

TESTIMONY ABOUT CHILD LABOR

May 18, 1832

Chair: Michael Thomas Sadler

Witness A: Mr. Matthew Crabtree (called in and examined)

2481. Chair: What age are you?
Witness A: Twenty-two
2482. Chair: What is your occupation?
Witness A: a blanket manufacturer
2483. Chair: Have you ever been employed in a factory?
Witness A: Yes
2484. Chair: At what age did you first go to work in one?
Witness A: Eight
2485. Chair: How long did you continue in that occupation?
Witness A: Four years
2486. Chair: Will you state the hours of labor at the period when you first went to the factory in ordinary times?
Witness A: From 6 in the morning until 8 at night.
2487. Chair: Fourteen hours?
Witness A: yes
2488. Chair: With what intervals for refreshment and rest?
Witness A: An hour at noon.
2489. Chair: Then you had no resting time allowed in which to take your breakfast, or what is in Yorkshire called your “drinking”?
Witness A: No
2490. Chair: When trade was brisk what were your hours?
Witness A: From 5 in the morning to 9 in the evening.
2491. Chair: Sixteen hours?
Witness A: Yes
2492. Chair: With what intervals at dinner?
Witness A: An hour
2493. Chair: How far did you live from the mill?
Witness A: About two miles.
2494. Chair: Was there any time allowed for you to get your breakfast at the mill?
Witness A: No
2495. Chair: Did you take it before you left your home?
Witness A: Generally
2496. Chair: During those long hours of labor could you be punctual; how did you awake?
Witness A: I seldom did awake spontaneously; I was most generally awoke or lifted out of bed, sometimes asleep by my parents.
2497. Chair: Were you always on time?
Witness A: No.

2498. Chair: What was the consequence if you had been late?
Witness A: I was most commonly beaten.
2499. Chair: Severely?
Witness A: Very severely, I thought.
2500. Chair: In whose factory was this?
Witness A: Messrs. Hague and Cook's of Dewsbury.
2501. Chair: Will you state the effect that those long hours had upon the state of your health and feelings?
Witness A: I was, when working those long hours, commonly very fatigued at night, when I left my work; so much so that I sometimes should have slept as I walked if I had not stumbled and started awake again; and so sick often that I could not eat, and what I did eat I vomited.
2502. Chair: Did the labor destroy your appetite?
Witness A: It did.
2503. Chair: In what situation were you in that mill?
Witness A: I was a piecener.
2504. Chair: Will you state to this Committee whether piecening is a very laborious employment for children or not?
Witness A: It is a very laborious employment. Pieceners are continually running to and fro and on their feet the whole day.
2505. Chair: The duty of the piecener is to take the cardings from one part of the machinery and to place them on another?
Witness A: Yes
2506. Chair: So that the labor is not only continual, but it is unabated to the last?
Witness A: It is unabated to the last.
2507. Chair: Do you think, from your own experience, that the speed of the machinery is so calculated as to demand the utmost exertions of a child, supposing the hours were moderate?
Witness A: It is as much as they could do at the best; they are always upon the stretch, and it is commonly very difficult to keep up with their work.
2508. Chair: State the condition of the children towards the latter part of the day, who have thus to keep up with the machinery?
Witness A: It is as much as they can do when they are not very much fatigued to keep up with their work, and towards the close of the day, when they come to be more fatigued, they cannot keep up with it very well, and the consequence is that they are beaten to spur them on.
2509. Chair: Were you beaten under those circumstances?
Witness A: Yes
2510. Chair: Frequently?
Witness A: Very frequently
2511. Chair: And principally at the latter end of the day?
Witness A: Yes
2512. Chair: And is it your belief that if you had not been so beaten, you should not have got through the work?
Witness A: I should not if I had not been kept up to it by some means.

2513. Chair: Does beating them principally occur at the latter end of the day, when the children are exceedingly fatigued?
Witness A: It does at the latter end of the day, and in the morning sometimes, when they are very drowsy, and have not got rid of the fatigue of the day before.
2514. Chair: What were you beaten with principally?
Witness A: A strap
2515. Chair: Any thing else?
Witness A: Yes, a stick sometimes; and there is a kind of roller which runs on the top of the machine called a billy, perhaps two or three yards in length and perhaps an inch and a half, or more in diameter; the circumference would be four or five inches; I cannot speak exactly.
2516. Chair: Were you beaten with that instrument?
Witness A: Yes
2517. Chair: Have you yourself been beaten and have you seen other children struck severely with that roller?
Witness A: I have been struck very severely with it myself, so much as to knock me down, and I have seen other children have their heads broken with it.
2518. Chair: You think that it is a general practice to beat the children with the roller?
Witness A: It is.
2519. Chair: You do not think then that you were worse treated than other children in the mill?
Witness A: No I was not, perhaps not so bad as some were.
2520. Chair: In those mills is chastisement towards the latter part of the day going on perpetually?
Witness A: Perpetually.
2521. Chair: So that you can hardly be in a mill without constant crying?
Witness A: Never an hour, I believe...
2523. Chair: At the time when you were beaten for not keeping up with your work were you anxious to have done it if you possibly could?
Witness A: Yes: the dread of being beaten if we could not keep up with our work was a sufficient impulse to keep us to it if we could.
2524. Chair: When you got home at night after this labor did you feel much fatigued?
Witness A: Very much so.
2525. Chair: Had you any time to be with your parents, and to receive instruction from them?
Witness A: No
2526. Chair: What did you do?
Witness A: All that we did when we got home was to get the little bit of supper that was provided for us and go to bed immediately. If the supper had not been directly, we should have gone to sleep while it was preparing.
2527. Chair: Did you not as a child, feel it very grievous hardship to be roused so soon in the morning?
Witness A: I did.

2574. Chair: At what age did you leave that employment?
Witness A: I was about 12 years old.
2575. Chair: Why did you leave that place?
Witness A: I went very late one morning, about seven o'clock and I got severely beaten by the spinner and he turned me out of the mill and I went home, and never went any more.

June 4, 1832

Chair: Michael Thomas Sadler

Witness B: Elizabeth Bentley

5127. Chair: What age are you?
Witness B: Twenty-three
5128. Chair: Where do you live?
Witness B: At Leeds.
5129. Chair: What time did you begin to work at a factory?
Witness B: When I was six years old.
5130. Chair: At whose factory did you work?
Witness B: Mr. Busk's
5131. Chair: What kind of mill is it?
Witness B: Flax mill
5132. Chair: What was your business in that mill?
Witness B: I was a little doffer.
5133. Chair: What were your hours of labor in that mill?
Witness B: From five in the morning until nine at night, when they were thronged.
5134. Chair: For how long a time together have you worked that excessive length of time?
Witness B: For about half a year.
5135. Chair: What were your usual hours of labor when you were not so thronged?
Witness B: From 6 in the morning until 7 at night.
5136. Chair: What time was allowed for your meals?
Witness B: Forty minutes at noon.
5137. Chair: Had you any time to get your breakfast or drinking?
Witness B: No we got it as we could.
5138. Chair: And when your work was bad, you had hardly any time to eat it at all?
Witness B: No we were obliged to leave it or take it home, and when we did not take it, the overlooker took it, and gave it to his pigs.
5139. Chair: Do you consider doffing a laborious employment?
Witness B: Yes
5140. Chair: Explain what it is you had to do?
Witness B: When the frames are full, they have to stop the frames and take the flyers off, and take the bobbins off, and carry them to the roller; and then put empty ones on, and set the frame going again.

5141. Chair: Does that keep you constantly on your feet?
Witness B: Yes there are so many frames and they run so quick.
5142. Chair: Your labor is very excessive?
Witness B: Yes; you have not time for anything.
5143. Chair: Suppose you flagged a little or were too late, what would they do?
Witness B: Strap us.
5144. Chair: Are they in the habit of strapping those who are last in doffing?
Witness B: Yes
5145. Chair: Constantly?
Witness B: Yes
5146. Chair: Girls as well as boys?
Witness B: Yes
5147. Chair: Have you ever been strapped?
Witness B: Yes
5148. Chair: Severely?
Witness B: Yes
5149. Chair: Is the strap used so as to hurt you excessively?
Witness B: Yes it is. . . .
5218. Chair: Have you been attended to by any medical gentleman at Leeds or the neighborhood?
Witness B: Yes I have been under Mr. Hares.
5219. Chair: To what did he attribute it?
Witness B: He said it was owing to hard labor, and working in the factories.
5220. Chair: He told you that?
Witness B: Yes
5221. Chair: Did he tell your mother also?
Witness B: No she was not alive; Mr. Hares told me that it would be a year before I should be straight again.
5222. Chair: You were obliged to return to your work?
Witness B: Yes
5223. Chair: Did he tell you that this misfortune had come upon you from overworking in the factories?
Witness B: Yes, he did; he said it was nothing else that brought it on.
5224. Chair: Where did you go then?
Witness B: I went to Mr. Walker's
5225. Chair: How old were you when Mr. Hare saw you?
Witness B: About 21 years old.
5226. Chair: About two years ago?
Witness B: yes
5227. Chair: Did the deformity come upon you with much pain and weariness?
Witness B: Yes; I cannot express the pain I had all the time it was coming.
5228. Chair: You went to Futham and Walker's afterwards?
Witness B: Yes

5229. Chair: Is that a flax mill?
Witness B: Yes
5230. Chair: In what situation did you got there?
Witness B: I went into the spinning room.
5231. Chair: What were the hours of labor there when they were busy?
Witness B: From half-past 5 in the morning to 8 and half-past 8.
5232. Chair: Is it found necessary in that mill to strap the children up to their work?
Witness B: Yes the doffers; I have seen them strap them as well as others.
5233. Chair: So that as far as you have experience in those factories, these poor children are beaten when so much labor is exacted from them?
Witness B: There is nothing else for them.
5234. Chair: You do not think they could be kept up to their work unless they were so abused?
Witness B: No they could not.
5235. Chair: In that mill also did they strap the children?
Witness B: Yes they did.
5236. Chair: Perpetually?
Witness B: Yes
5237. Chair: What were the hours for refreshment at that mill at the time to which we are alluding?
Witness B: Forty minutes at noon.
5238. Chair: There was no time allowed for drinking or breakfast at that mill?
Witness B: Yes they have at present.
5239. Chair: Had they before the present measure was in agitation?
Witness B: No, only forty minutes in winter, and half an hour in summer.
5240. Chair: Was that time abridged?
Witness B: Yes it was
5241. Chair: What time did you work in winter?
Witness B: From 6 in the morning till 7 or 8 if they were much thronged.
5242. Chair: The children in all cases did not have that time allowed them for their dinner?
Witness B: No
5243. Chair: Was it the the general impression among the children that the time allowed for their noon meal was improperly abridged?
Witness B: Yes it was
5244. Chair: What do you call the short hours, or common hours, in the flax business?
Witness B: From 6 in the morning till 7 at night.
5245. Chair: What time for meals?
Witness B: Forty minutes
5246. Chair: Are the children brought in occasionally from their meals before their time?
Witness B: Yes

5247. Chair: By what means?
Witness B: By the clock: sometimes the hand would have slipped down two or three minutes.
5248. Chair: Were the children whipped in sometimes at their work?
Witness B: Yes, out of the mill-yard, the boys after they have gone out to play, the overlooker has got a strap and gone out and strapped them in before their time, that they might come in and get on with their work.
5249. Chair: You have had the misfortune, from being a straight and healthful girl to becoming very much otherwise in your person; do you know of any other girls that have become weak and deformed in like manner?
Witness B: No
5225. Chair: Do you know of any body that has been similarly injured in their health?
Witness B: Yes in their health, but not many deformed as I am.
5250. Chair: You are deformed in the shoulders?
Witness B: Yes
5251. Chair: It is very common to have weak ankles and crooked knees?
Witness B: Yes very common indeed.
5252. Chair: That is brought on by stopping the spindle?
Witness B: yes
5253. Chair: Do you know anything of wet-spinning?
Witness B: Yes it is very uncomfortable; I have stood before the frames till I have been wet through to my skin; and in winter time, when we have gone home, our clothes have been frozen and we have nearly caught our death of cold.
5254. Chair: Were you permitted to give up your labor at any time to suit your convenience and your health, and resume it again when you were more capable of it?
Witness B: Yes we have stopped at home one day or two days, just as we were situated in our health.
5255. Chair: If you had stopped away any length of time, should you have found a difficulty to keep your situation?
Witness B: Yes, we should.
5256. Chair: Were the children constantly beaten to their labor, as you have described?
Witness B: yes
5257. Chair: Where are you now?
Witness B: In the poorhouse.
5258. Chair: Where?
Witness B: At Hunslet.
5259. Chair: Do any of your former employers come to see you?
Witness B: No
5260. Chair: Did you ever receive any thing from them when you became afflicted?
Witness B: When I was at home, Mr. Walker made me a present of 1s or 2s but since I have left my work and gone to the poorhouse, they have not come nigh me.

5261. Chair: You are supported by the parish?
Witness B: Yes
5262. Chair: You are utterly incapable now of any exertion of that sort?
Witness B: Yes
5263. Chair: You were very willing to have worked as long as you were able from your earliest age?
Witness B: Yes
5264. Chair: And to have supported your widowed mother as long as you could?
Witness B: Yes
5265. Chair: State what you think as to the circumstances in which you have been placed during all this time of labor and what you have considered about it as the hardship and cruelty of it.
5266. Chair: *The witness is too much affected to answer the question.*

June 4, 1832

Chair: Michael Thomas Sadler

Witness C: Samuel Downe

5267. Chair: Where do you live?
Witness C: At Hunslet car, near Leeds.
5268. Chair: What age are you?
Witness C: Twenty-nine
5269. Chair: Are you a Leeds man?
Witness C: No a native of Shrewsbury.
5270. Chair: Have you been acquainted with factories?
Witness C: From my youth.
5271. Chair: At what time did you begin to work at one?
Witness C: At about ten years of age.
5272. Chair: In whose mill did you work?
Witness C: In Mr. Marshall's
5273. Chair: At Shrewsbury?
Witness C: Yes
5274. Chair: What were the customary hours of labor in that mill; state first what the hours were when they were brisk?
Witness C: When they were brisk we used generally to begin at 5 o'clock in the morning, and they ran on till 8 at night; sometimes from half-past 5 to 8 and sometimes 9.
5275. Chair: What time had you allowed you for meals and refreshment?
Witness C: The engine never stopped, except 40 minutes at dinner time.
5276. Chair: Were those long hours found to be fatiguing?
Witness C: Yes
5277. Chair: What means were taken to keep the children awake and vigilant, especially at the termination of such a day's labor as you have described?
Witness C: There was generally a blow or a box, or a tap with a strap or sometimes with the hand.

5278. Chair: Was very considerable severity used in that mill when you were there?
Witness C: Yes
5279. Chair: Have you yourself been subjected to it?
Witness C: Yes
5280. Chair: Strapped?
Witness C: Yes, I was strapped most severely, till I could not bear to sit upon a chair without having pillows, and I was forced to lie upon my face in the night-time at one time, and through that I left; I was strapped both on my own legs and then I was put upon a man's back and then strapped and buckled with two straps on an iron pillar, and flogged, and all by one overlooker; after that he took a piece of tow, and twisted it in the shape of a cord, and put it in my mouth and tied it behind my head.

June 8, 1832

Chair: Michael Thomas Sadler

Witness D: The Reverend Abercrombie Lockhart Gordon

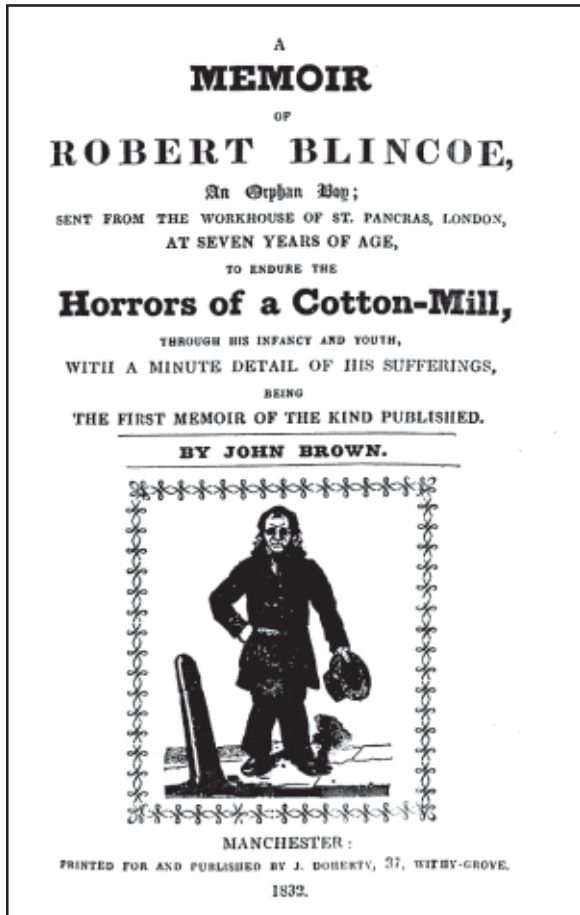
5577. Chair: Are you a minister of the established church of Scotland?
Witness D: Yes
5578. Chair: Residing where?
Witness D: In Aberdeen.
5579. Chair: You have the care of one of the parishes of that city?
Witness D: Yes the Grey friars parish.
5580. Chair: Is that a populous district?
Witness D: There are about 4,000 souls in my parish.
5581. Chair: Your parishioners are surrounded by and mingled up with those engaged in the manufacturing pursuits of the city?
Witness D: Yes
5582. Chair: Have you remarked as to the length of the hours of labor in the manufactories of that city, that they interfere with the health, the education and the morals of the parishioners and others?
Witness D: With respect to health we think that young persons employed at the age of 8, 9, or 10 years, from 6 in the morning til 8 at night must be very much injured in this respect, even in the view of the most inexperienced person; but when I consider what medical men have said and written upon the subject, it is decisive upon that point. To myself, although unacquainted with the details submitted to medical men, it is quite apparent, from looking at these children that they suffer from long hours of labor and confinement in those places. Their wan and sickly appearance is sufficient to prove that, in my view; of the clergymen in Dundee, who states that one of the physicians that had sent up a certificate to the Select Committee to the effect that the children had suffered materially from standing so many hours.
5583. Chair: Does it consist with you observation that children become very unhealthy by this long-continued confinement?
Witness D: I have a large school in my own parish, which children attend after the hours of working in the manufactories and judging from their appearance, the effect is most prejudicial; they have not the healthy and lively look which characterizes children at their time of life;

and I wrote to a person who has the charge of one of the most extensive manufactories in Aberdeen and he said that the respiration of the same air, the immense number of persons employed the friction of the brass machinery, and the rancidity of the oil, and the small particles of flax floating through the room, had a very pernicious effect upon the lungs, which was evident from the hoarseness of the voice,....

5588. Chair: You have stated that you have the superintendence of a school, in which the poorer classes of society are mainly taught?
Witness D: Yes
5589. Chair: You consider that to be one part of your duty, as a minister of religion?
Witness D: A most important duty. The school is one established solely with the view to the young persons employed in the factories; there are other schools, particularly Sunday schools in the parish; but this is one I set up with a view to these persons. They come in at 8 o'clock and there are 115 chiefly from the factory.
5590. Chair: You have given considerable attention to that important subject the Education of the poor that are thus employed?
Witness D: Yes
5591. Chair: You have written upon that subject?
Witness D: Yes I have.
- 5596 Chair: You find that your endeavors in the evening school are frustrated by the over labor of these children, in the first instance producing fatigue, and next abridging the time that it is necessary to have in order to their obtaining any essential improvement?
Witness D: I am very favorably situated. . . . I may state that a colleague of my own, now dead, who carried on a school of this kind, found his exertions almost useless, in consequence of the hours being so late and so irregular.

May 18, 1833

Examiner: Dr. Hawkins



Frontispiece, *A Memoir of Robert Blincoe, An Orphan Boy, Sent from the Workhouse at St. Pancras, London at 7 Years of Age to Endure the Horrors of a Cotton Mill* (Manchester: J. Doherty, 1832).

1833

Witness F: Joseph Birley (Manchester cotton manufacturer)

Witness F: My name is Joseph Birley. I own a great cotton factory in Manchester. Every station in life has, more or less it abuses and workers in Cotton factories are not exempt. Isolated cases, some true, some colored, some entirely false, some of old date, are no proof of general suffering. It neither is the practice nor can be the interest of the owners of Factories to enervate or otherwise injure the persons whom they employ—on the contrary, it is necessary that they be alert and attentive, for attention, and not hard labor, is their constant duty... Tales of sorrow, got up for a Parliamentary Committee cannot establish the justices of a sweeping accusation... If the master manufacturers be vilified and fettered as ignorant meddling enthusiasts and philanthropists are now attempting, but not at their own expense, establishments for spinning and weaving will still flourish, but not in Great Britain.

Witness E: Robert Blincoe (Small manufacturer, once an Apprentice to a Cotton mill)

Examiner: Do you know where you were born?

Witness E: No; I only know that I came out of St. Pancras parish, London

Examiner: Do you know the name of your parents with certainty?

Witness E: No, I used to be called when young Robert Saint; but when I received my Indentures I was called in them Robert Blincoe, and I have gone by that name ever since.

Examiner: What age are you?

Witness E: Near upon forty, according to my indentures.

Examiner: Have you no other means of knowing your age but what you find in your indentures?

Witness E: No; I go by that.

Examiner: Do you work at a cotton mill?

Witness E: Not now. I was bound apprentice to a cotton mill for fourteen years from St. Pancras parish; then I got my indentures. I worked five or six years after at different mills, but now I have got a work of my own. I rent power from a mill in Stockport, and have room to myself; my business is a sheet wadding manufacturer.

Examiner: Why did you leave off working at the cotton mills?

Witness E: I got tired of it, the system is so bad; and I have had saved a few pounds. I got deformed there; my knees began to bend in when I was fifteen—you see how they are. There are many, many far worse than me at Manchester.

1833

Witness G: Vernon Royle (Clothing factory master from Manchester).

Witness G: My name is Vernon Royle. I am a clothing factory master from manchester.

So . . . I believe that you have imposed upon the exaggerations and misstatements of parties who conceive it is their interest to procure the passing of the bill and that your fears and imagination have been more than ordinarily excited. . . .

The silk, worsted and woolen mills are the most healthy, and the flax and tow and cotton, the most nnhealthy . . . but the factory is to many of its inmates, frequently a palace, in point of everything which contributes to salubrity. . . .

The first and immediate consequence of limiting the ages of children employed to “under 9 years” will be to throw out of employment all that class of hands. This is perhaps the most cruel stroke to the poor man which could have been inflicted... this threatened invasion of the rights of the parent over the child is an infringement of the liberty of the subject, and a direct violation of the homes of Englishmen. . . . The prostitution of this vaunted “measure of humanity” to selfish and sinister purposes, is not an imaginary or conjectural degradation. It is disgustingly notorious . . . the quantum of goods produced in mills and factories will be diminished in direct proportion to the curtailment of the hours of labor.

Sources

Witnesses A–D:

Irish University Press, *Series of British Parliamentary Papers Children’s Employment Commission Appendix to First Report Commissioners Mines* Part I: “Reports and Evidence from Commissioners Industrial Revolution Children’s Employment,” 7 (Shannon Ireland); *Factories Inquiry Commission Second Report Together With Supplementary Report*, Part I: “Employment of Children in Factories With Minutes of Evidence and Reports of Medical and District Commissioners Industrial Revolution Children’s Employment,” 4; and *Children’s Employment Commission Second Report on the Commissioners of Trade and Manufacturers together with an Index to the Second Report and the Appendices Industrial Revolution Children’s Employment*, 9. [The numbers have been provided in case students would like to pursue further information on these hearings.]

Witness E:

Joseph Birley, *Sadler’s Bill Cotton Branch* (Manchester 1832), 6, 7, in J.T. Ward, *The Factory System* (New York: Barnes and Noble, 1970), II: 140-41.

Witness F: “A Letter to Sir John Cam Hobhouse Bart, MP on ‘The Factories Bill’ by a manufacturer,” 1882, in Ward, 142.

JURY GUIDELINES

Witness: _____

1. Is the testimony firsthand or secondhand (if a combination, specify)?
2. Can the information that the witness gives be verified? If yes, how?
3. Are there inconsistencies, contradictions, or gaps in the testimony? If yes, identify.
4. Are the questions fair? If yes, support your answer. If no, why?
5. Which parts of the testimony are facts and which are opinions?
6. What can be concluded reliably from this testimony?

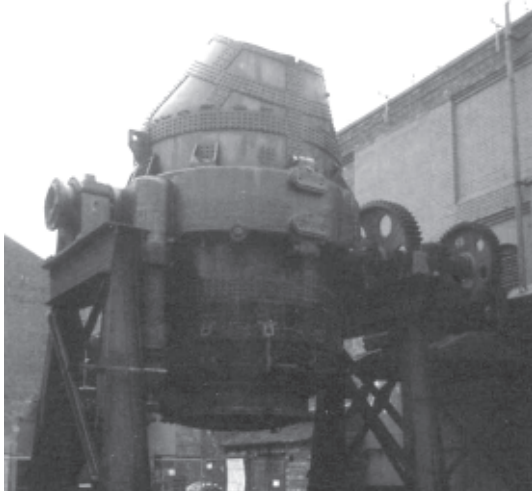
FACTORIES REGULATION ACT 1833
Statutes of the Realm 3 & 4 WM. IV c. 103

1. Whereas it is necessary that the Hours of Labor Of Children and Young persons employed in Mills and Factories should be regulated, inasmuch as there are great numbers of children and young persons now employed in Mills and Factories, and their hours of labor are longer than is desirable, due Regard being had to their Health and means of education; be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present parliament assembled and by the authority of the same, that from and after the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four no person under eighteen years of age shall be allowed to work in the night between the hours of half past eight o'clock in the evening and half past five o'clock in the morning, except herein provided in or about any cotton, worsted, hemp, flax, tow, or silk mill or factory wherein steam or water or any other mechanical power is or shall be used to propel or work the machinery in such mill or factory, either in scratching, carding, roving, spinning, piecing, twisting, winding, throwing, doubling, netting, making thread, dressing or weaving of cotton, wool, worsted, hemp, flax, tow or silk either separately or mixed in any such mill or factory situate in any part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland: Provided always, that nothing in this act shall apply or extend to the working of any other steam engine, water wheel or other power in or belonging to any mill or building or machinery when used in part of the process or work commonly called fulling, roughing or boiling of woollens, nor to any apprentices or other persons employed therein nor to the labor of young persons above the age of thirteen years when employed in packing goods in any warehouse or place attached to any mill and not used for any manufacturing process; provided also, that nothing in this act shall apply or extend to any mill or factory used solely for the manufacture of lace. . . .
- 6 . . . and it be further enacted that there shall be allowed in the course of every day not less than one and a half hours for the meals to every such person restricted as herein-before provided to the performance of twelve hours daily work.
7. And be it enacted that from and after the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four it shall not be lawful for any person whatsoever to employ in any factory or mill as aforesaid, except in mills for the manufacture of silk, any child who shall not have completed his or her ninth year of age.
8. And be it further enacted, that from and after the expiration of six months after-the passing of this act it shall not be lawful for any person whatsoever to employ, keep or allow to remain in any factory or mill as aforesaid for a longer time than forty-eight hours in any one week, nor for a longer time than nine hours in any one day, except as herein provided, any child who shall not have completed his or her eleventh year of age, or after the expiration of eighteen months from the passing of this act any child who shall not have completed his or her twelfth year of age or after the expiration of thirty months from the passing of this act any child who shall not have completed his or her thirteenth year of age: provided nevertheless, that in mills for the manufacture of silk, children under the age of thirteen years shall be allowed to work ten hours in any one day. . . .
11. And be it further enacted, that from and after the expiration of six months after the passing of this act is shall not be lawful for any person to employ, keep or allow to remain in any factory or mill any child who shall not have completed his or her eleventh year of age without such certificate as is herein-after mentioned, certifying such child to be of the ordinary strength and appearances of a child of the age of nine years, nor from and after the expiration of eighteen months after the passing of this act any child who shall not have completed his or her twelfth year of age without a certificate of the same form, nor from and after the expiration of thirty months after the passing of this act any child

shall not have completed his or her thirteenth year of age, without a certificate of the same form which certificate shall be taken to be sufficient evidence of the ages respectively certified therein.

- 17 . . . And whereas it appears that the provisions of the said act with relation to the appointment of inspectors were not duly carried into execution, and that the Laws for the Regulation of the Labor of Children in factories have been evaded, partly in consequence of the want of appointment of proper visitors or officers whose special duty it was to enforce their execution; be it therefore enacted that upon the passing of this act it shall be lawful for his Majesty by Warrant under His Sign Manual to appoint during his majesty's pleasure four persons to be Inspectors of Factories and Places where the Labor of Children and young persons under eighteen years of age is employed and in the case of the death or dismissal of any of them to appoint another in the place of such deceased inspector, which said several inspectors shall carry into effect the powers, authorities and provisions of the present act; and such inspectors or any of them are hereby empowered to enter any factory or mill and any school attached or belonging therein, and to make inquiry such persons as they may choose and to summon and require any person upon the Spot or elsewhere to give evidence upon such examinations and inquiry and to administer to such person an oath.
18. And be it further enacted, that the said inspectors or any of them shall have power and are hereby required to make all such rules, regulations and orders as may be necessary for the due execution of this act, which rules, regulations and orders shall be binding on all persons subject to the provisions of this act; and such inspectors are also hereby authorized and required to enforce the attendance at school of children employed in factories according to the provisions of this act and to order tickets or such other means as they may think fit for the Vouchers of attendance at such schools; . . .
19. And be it further enacted, that from and after the expiration of six months from the passing of this act every child herein-before restricted to the performance of forty-eight hours of labor in any one week shall, so long as such child shall be within the said restricted age, attend some school to be chosen by the parents or guardians of such child, or such school as may be appointed by any inspector in case the parents or guardians of such child shall omit to appoint to any school, or in case such child shall be without parents or guardians; and it shall and may be lawful in such last mentioned case for any inspector to order the employer of any such child to make a deduction from the weekly wages of such child as the same shall become due, not exceeding the rate of one penny in every shilling to pay for the schooling of such child; and such employer is hereby required to pay the sum so deducted according to the order and direction of such inspector.

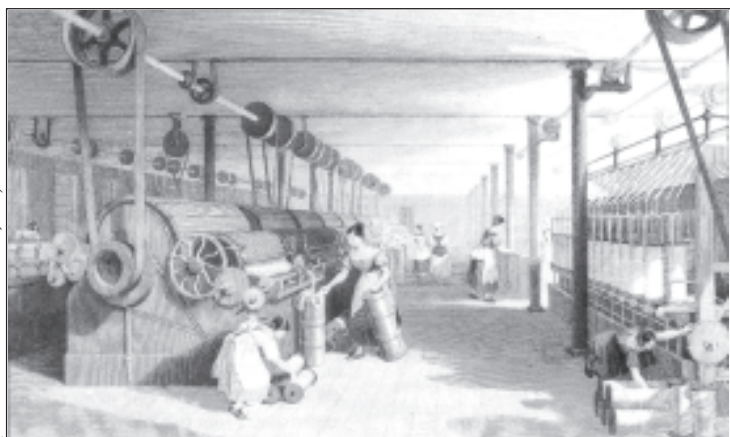
Photo: Linda Miller



Bessemer Converter
Kelham Island Museum

The Bessemer process converted iron into steel.

(Rees and Robinson, 15)



Carding room
Engraving, 1842