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# INDUSTRIAL HOME WORK OF CHILDREN

A STUDY MADE IN

PROVIDENCE, PAWTUCKET, AND  
CENTRAL FALLS, R. I.

Bureau Publication No. 100

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WASHINGTON  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1922

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## APPENDIX.

### INDUSTRIES AND POPULATION OF PROVIDENCE, PAWTUCKET, AND CENTRAL FALLS.

Providence is the most important jewelry manufacturing center in the United States, producing 25.8 per cent of all the jewelry manufactured in this country.<sup>1</sup> Its nearest rivals are New York, producing 25.3 per cent of the total; Newark, N. J., producing 13.8 per cent; and Attleboro, Mass., producing 10.3 per cent.

The principal industries of Providence are shown in the following statement:

*Principal industries, Providence, R. I., 1914.<sup>2</sup>*

Principal industries.	Number of establishments.	Value of product.	Wage earners (average number).
Woolen and worsted goods.....	18	\$20,847,000	8,792
Jewelry.....	277	20,934,000	8,479
Foundry and machine-shop products <sup>3</sup> .....	98	11,192,000	6,549
Cotton goods, including small wares.....	10	2,451,000	1,625
Printing and publishing <sup>4</sup> .....	109	3,337,000	1,150

<sup>1</sup> U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Manufactures, 1914, vol. 1, p. 1389.

<sup>2</sup> Includes automobile repairing; engines, steam, gas, and water; gas machines and gas and water meters; hardware; plumbers' supplies, not elsewhere specified; steam fittings and steam and hot-water heating apparatus; and structural-iron work, not made in steel works or rolling mills.

<sup>3</sup> Includes bookbinding and blank-book making, and engraving, steel and copper plate, including plate printing.

The chief industries of Pawtucket are as follows:

*Principal industries, Pawtucket, R. I., 1914.<sup>a</sup>*

Principal industries.	Number of establishments.	Value of product.	Wage earners (average number).
Cotton goods, including cotton small wares <sup>b</sup> .....	26	\$13,461,000	7,396
Foundry and machine-shop products <sup>c</sup> .....	21	2,815,000	1,671
Hosiery and knit goods.....	3	1,107,000	523
Jewelry.....	9	557,000	280
Printing and publishing <sup>d</sup> .....	12	436,000	147

<sup>a</sup> U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Manufactures, 1914, vol. 2, p. 1389.

<sup>b</sup> Includes cotton lace.

<sup>c</sup> Includes hardware.

<sup>d</sup> Includes bookbinding and blank-book making.

<sup>1</sup> U. S. Bureau of the Census, Abstract of the Census of Manufactures, 1914, p. 270.

Central Falls has practically no industries of its own, but is a residence district for the industrial workers of Pawtucket.

Providence covers 18.28 square miles<sup>2</sup> and has a population of 235,555, of which about two-thirds are native born.<sup>3</sup> Pawtucket has an area of 8.94 square miles<sup>2</sup> and a population of 62,260.<sup>3</sup> Here also about two-thirds are native born.<sup>3</sup> Central Falls, with an area of 1.27 square miles<sup>2</sup> and a population of 23,936,<sup>3</sup> has a slightly higher percentage of foreign born than the other two cities.<sup>3</sup>

### PRODUCTS OF HOME WORK.

Following is a partial list of articles in the manufacture of which one or more processes were done in homes by children or adults or both. Children were found to be engaged in work on all the articles mentioned, though in the main body of the report emphasis has necessarily been placed on the kinds of work in which large numbers of children were engaged.

Jewelry products on which home work was done included pins, chains, rosary and other beads, bracelets, rings, mesh bags, lockets, military and religious medals, earrings, cuff links and cuff buttons, barettes, including hair ribbon barettes, fancy hairpins, watch fobs, watch charms, ribbon and metal watch bracelets, and snaps for fastening dresses and gloves.

Shoe laces, suspenders, and shoe bows were the cotton small wares chiefly worked on in the homes; while lace insertions, edgings, and veils were sent out to the homes by the lace industry.

Tags of the many kinds demanded for marking articles for sale were important products of the printing industry which were worked on in homes. Labels constituted another product of the printing industry involving home-work processes. Paper boxes designed to contain various articles, from jewelry to ice cream; picture frames; coin holders and pocketbook linings; comb cases, hand-painted cards, and confetti were home-work products of the paper-goods industry.

Under the head of novelty products of home work came celluloid beads, chains, and bracelets; celluloid soap boxes and picture frames; dice; shoe buckles and other steel buckles. Toys which were worked on in the homes included horns, rattles, paper hats, toy soldiers and toy watches, and whistles. Knit goods included hosiery, which was finished and embroidered in the homes; and underwear, on which crocheting was done. Some of these establishments sent out yarn to be untangled. The hardware industry sent out knives to be assembled and kettle-cover knobs for carding. Sporting goods were represented by fishing tackle to be wound and assembled. Confection-

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<sup>2</sup> Figures furnished by the geographer of the U. S. Census Bureau.

<sup>3</sup> Population estimated for July 1, 1918, on the basis of the 1910 and 1920 censuses.

tionery establishments sent out **peanuts** to be shelled and blanched in the homes.

Other articles which were worked on in the homes were safety pins, shoe buttons, surgical needles, knitting needles, map pins, shoe claubers (for putting blacking on shoes), clamps for fruit jars, hand-painted china plates, packages of towels and soap for vending machines, cloth bags for hot-water bottles and for watches, velvet pads for the display of jewelry, and jewelers' brushes. Products of distinct war origin, some of which were manufactured by the jewelry industry, were military buttons, adapter plugs, cartridge clips, flag pins and service pins, military picture frames, and spools for soldiers' kits.

**THE SCHOOL CANVASS.**

The superintendents of schools in the three cities covered by the investigation were first interviewed, the purposes of the study explained, and permission obtained to visit every public school. The priests in charge of parishes were similarly interviewed and permission obtained to visit the parochial schools. The agents then visited the schools. In each case the purpose of the study was first explained in detail to the principal. Then the agents went into every classroom and explained to teachers and pupils the purpose of the study and the meaning of the term "home work." It was found necessary to be very explicit in the latter regard; otherwise the children would report dish washing, knitting, etc., as home work. Various kinds of home work, as stringing beads, fastening jewelry, folding underwear, were described to aid the children in understanding the sort of thing that was meant. Then the children were asked to hold up their hands if any home work had been done at their homes in 1918. Those that held up their hands were given cards on which they filled out the following form:

Name of child.....	Boy or girl.....
Grade.....	
Parent's name.....	Address.....
Kind of home work.....	.....
Name of school.....	Name of teacher.....

In the elementary classes the agents or the teachers filled out the cards for the children.

The schools were visited by wards. The types of schools visited were as follows:

## INDUSTRIAL HOME WORK OF CHILDREN.

*Schools of Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls.*

Type of school	Total.	Provi- dence.	Paw- tucket.	Central Falls.
All schools.....	151	106	29	16
Public grammar.....	36	18	14	4
Public primary.....	87	73	9	5
Public high school.....	6	4	1	1
Parochial grammar.....	16	10	2	4
Parochial grammar and high school.....	6	1	3	2

<sup>1</sup> None of the kindergartens was included, and some of the first grades were omitted.