

The rest was for express hire, rent, fire, light, and so on.

The wages ranged, he said, from three to five dollars per week, though the beginners, of course, did not earn so much. The visitor subsequently learned more about the "learners," with whose case I will deal later.

The blame for the bad condition of affairs was again all laid on the shoulders of the "other fellows," and those women who persistently take out the work for less than the regular contractors' prices, and ultimately force the general rates down.

"For these same coats for which I am getting thirty-five cents," said the contractor, "a woman whose husband works at another trade, has this week taken some out to do in her own home for thirty-two and-a-half cents. The next thing I shall be told is that I must make them for the same price, or somebody else will."

A visit was then made to several establishments conducted by Jews. This class, together with a few women who take the work more for pastime and pin money than absolute necessity, are chiefly blamed for the whole of the trouble.

These two factors, the Jews and the women, together with two at least of the large wholesale clothiers, and one of the largest and best known retailers, are sufficient to force the hands of all the rest.

For the sake of these few, the widows and the helpless, and the hundreds of those who have themselves and dependents to support, are forced to work at starvation wages. As one entered the door of a Jew's sweating shop in "The Ward," the olfactory nerves were assailed by powerful smells, coming from work-room and living-room combined, the hot, gaseous smell from the presses in the shop, uniting with a strong smell of cooking

from the domestic quarters. In this place no attention whatever seemed to be given to the laws of cleanliness. Other places were visited in the "Ward" to which the same remarks could not apply. On the contrary, scrupulous cleanliness appeared to prevail. But in the first mentioned place, squalor and poverty combined to make the place decidedly unwholesome.

The employer told a pitiful tale of low prices and very, very hard work. The latter was very evident, for the three or four women, and two men were working as negro slaves never had to work.

In busy times, he said, he employs twelve or fifteen hands. He showed several coats of different kinds, the prices of which ranged from thirty to fifty-five cents. Coats that several years ago were made for eighty-five cents, he now makes for fifty-five cents, and heavy overcoats for eighty-five cents to one dollar and twenty-five cents. For all these goods and at these prices he furnished the silk and thread. It was afterwards learned that he is one of the worst offenders in the trade in the matter of cutting down prices. He stated himself that his girls earned from one dollar and fifty cents to three dollars a week, and like others of course he complained bitterly, but said that he was forced to accept these prices or starve. In the matter of hours for work, there appeared to be no regulations. It all depended on the amount of work they had in hand.

The next Jew's sweating shop visited the employer was a gentlemanly sort of man, whose place, it must be said, was very clean and well lighted. He declared that he was a recent arrival in the country, and professed to be sorry that he ever came here. He claimed to be totally ignorant of the prices paid