

*Public contract  
referred  
subjecting wages in all public contracts  
L C XLI*

5<sup>th</sup> - Lords 90

C 17417

Paragraph 197 is omitted, and the following new paragraph is inserted in lieu thereof:—

"We are glad to find that efforts are being made to put an end to the grave scandal of sweating in the making up of Government contracts for clothing and accoutrements. Proposals to this end have been made as follows:—First, to insist on the observance of the conditions now commonly annexed to such contracts, which hitherto it has been no one's duty to enforce, namely, that the work should be done in factories; and, secondly, a proposal has been made by Mr. Nepean, the Director of Contracts, to bind contractors not to pay less than a specified minimum rate of wages approved by the Department. Mr. Nepean believes that the increased cost will be compensated for by the excellence of the work. Municipal and other public bodies will, we hope, observe with care these efforts to contend with the evils of sweating, and take, as we are aware that some of them have already taken, every precaution in their power to ensure fair and reasonable terms to the worker. We think that practical experience alone can determine how this result may best be effected." *The paragraph became sec 203 L. XLI. in final report.*

See ante, p. 148.  
See answer of  
Mr. Nepean to  
Q. 24651 of seq.

*The following paragraphs are as they  
appeared in the original draft prepared by  
Lord Shering.*

*L C XXXVI*

"195. We are of opinion that it is incumbent on all departments of the Government and on municipal and other public bodies to take care that in placing their contracts they are satisfied that the workmen by whom the contract is to be worked out are paid proper wages. We recommend this course not only in the interest of the workman, but also in the belief that it will ensure to the public a corresponding advantage in the excellence of the work. This recommendation may be effected by requiring the contractor to show the scale of wages which he proposes to pay, and, supposing such scale to be satisfactory, by having copies served on the workmen, or otherwise making known to them the rate of wages to be paid.

See Report,  
answer of  
Mr. Nepean to  
Q. 24651 of seq.

"196. We cannot conclude without expressing our earnest hope that the exposure of the evils which have been brought to our notice will induce capitalists to pay closer attention to the conditions under which the labour which supplies them with goods is conducted, and that the public will withhold their custom from traders who are known to conduct their business on a system which regards neither the welfare of the workman nor the quality of the work produced."

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