

"It can, however, be stated that generally speaking, in American and Canadian mills a reasonable proportion of operatives from 45 to 50, and at instances up to 70 years of age, were observed to be handling normal assignments in those mills without apparent over-exertion."

The report further states (Page 25):

"From about 1921 there has been an accelerated trend, both in Canadian and American cotton textile mills in the direction of improved machinery, more careful adjusting of machinery and a general all-round improvement in attention to details affecting the quality of the yarns. As a result of these improvements year after year the amount of work required of an operator to tend one loom on any given cloth, or to tend one spindle on any given yarn, has decreased. At the same time a study of the work done by weavers and spinners was carried on and many operations of an unskilled nature were taken away from these skilled operatives and handed over to less skilled operatives. Scientific standards of machine adjustment were set and machines maintained accordingly. Working methods and details were improved in the light of careful study in mills.

"The results of these changes can be seen in the constantly increasing number of spindles and of looms which can be tended by one operative with no increased effort. Both from observation in the mills where the work is still carried on according to the old unspecialized method, and from the evidence of textile engineers who have actually studied the real work done by operatives under the conditions of ten years, or more, ago, as compared with the conditions to-day, it can be stated that generally speaking the tendency, as the machines per operative increased, has been towards a decrease in the real work required of the operative, per hour."

Mr. Fessenden has little to say with regard to working conditions, except that which is to be found upon page 21 of his report. He points out there that the cotton textile industry requires an abnormal amount of humidity in the air, and that certain departments are hot unless kept cool by outside weather or by artificial means, which up to the present have been very expensive. In addition, the unavoidable presence of lint in the air is very unpleasant when people are not accustomed to it. The noise of the machinery is equally unpleasant until one becomes used to it.

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