

the fur business, nor in any of the other occupations I inquired into, did I find anything of this kind. The price to be paid for making the various articles is usually stated when the goods are given out, it being the duty of some one in the employ of the manufacturer to fix the price. It seems almost inevitable that such a system must result in bringing the wages down to the lowest point at which the employees can afford to work—to what economists have designated the lowest existence point. This result is rendered the more certain by the fact that the separation of the workers where they work in their own homes, and the want of combination among the contractors, prevents a comparison, by them, of the prices offered.

5. I find no evidence of any agreement, understanding or combination among the manufacturers for the purpose of regulating the prices to be paid for making goods; though in the way of business they usually keep themselves informed as to the prices paid by their competitors.

6. For the same kinds or grades of work manufacturers pay the same prices whether the maker is a contractor or a person working in his or her own home; but, as already stated, different grades of work are usually done by the two classes.

7. I found no evidence that the manufacturers seek to control or in any way interfere with the wages paid by their contractors, or to keep themselves informed as to the rate of wages paid. The object of seeking information under this head was to ascertain whether the wholesale manufacturers attempted to regulate the prices to be paid by them in accordance with the wages paid by the contractors to their employees.

8. The contractors have no organizations or combinations of the kind suggested. At one time the contractors in Toronto had an organization or union, but it no longer exists. While it was in existence it was claimed, by one of those present at the meeting already referred to, that it attempted to regulate the wages to be paid to employees, but this is denied. It did attempt to regulate in some measure the prices at which work should be done for the wholesalers, but met with but little success, owing partly to want of unanimity among its members and partly to the pressure of competition on the part of non-members and of private families.

9. As a rule the sanitary condition of contractors' shops is good, though there are exceptions to this rule. In some of the shops I visited, while it might not be altogether correct to say that they were in an unsanitary condition, they were certainly far from cleanly, and were neither wholesome nor pleasant to work in. One in Toronto, in which a number of men, women and girls were engaged in making ladies' mantles and cloaks, if not unsanitary, must have bordered very closely upon being so. In no case did I find that manufacturers took any measures to keep themselves informed as to the condition of the shops or houses in which their goods were made up, either as to cleanliness or healthfulness. I did not find anywhere shops that grade I down to the level of the sweaters' "dens" described in the report of the Commission of the British House of Lords, and in the reports of the United States Factories Inspectors, but I found not a few in which there was great room for improvement.

10. The practice of using shops in which clothing is made as living and sleeping rooms, which is so great a cause of complaint in England and in some American cities, does not obtain here, at least to any extent. When clothing is made in private houses, however, bed-rooms and living rooms are frequently used as work rooms.

11. I could learn of no authenticated case of an infectious disease having been spread by means of garments made in contractors' shops or private houses, though I did hear of cases where scarlet fever and diphtheria had been known to exist in places where clothing was being made. That great and serious danger to the public health might readily arise from this source, unless means be taken to guard against it by proper inspection, is evident. It is true we have not, as yet at any rate, the tenement house system which is the cause of so much danger of the kind indicated in such cities as Chicago, for example, but even in ordinary workshops and dwellings better inspection than the laws now provide for is needed to ensure the public safety.

12. As far as I could ascertain the subcontracting system, which some in England have held to be the only one rightly deserving of the appellation "sweating system," does not exist in Canada. It may be that there is danger that with the tendency to