteen or twenty years ago were in general unhealthy?—They were not very well cleaned and ventilated, therefore they could not be healthy.

How did you find the mills of Meſſrs. Philips and Lees at that time?—Very well, with reſpect to cleanlineſs and ventilation.

And with reſpect to the apparent health of the people?—I did not obſerve any appearance of ill health.

Do you conceive that it would be rather an invidious taſk for magiſtrates to inſpect the mills of their neighbours and friends?—I think it has been conſidered rather in that light by the magiſtrates; they thought it would be ſo conſidered.

Do you believe that is one reaſon why the practice has been diſcontinued?—With reſpect to the mills at Cromford I think not.

Generally ſpeaking?—I cannot ſpeak to that.

You ſtated that many evils aroſe from working in the night, and that practice is in a great meaſure diſcontinued; the Committee wiſh to know, if trade was to revive, and to be equal to what it has ever been known, what ſecurity there is that the owners of the factory would not work again in the night?—I can hardly think it would be to the intereſt of any manufacturer, at any time, to work in the night.

Was it difficult to keep the machinery in good order when working in the night?—It was impoſſible to keep it clean. When two ſets of hand come to the ſame machine, they each will put the cleaning of it to the other, from which circumſtance it is never clean.

A machine can never be kept in good order working day and night?—I think not.

And if not, it never can be profitable to the owners?—I think not.

That practice of working in the night now continues to a certain degree?—Not to my knowledge.

Suppoſing a law was made to prevent working all night in factories, what is your opinion of the operation of ſuch a law?—It would have no effect at all, becauſe there are no workers in the night. I ſhould think no perſons would work in the night; and if a law was paſſed to prevent a perſon working in the night, which he would not wiſh to do, I think it would be uſeleſs.

Would not the inſpection of factories be an invidious office, particularly where the magiſtrates themſelves have generally been engaged in the cotton manufactory, or have connections engaged in it?—Certainly.

If the inſpection of magiſtrates was not made neceſſary by the condition of factories, would there be a ſufficient reaſon for ſubjecting the proprietors of factories to the inconvenience of their viſits?—Certainly not.

Have your hours always been what they now are, thirteen hours a day, with one hour for dinner?—About twelve or fifteen years ago they were carried on for a piece of a year, for twelve hours only, including an hour for dinner.

Owing

R. Arkwright, Esq.

Do you apprehend, from your extenſive knowledge of the buſineſs, that where children under ten years of age are employed for fifteen hours in a day, with only one hour's intermiſſion for meals, ſuch employment would be injurious to their health?—I cannot ſpeak to that; I do not know.

From your extenſive knowledge of the buſineſs of cotton mills, do you apprehend that children could be employed more than twelve hours a day, if under ten years of age, in the mills where fine yarn is ſpun, and conſequently where the heat is conſiderable?—I know nothing of that.

Is it your opinion that the inſpection of cotton mills by the magiſtrates would be generally uſeful, or otherwiſe?—It certainly would not be ſo uſeful as it has been; there are not ſo many ill conducted mills as there were.

Has their inſpection been of ſervice in times that are paſt?—I ſhould think it muſt; I have no doubt of it.

Do you apprehend it would be any material inconvenience to trade, if children under nine years of age were not to be allowed to be employed more than twelve hours a day?—I cannot ſpeak to that; we do not employ any.

Were you acquainted with the unhealthy ſtate of the cotton mills at Manchester previous to the introduction of Sir Robert Peel's Bill?—Very little.

You do not know the particulars of the ſubject?—No, very little; I know nothing of the mule buſineſs at all. I have gone frequently into the mills at Manchester as a viſitor, to ſee them. I have been into Meſſrs. Philips and Lees mills, and ſome other of the principal mills.

Do you underſtand that the mills fifteen or twenty years ago were in general unhealthy?—They were not very well cleaned and ventilated, therefore they could not be healthy.

How did you find the mills of Meſſrs. Philips and Lees at that time?—Very well, with reſpect to cleanlineſs and ventilation.

And with reſpect to the apparent health of the people?—I did not obſerve any appearance of ill health.

Do you conceive that it would be rather an invidious taſk for magiſtrates to inſpect the mills of their neighbours and friends?—I think it has been conſidered rather in that light by the magiſtrates; they thought it would be ſo conſidered.

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Owing

Owing to bad trade?—Yes.

How long were they continued in that way?—Only a part of a year.

You did not perceive any benefit reſulting from the ſhorter hours to the children which induced you to continue the ſhorter hours?—No, not any.

What were your motives for fixing upon twelve hours, rather than thirteen or fourteen, for the working-hours of your children originally?—I cannot ſpeak to that; thoſe were the original hours when I went to Cromford.

Are you in the habit of making up for loſt time in your mills?—The fractions of a quarter of a day; not more.

In what way do you make that up?—By working, probably, half an hour a day till it is made up; the whole amount of hours made up in a year in that way is about twelve.

And when the works are ſtopped more than a quarter of a day the proprietor gives up the loſt time, and does not make it up?—When the works are ſtopped a quarter of a day or more the wages are deducted in proportion to the time.

You have ſaid, that working children younger than ten, would not be beneficial to the proprietors at Cromford; are there any peculiar circumſtances at Cromford that would make you confine that anſwer to Cromford?—Not to Cromford in particular; but to all water-ſpinning, I ſhould think, it would be the ſame.

If other hands could be got?—Yes, if they could be got; where there were plenty of hands I ſhould not employ them till nine or ten by choice, but where there is a ſcarcity of hands young hands will be employed.

Have you experienced any bad effect in the families at Cromford from confining the age of admiſſion to ten?—I ſhould think the families cannot be ſo well off as if they were taken at an earlier age; but I know of no inconveniences.

What would be the effect at Cromford of any legiſlative proviſion by which it was neceſſary for the work-people to go out of the works to take their breakfaſt, or refreſhment of an afternoon?—It would be extremely inconvenient; I have had the diſtance of their reſidences meaſured from the mills. 373 out of the whole 725 reſide at Cromford; the reſt, 352, reſide in different townſhips; the Cromford people, having meaſured it from the mills to the average of the village, live 970 yards; the others are at the diſtance of a mile and a quarter on the average. If thoſe were ſet at liberty three times in the day inſtead of once, they could not do with leſs than fifty minutes at each time; three quarters of an hour, upon experiment, have been found too little for their going to dinner; fifty minutes are found to be the leaſt time that they can poſſibly go to dinner in and come back.

Would it be particularly ſevere upon the people in bad weather?—It would be worſe to the people than to the mill-owners. In bad weather, when it rains or ſnows, they would get wet oftener, having to go that diſtance three times a day inſtead of one.

Would it not, in your opinion, be beneficial to the health and ſpirits of the children, if they were allowed to go out of the mill for a ſhort ſeaſon in fine weather, at the breakfaſt time, and in the afternoon, although they did not go home to their lodgings?—For ſo ſhort a ſpace of time, I ſhould think it would not be much advantage to them, in any reſpect, or deſirable; two-thirds of theſe 725 are working in effect by the piece: if the doors were thrown open to them very few would go out.

Though you have ſtated that the children in cotton factories have been in general healthy, they may be poſſibly ſubject to particular complaints, againſt which you find it neceſſary to guard; can you ſtate any ſuch?—I do not believe there are any.

Are ſwelled throats more common among your factory children, than other children at Cromford?—No, they are very common in the county of Derby; they are called Derby necks or Derby throats.

You have ſaid that you ſpin no thread that requires a heat of more than 60 degrees, and you explained to the Committee your modes of ventilation, have you thermometers in all the rooms?—No.

Have you any particular regulations which ſecure the rooms from a greater heat than is neceſſary?—The perſon who has the particular inſpection of the rooms has a thermometer, which he uſes when the rooms are complained of as being too cold; never for being too hot.

In your apparatus for heating the rooms, have you contrivances to prevent their ever being too hot?—There are no contrivances, but making leſs fires, or admitting leſs warm air; ſomething of that kind is in uſe in almoſt all well regulated manufactories.

R. Arkwright, Esq.

Is the air heated by ſtoves or by ſteam cylinders?—In one houſe by ſtoves, and in one houſe by heating a flue, in the manner in which it is done in hot-houſes.

Have you found it neceſſary to attend to the conſtruction of the ſtove, to prevent the air contracting a bad ſmell?—I have perceived in ſtoves that have been heated too hot that there has been a ſmell of the iron, but never in thoſe that I am ſpeaking of; they are never heated to that degree.

It is neceſſary, probably, to have the ſtoves of ſufficient ſize that it never ſhould be neceſſary to have too intenſe a heat?—It is better ſo.

Would not a miſchief accrue if the ſtoves were ſo ſmall that, to procure the neceſſary quantity of hot air, the ſtove muſt be violently heated?—I have underſtood that it is not ſo wholeſome; the air is injured by a great heat.

Have not great improvements been made in the methods of heating factories of late years?—I think a great deal of attention of late years has been paid to the manufactories; improvements are conſtantly making.

You have mentioned improvements which you have made in the ventilation of your mills; have not you experienced very good effects from thoſe improvements?—They have been made a long time, and they are gradually making, but I cannot ſay that I have perceived any effects; the work-people have been in good health a long time, and I do not know when thoſe effects began to operate.

Is your cotton cleaned by the hand, or by the machine?—By a machine.

Is the duſt from the cleaning of the cotton ever found troubleſome to the perſons who work the machine?—No, there is no more duſt where that cotton is cleaned than there is in this room.

Are there particular contrivances to prevent duſt in the mode in which you clean your cotton?—Yes.

Have you reaſon to think that peculiar to yourſelf, or is it known to the other factories pretty generally?—It is known to a great many, and the ſame principle nearly is applied by others.

Were they introduced in your time, or previouſly?—Great improvements have been made within theſe very few years in that reſpect.

And very good effects have followed?—Very good; and I ſhould think every body will adopt ſomething to get rid of their duſt.

Then you eſteem it to be very practicable?—Yes, very practicable; it is to be done in many ways, and is now done in moſt well regulated factories.

Are there any Sunday-ſchools at Cromford?—Yes, there are ſeveral ſchools; at Cromford there are two.

Do many of the factory children attend them?—There are 225 attend at this time at all the ſchools; of theſe 131 at Cromford.

Is not that nearly all you ſtated to be of the ages between ten and eighteen?—Yes, but there may be ſome above eighteen, who attend to learn to write.

Do you uſe any particular means to procure their attendance?—No, I do not know of any particular means.

Is that a ſchool at which they are taught gratis?—I pay for the ſchool.

And they are taught gratis?—Yes.

You ſpoke of a very beneficial regulation in requiring children to read before their admiſſion into the factory; could you ſpecify what degree of reading; for inſtance, their ability to read a verſe in the Scriptures off?—The perſon appointed to that office would take them if they could read at all.

That is, read very ſmall words without ſpelling them?—Any ſmall words: And in general the parents are ſo anxious to get their children to work, that the man appointed to hear them read will ſometimes examine them very little, and probably they can ſcarcely read; that is a matter that has been obliged to be attended to ſometimes, to make them adhere to the rules.

You mentioned the allowance of half wages to ſick children during their illneſs; has that always been the regulation at Cromford?—Not always.

How long has it been introduced?—I cannot ſpeak to years; it is a long time ſince.

You no doubt have obſerved that it has given great ſatisfaction to the children, and their parents?—Of courſe.

Do you think that the duſt in thoſe mills, where no precaution is taken againſt it, is productive of any ſerious inconvenience?—Great inconvenience, certainly, and it is very diſagreeable.

To the children employed?—There are very few children employed in that operation; none, I ſhould think. I have not ſeen any. I have not ſeen any of the ill regulated mills.

R. Arkwright, Esq.

Have you any reaſon to believe that the hours of work are fewer in thoſe mills of which you have been ſpeaking, where none of thoſe precautions are taken?—I ſhould think not.

[*Mr. William Taylor delivered in the following Paper, which was read:*]

"AT the annual General Seſſion of the Peace held at the new Court Houſe in Preſton, in and for the County Palatine of Lancaſter, the 29th day of June, in the 55th year of King George the Third's Reign,

Before *William Robert Hay*, Clerk, Chairman.

Richard Atkinſon, *John Bradſhaw*, *Wm David Evans*, *James Fraſer*, *Samuel Horrocks*, *Joſhua Hinde*. } Eſquires.

Willm Hinde, *George Williams*, } Eſquires.

John Pedder, *James Penny*, and *Jas Stainbank*, } Clerks.

Juſtices of the Peace, &c.

"A Bill now depending in Parliament, to amend an Act paſſed in the Forty-ſecond year of His preſent Majeſty's Reign, for the preſervation of the health and morals of apprentices employed in cotton and other mills, being read;

"Reſolved, That (except as to the Regulations reſpecting the working in the night) the ſame will be inefficient, and incapable of producing any ſalutary effect.

"GORST."

Thomas Oldmeadow Gill, Esq.

Thomas Oldmeadow Gill, Eſquire, called in, and examined.

WHERE do you reſide?—In the neighbourhood of Mancheſter.

How long have you reſided there?—Upwards of fourteen years.

What is your occupation?—That of a merchant.

A merchant in what line?—In manufactured goods.

Do you mean in the exportation of the manufactures of Mancheſter?—I have no eſtabliſhment in Mancheſter for the purpoſes of trade?—I have a warehouſe in London.

But you trade in Mancheſter goods?—Yes.

Are you one of the general viſitors of the Sunday ſchools of the Eſtabliſhed Church in Mancheſter?—I am.

Have you been long ſo employed?—From the time, I believe, when general viſitors were firſt appointed, which I believe was ten years ago.

Have you been conſtant in your attendance on thoſe ſchools?—Pretty generally.

What obſervations have you made in the courſe of thoſe viſits?—I have thought that thoſe employed in cotton factories appear the moſt unhealthy.

How did you aſcertain whether thoſe children who appeared to you to be unhealthy were workers in factories, or not?—A ſhort time ſince, on the 19th of May, ſeveral gentlemen went through the greater part of the Sunday ſchools in Mancheſter and Salford; I viſited ſeven myſelf, with two other gentlemen. The number of ſcholars we found preſent were 1381; out of thoſe 255 appeared very young—of thoſe we did not aſk any queſtions; 133 appeared to us to look very ſickly, which induced us to aſk what was their employment in the week-day, and 95 out of that 133 anſwered that they worked in factories, leaving 38 only in all other employments; and it is to be obſerved, that not one-third of the Sunday ſchool ſcholars work in factories.

How long have you aſcertained the latter fact?—A few weeks ſince an account was taken of the ſcholars in all the ſchools, at which time 11,063 were preſent, and they were aſked their different employments; and 3,317 out of that number only anſwered that they worked in factories.

Are you connected with the Mancheſter Infirmary?—I am, as one of the Deputy Treaſurers.

In conſequence of your connexion with the Infirmary, have you had any opportunities of conſulting medical men reſpecting the effect produced on young children by working in factories?—I have; particularly two very reſpectable ones, whoſe opinion is, that working young children ſo many hours in cotton factories checks their growth, promotes ſcrofula, produces debility, and tends to premature death.

my anſwer is, that the expence of the education, as well the building of the ſchool as the ſubſequent annual and other expenſes attending it, are dependent upon ſubſcriptions, to which you and your ſon have lately added your names. The proceeds, however, of theſe ſubſcriptions have proved by a great deal too little to provide for the expenſes which have been incurred; it was on this account that I took the liberty of making application to you and to your ſon, and I only regret that your reſtriction has prevented me from making a public acknowledgement for the liberality with which my application was treated. From the intereſt and active part wich I ſee you now taking to render a ſervice to the children of the poor, you will excuſe me if I again preſs on your recollection the protection of the inſtitutions to which you have ſo liberally ſubſcribed; and here I muſt alſo bear teſtimony to the friendly ſupport which this inſtitution [the R. C. Sunday and day-ſchool] has received from the numerous Proteſtant heads of the manufactories in this neighbourhood, at the head of whom I find Mr. Horrocks, the member for this place, and a long liſt of other reſpectable names.

" 7th.—With regard to the ſeventh queſtion, it is my opinion, that a high degree of credit is due to the owners of the factories for their attention to the particulars therein mentioned, and amongſt ourſelves the beſt endeavours are uſed to aſſiſt them in thoſe ends by collections, for the purpoſe of providing clothes for the children; and I apprehend that a ſtrict adherence to any one of theſe branches muſt almoſt inevitably ſecure the other three. As, however, this is a conſiderable object, the ends of which can hardly be perfected even by extraordinary liberality amongſt ſo few, the aſſiſtance of any out of the many opulent will be a grateful conſideration.

" 8th.—With regard to their morals, I muſt ſay, that in conſequence of the very particular attention which is always paid to this particular, both by the clergy and many others by whom we are aſſiſted, we can bear teſtimony to the good conduct and morality of by far the greater part of ſuch children, and by vigilance and otherwiſe the evils reſulting from an indiſcriminate aſſociation are in a great meaſure done away with.

" I ſubjoin and encloſe a ſtatement of the ſchool under the charge of the Catholic clergy, a copy of which Mr. Horrocks has taken with him to London.

" With great reſpect,
" I am, Sir,
" Your moſt obedient Servant,
" *Jos. Dunn.*"

George Benſell Strutt Eſquire called in, and examined.

G. Benſell Strutt, Eſq.

ARE you one of the proprietors of the cotton works at Belper and Milford in Derbyſhire, of which a written account was delivered here by Mr. Hollins?—Yes, I am.

The hours of labour at your works are ſtated in that return to be twelve?—They are.

Have you found the children tired after working thoſe hours?—I have not found them ſo; I think they are not.

Have you had any medical gentlemen at your works to examine your plan of warming and ventilating them, with a view of introducing that plan into the infirmaries or hoſpitals in your neighbourhood?—Some years ago a Doctor Storer from Nottingham came to Belper to examine the ſtate of the health of the people employed in the mills, in order to judge how far it would be adviſable to adopt the ſame mode of warming and ventilating the infirmary at Nottingham.

What were Doctor Storer's obſervations reſpecting the health of the people?—He expreſſed himſelf ſo ſatisfied with the health of the children, that he recommended the ſame means to be employed at the infirmary at Nottingham; and, after ſome ſhort period, they requeſted us to ſend a man over to erect ſuch ſtoves.

How are your works warmed and ventilated?—They are warmed by means of a large quantity of air paſſing over an extenſive ſurface of ſheet-iron, in the form of a ſtone or cockle, and then it is conducted up funnels or chimneys into the rooms, and from thence

G. Benſell Strutt, Eſq.

thence conveyed, at the greateſt poſſible diſtance, out of the rooms. There are outlets as well as inlets, and thoſe are at the greateſt poſſible diſtance from the inlets.

You have found of courſe that your rooms are well aired and warmed, whatever may be the ſtate of the weather?—Yes; in hot weather we cannot keep them ſo cool as we could wiſh.

Is there much duſt in your ſpinning-rooms?—Very little in the ſpinning-rooms.

Is there more in your carding-rooms?—Yes, ſomething more, eſpecially at what we call the breaking-cards; the firſt carding is more duſty than the ſecond carding; we card twice.

Is there much duſt in the room where your ſcutching machine is at work?—None at all.

Which room do you conſider the moſt free from duſt?—I conſider the ſcutching room to be moſt free from duſt.

Does the nature of the machine uſed for ſcutching at your works prevent the duſt from flying about the room?—Perfectly.

Have you underſtood from proprietors of cotton mills, or do you know from your own experience, that the room in which the ſcutching machine is worked is in general the moſt duſty and unpleaſant place in the works?—I have underſtood from the proprietors of works, and I know from my own experience, that formerly it was the moſt duſty of all the rooms: it was exceſſively duſty.

Will you explain how your machine produces an effect ſo different from moſt others?—The difference conſiſts in drawing the air of the room through the machine by means of a fan, when it is conducted by a chimney or funnel to the outſides of the building: but as the idea originated with Mr. Arkwright, and as I expected to be aſked ſome queſtions about this machine, and as he made the firſt machine upon this principle, I have requeſted him to explain it, and have received this Paper from him.

[*It was delivered in, and read as follows:*]

"The ſcutching machine moſt in uſe is a machine for cleaning cotton from the ſeeds and other impurities, and is in principle ſimilar to the thraſhing machine. The cotton paſſes through a pair of rollers, and is ſtruck by bars of iron or ſteel called beaters, which revolve with great velocity, ſtriking the cotton with conſiderable force over a number of parallel bars ſo placed as to allow the ſeeds to fall through, the current of air paſſing over the bars, and carrying the cotton fly and duſt forward into an apartment called the cotton chamber. It is neceſſary this air ſhould be got rid of, and it is effected by a large opening, in which is placed a fine wire grating; the air either returns into the room or is ſuffered to eſcape externally. But even by this latter mode conſiderable inconveniency ariſes to the perſons employed, from the duſt and fly, as it is impoſſible to cloſe up every aperture and crevice ſo as to prevent ſome portion of it from coming into the working-room. This inconveniency is now completely remedied, by the adoption of a very ſimple plan: a fan is placed on the outſide of the wire-grating before-mentioned, which by a quick rotary motion rarefies or exhauſts in ſome degree the cotton-chamber; conſequently the air in the working-room preſſes in at every opening to reſtore the equilibrium, carrying with it all the fly and duſt created by the working of the ſcutcher.

"10th June 1816. "*Richard Arkwright.*"

Have you ſeen this improved ſcutching machine at work at Cromford?—I have. Mr. Arkwright has ſhowed it to my brother, and myſelf and my two ſons; and I believe any reſpectable perſon who wiſhes to ſee it may.

And

G. Benſell Strutt, Eſq.

And the room is perfectly free from duſt?—Perfectly free.

Have you ſeen this machine applied to aſſiſt the purpoſes of ventilation?—I did, about nine months ago, at Cromford.

What is the effect of it in cleaning a carding-room from duſt?—There is ſo little duſt in the carding-room, I could not judge in what degree it would clear it, but the air being drawn out of the room by this machine, if there was any duſt it muſt paſs off with that air; it acts ſo as to take away whatever little duſt there is in the room with the air; that muſt be the effect of it.

Does Mr. Arkwright make any ſecret of this ſcutching machine?—Not that I know of: I believe not.

He is rather anxious to communicate the improvement?—From what I have heard him ſay, I think he is rather anxious to communicate it to any reſpectable perſon who applies for that purpoſe.

Have you known of any caſes of ſcrofula at your works?—We have ſome ſcrofulous children, but I think but few; there are ſome ſcrofulous families in the neighbourhood, and have been from the time I firſt went to Belper, when there were very few perſons employed in cotton mills. It does prevail in ſome degree, but not more than in any other place that I know of.

Have you any mule-ſpinning?—We have not; we had ſome years ago, not at Belper but at Derby.

Is the employment of perſons employed in mule-ſpinning different from that of perſons employed in water-twiſt mills?—It is very different.

Nearly as different as mule-ſpinning is from weaving?—Yes, I think it is, in the ſpinning part.

Mr. *John Buſh* called in, and examined.

Mr. John Buſh.

WHERE do you reſide?—At Bradford in Wiltſhire.

What is your profeſſion?—I am a ſolicitor.

What is the paper you produce?—It is an abſtract Statement of the number of perſons employed in the principal woollen manufactories in Wilts, and part of Somerſet; diſtinguiſhing thoſe above eighteen, above ten, and under ten; thoſe who can read, thoſe who can write, and thoſe who can neither read or write; the hours per day, the labour, the hours for meals, and the number of perſons ill at this time.

[*It was delivered in, and read as follows:*]

Mr. Henry Hollins.

Do you know the hours of working in this factory?—I believe them to be from fix to twelve, and from one to feven.

Do you know how long that has been the practice?—I have no doubt for a number of years.

Have you any other report?—I have an account from Meffrs. W. G. and J. Strutt, of Belper and Millford.

Do you know the hand-writing?—It was delivered to me by Mr. Strutt.

[*It was delivered in, and read as follows:*]

"A REPORT on the State of the Cotton Works at Belper and Millford, in the parifh of Duffield and county of Derby, as refpects the health, inftruction, and morals of the perfons employed therein; from January 1ft, 1815, to January 1ft, 1816.

Number of Perfons employed, of every defcription - - - 1,494; all Engliſh.

	Time loft from Sickneſs only.	Number who have made proficiency in reading.	Unable to read.	
Of theſe under the age of 10 years, - 100	50 days, equal to 6 hours each - -	92	8	
Above the age of 10, and under 18, 612	619 days, equal to 12½ hours each	604	8	4 of theſe deficient in intellect.

"Average weekly earnings of each child under ten years old, 2*s.* 6*d.* The average fize of the rooms is from 100 to 150 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 9 feet high, and the number of cubic feet of fpace for each perfon is 1,104.

"Pure air (warmed when neceffary) is tranſmitted into every room conſtantly, at the rate of upwards of 100 gallons per minute for each perfon.

"No apprentices (except as mechanics) are employed, and they refide with their parents, and receive weekly wages.

"The working hours are twelve, fix before dinner (which is from twelve to one), and fix after; each of which fix hours includes the time for breakfaſt and tea. This has been the invariable practice at the original ſilk mill in Derby, in this neighbourhood, for more than a hundred years.

"In complexion and general appearance, the perſons employed here are not at all inferior to thoſe whoſe occupations are in the open air, being without the paleneſs which generally accompanies ſedentary employment, better fed, better clothed, and accuſtomed to habits of much greater regularity than perſons whoſe trades do not require attention at regular and ſtated periods; their health is more vigorous; and in conſequence of the good condition of their houſes, and the invariable practice of frequently white-waſhing them, infectious diſeaſes very rarely occur.

"The number of children inſtructed at day ſchools at the expenſe of the proprietors - - - - - - - - - - - 64

"The number of children inſtructed at Sunday ſchools at the expenſe of the proprietors - - - - - - - - - - - 650

"The number of children inſtructed at day ſchools by their parents - 700

"The number of children who attend other Sunday ſchools - - 700

"The proprietors of the works are now erecting Lancaſterian ſchools for 500, which are nearly completed; after the eſtabliſhment of which, it is their intention not to employ children that are unable to read.

"It is well known in this neighbourhood, that *before* the eſtabliſhment of theſe works the inhabitants were notorious for vice and immorality, and many of the children were maintained by begging; now their induſtry, decorous behaviour, attendance on public worſhip, and general good conduct, compared with the neighbouring villages, where no manufactures are eſtabliſhed, is very conſpicuous.

"JEDIDIAH STRUTT maketh oath, That he is a principal ſuperintendent of the above Works; that he has carefully examined the above Schedule or Statement, and that to the beſt of his knowledge and belief it is a faithful and correct report and ſtatement of the matters and things therein contained and ſet forth.

"*Jedidiah Strutt.*"

"Sworn this 3d day of May 1816, before me,

"*R. F. Foreſter*, One of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace in and for the county of Derby."