

## GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT LABOR CONDITIONS

Name of person carrying on the works: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of work carried on: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons employed:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Adults above 21 (male and female)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Young persons between 13-21 (male and female)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Children under 13 (male and female)

Moving power employed to drive machinery

- \_\_\_\_\_ Hand  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Animal  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Wind  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Steam  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Water

Town and street in which situated \_\_\_\_\_

### QUERIES

#### Workplace and Machinery

1. Is there any special provision in your works for ventilation? If so describe its nature and effects.
2. Are all the dangerous parts of the machinery fenced off? If not, why not?
3. Have you any accommodations in your works to enable the workpeople to change their clothes on entering the works, or for washing or putting on additional clothing or leaving them; or any arrangements to ensure their personal cleanliness, or any conveniences for cooking or warming their food? If you have specify those arrangements.
4. What is the usual temperature in the different parts of your works in which children are employed?
5. What is the highest degree of heat required for any processes in your works in which children are employed?
6. How are the works lighted?

#### Employment of Children

7. Do any of the processes carried on in your works necessarily require the employment of very young children and why? What is the youngest age required?
8. Have any recent alternations in machinery rendered necessary the employment of a greater or less proportion of children in your works?

#### Hours of Employment

9. What is the usual number of hours each day during which your works are carried on?
10. What is the greatest number of hours that your works or any of them, have been carried on in any one day during the last year?
11. At what times and under what circumstances were the usual or regular hours of work exceeded?

12. Do you consider this or any excess beyond the regular hours of work avoidable? If not avoidable state why not.
13. What is the greatest number of hours that the same set of children in your employment have been kept at work during any one day of the last year?
14. Have you at any former time usually carried on your works for a greater number of hours daily than you do at present?
15. Has a system of relays or change of hands in the employment of children been tired? If so describe in what manner and how the plan has answered.
16. What is your opinion as to the probable effects of a reduction of the working hours of children, and the grounds of such opinion?

#### Night Work That Is after Nine O'clock at Night and before Five O'clock In the Morning

17. Do you work at night, that is after nine o'clock at night and before five o'clock in the morning? If so state for how many hours and under what circumstances.
18. Have you employed a night set of children as well as a day set? If so explain how you arrange their hours of work.
19. Do the same set of hands work uniformly by night or do they change periodically with the day set?
20. How many times have any of your works in which children have been employed at night during the last year?
21. What is the greatest number of children who have been employed at night work at any one time during the last twelve months; and what is the greatest number of hours during which any children have been employed on any one night?
22. Would a prohibition of night work for children affect you and in what way?

#### Continuous Process

23. Do any processes in your works indispensably require the labor of children to be continuous during twenty-four hours; and what they are?
24. If not necessarily continuous for the whole twenty-four hours, what is the maximum of the time during which it is indispensable for such processes to be continuous?
25. What are the ages of children usually employed in such practices?

#### Meal-Times

26. What are the times allowed for meals during the day?
27. Do all, or how many of the persons employed at your works leave them at meal times? State the reasons
28. If you work at night, is there any and what cessation for rest and meals?

#### Treatment

29. Have you any system of rewards or punishments for inducing attention on part of children employed in your works and if so by whom?
30. Are corporal punishments inflicted on any children employed in your works; and if so by whom?
31. Have you forbidden corporal punishment or taken any steps for their prevention, when you were informed of any instance of their infliction?
32. Have any instructions been given by you to your foreman or your overlooker with relation to the punishment of children? State those instructions. If in print append a copy to these returns.
33. Is there a marked difference in skill and general character between the older hands who have been employed in the works from infancy, and those who have been taken into such employment at later periods?

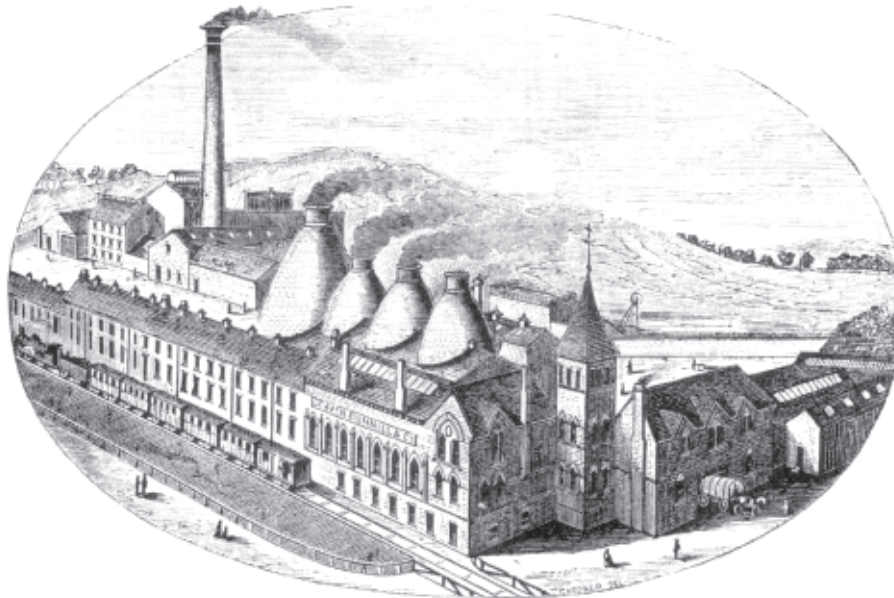
34. Is there in connection with your works any school, reading room, lending library or sick fund? If so, state the particulars respecting each as fully as you can.
35. If you have any further observations to make with reference to the present inquiry, have the goodness to tell them.

Signature of Person making answers \_\_\_\_\_

Whether principal or agent \_\_\_\_\_

Day of answers the \_\_\_\_\_ day of 184\_\_\_\_\_

Source: Children's Employment Commission, "Appendix: Second Report on Employment of Children," November 16, 1840, 214–16.



**Craven Dunnill & Co. Works**

One of many factories in the Ironbridge Gorge, now known as the "birthplace of industry"

Source: *Victorians at Work* (Coalbrookdale: Ironbridge Gorge Museum), 1997