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INDUSTRIAL HOME WORK OF CHILDREN

A STUDY MADE IN

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

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,
CHILDREN'S BUREAU,
Washington, September 22, 1921.

SIR: I transmit herewith a report on industrial home work of children, the results of a study made in Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls, R. I. The investigation was planned and directed by Miss Emma Duke. Mr. Harry Viteles had the immediate direction of the field work, and the material was analyzed and prepared for publication by Mr. Viteles and Miss Eloise Shellabarger.

Home work and the disorganization of the home which it has meant have been the subject of investigation for approximately the last century. It would probably find few defenders as a scientific method of production. Rhode Island had no regulation of home work at the time this investigation was made. The experience of its neighbors, Massachusetts and New York, in licensing and inspecting tenement-house work indicates that elimination rather than regulation is necessary for the protection of the children and the public health. That this can be done with few business losses in this district in Rhode Island is indicated by the testimony of manufacturers who were using the home-work system, and that in the long run its elimination will reduce the problems of poverty, for which it now seems palliative, charity workers are generally agreed.

Respectfully submitted.

GRACE ABBOTT, *Chief.*

Hon. JAMES J. DAVIS,
Secretary of Labor.



ONE OF THE HOME WORKERS.

38906

INDUSTRIAL HOME WORK OF CHILDREN.

INTRODUCTION.

Industrial home work of children in Rhode Island was brought to the attention of the Children's Bureau through the reports of inspectors charged with the enforcement of the Federal child-labor law of 1916.¹ The inspectors merely reported that a considerable amount of factory work was being done at home by children. The Rhode Island child-labor law did not apply to work done in homes, nor did the State laws relating to hours of labor and working conditions in general. In the absence, then, of any regulatory legislation whatsoever the present study was undertaken to determine the extent of industrial home work among children in Rhode Island in 1918 and the industrial and social conditions under which it was carried on.

Providence was selected for the inquiry because of its large number of establishments manufacturing cheap and medium grade jewelry, an industry known to be a distributor of home work. The near-by cities of Pawtucket and Central Falls were included in the study because Pawtucket was known as a center for the manufacture of lace, cotton small wares, hosiery, and knit goods, all industries probably distributing home work, and because Central Falls, virtually a corner of Pawtucket, was found to be the home of many of Pawtucket's industrial workers. Furthermore, the three cities formed a convenient unit for study because of their nearness to each other and their good interurban transportation service. The three cities covered at the time of this study an area of 28.5 square miles and were estimated to have had in 1916 a combined population of 326,703, about one-third of which was foreign born.²

¹ This is not the law imposing a tax upon the products of child labor which went into effect Apr. 25, 1919, and which is enforced by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, but the earlier law regulating interstate and foreign commerce in the products of child labor which was enforced, under the direction of a board consisting of the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Attorney General, by the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor. This law, which went into effect Sept. 1, 1917, was declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court in June, 1918. This study covers the calendar year 1918.

² For more detailed information concerning the industries and population of the three cities see Appendix, p. 73.

Information concerning the extent of home work and the identity of the workers was obtained principally through a canvass of the schools.³ The names and addresses were obtained of all children in the public and parochial schools who said that factory work had been done in their homes during the year 1918. The homes of all these children were visited in order to ascertain whether home work had actually been done and, if so, for how long a period. In 4,075 cases the children themselves were found to have been engaged in such work during 1918, while in a larger number of cases work was done in the homes by other members of the family. In the course of these visits to the homes of school children, and of interviews with school authorities, social workers, and manufacturers, the names of more children were secured, and after visits to these other homes the names of 931 additional child workers were included. Combining the numbers obtained from these sources, it was found that in the three cities at least 5,006 children under 16 years of age had done home work in 1918.

Detailed information was obtained, however, for only the 2,338 children, representing 1,042 families, who had been engaged in home work for 30 days or more during 1918 and who had received compensation for their work. Of the other 2,668 children who were found to have done home work, 2,590 had worked for less than 30 days, 78 had worked for 30 days or more but had received no compensation, many of them assisting with home work at the house of a playmate or a contractor and receiving only some candy or perhaps a penny or two for their services, so they were not included in the study.

This report is in the main based upon the material secured from the parents of the children and the children themselves. It has both the strength and the weakness of such material. It was, however, supplemented by information secured from manufacturers who gave out home work, from contractors, and from social workers, teachers, and others.

The names of 258 manufacturing establishments that distributed home work were obtained from the following sources: Home workers, contractors, school authorities, social workers, the reports of Federal factory inspectors, and advertisements for home workers in the local newspapers. All these manufacturers were interviewed; and for 153 of them, who had made during 1918 a regular practice of giving out home work, detailed schedules were taken.

Contractors who acted as intermediaries between producers and home workers were found to be an important link in the home-work system. The names of 123 such contractors were obtained from the following sources: Home workers, manufacturers, school authorities, social workers, the reports of Federal factory inspectors, and adver-

³ For a detailed description of the school canvass see Appendix, p. 75.

tisements for home workers. The inquiry included, however, only the contractors who were found to have given out home work in 1918 during a period of 30 days or more and to have paid home workers lower rates than they received from the manufacturers.

Finally, about 100 social workers, school authorities, and other persons active in social and civic organizations were interviewed with regard to home work.

Whether the amount of home work done in the three cities in 1918 could be considered fairly typical of normal years or whether it was either greatly increased or greatly decreased by war conditions is obviously an important consideration in interpreting the results of this study. Every manufacturer was questioned, therefore, as to the effect of the war on the amount of home work distributed, with special reference to the year 1918. Replies to this question were received from 151 manufacturers, of whom 8 had established their factories directly or indirectly as a result of the war and 2 others had gone into business after the war began. Of the remainder, 57 reported that the war had no effect, while 28 reported that it had decreased and 56 that it had increased the amount of home work they distributed. The increases, however, were stated to have taken place for the most part prior to 1918. Even the firms which reported a general increase due to the war stated that in the last year of the war the amount of home work was decreased because limitations on the amount of raw materials allotted to nonessential industries were enforced by the Government and were not removed until too late for the filling of Christmas orders.⁴ Most of the persons other than manufacturers who were consulted were also of the opinion that less home work was distributed in 1918 than in 1917 and previous years.⁵ Moreover, the information which was readily avail-

⁴ This was one of the principal reasons given by the producers who reported that the war had decreased the amount of home work distributed. Other reasons given for such decreases were: (1) Change in products, e. g., when a lace factory took up the manufacture of bandages and gauze; (2) dependence on foreign sources for materials, e. g., rosary beads from Austria and bristles for jewelers' brushes from Russia; (3) new styles, such as the vogue for military laced boots, which hurt the business of button factories; and (4) larger earnings of men, which did away with the necessity for additional earnings by their wives and families. The principal reason given for the statement that the war had increased the amount of home work distributed was that it had stopped the importation of certain products, such as celluloid dice and dominoes and cheap beads. These articles were customarily given out to home workers, and the increase in the demand for their manufacture in this country increased the distribution of home work. Another factor mentioned was the demand for flag jewelry and service pins upon the entrance of this country into the war. The flags were painted and the stars on service pins cemented by home workers.

⁵ They assigned the following reasons: (1) Women could secure more profitable employment in the war industries; (2) the jewelry industry lost many factory employees to the essential industries, and with the consequent decrease in production less home work was available; (3) the supply of raw materials was limited in the case of nonessential industries; and (4) the working people were receiving sufficient incomes to support their families without resorting to home work.

able at the time of the study concerning the relative amount of home work given out in the early months of 1919 tended to show that more work was distributed in that year than in the corresponding period of 1918. It seems safe to conclude, therefore, that the amount of home work done in 1918 was not greater than normal.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS.

Of the children 5 to 15 years of age, inclusive, in Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls in 1918, at least 4,933, or 7.6 per cent, were found to have done more or less industrial home work during that year. Of the total number under the age of 16 years engaged in home work (5,006), 69 per cent lived in Providence, but the percentage of home workers relative to the total child population 5 to 15 years of age was higher both in Pawtucket (8.7 per cent) and in Central Falls (9.6 per cent) than in Providence (7.3 per cent). The group of 5,006 child home workers under 16 years of age discovered in the course of this study probably does not include all children in the area who did home work on factory products.

Of the 5,006 child home workers, 2,338—966 boys and 1,372 girls—had been engaged on home work for 30 days or more during 1918 and had received compensation for their services. Thus, at least 3.5 per cent of the children 5 to 15 years of age in these three cities were seriously affected by the industrial home-work system.

Of these 2,338 children, for all of whom detailed information was secured, 4.1 per cent were under 6 years of age; 45.7 per cent were under 11; and 86.2 per cent were under 14.

Almost one-third of the children had foreign-born fathers, representing 24 nationalities. More than two-fifths of the foreign-born fathers were Italian and nearly one-fifth were French Canadian.

The fathers of these home-working children were employed in various industries; the largest group in any one industry, comprising almost one-fifth of the fathers, worked in the iron and steel industries.

More than half the 1,042 scheduled families reported the yearly earnings of the father as between \$650 and \$1,250. In one-tenth of the families the father was dead, had deserted the family, or was unemployed all the year; in almost one-ninth his earnings were less than \$650; and in only about one-sixth were his earnings \$1,250 or over.

Home work was not restricted to the poorer districts, substantial numbers of cases being reported from every ward in each of the three cities. The largest numbers of child workers, however, lived in the Italian district and in the jewelry manufacturing center of

Providence, and in narrow streets and alleys between the main thoroughfares of Pawtucket and Central Falls. More than one-fifth of the families owned their own homes; 36 per cent paid \$12.50 to \$20 a month rent, and 35 per cent paid \$7.50 to \$12.50. Nearly half, 45 per cent, lived in overcrowded conditions. Almost one-fourth of the families were known to social agencies.

Of the 2,338 children who had worked more than 30 days and had received compensation, 22 per cent stated that they began home work for the direct purpose of adding to the family income. In addition, nearly one-third reported that they began work to help other members of the family. Imitation of friends and neighbors and desire to earn spending money or money for war funds were other motives. Some parents used home work to keep their children busy and out of mischief.

More than half the scheduled children had stopped home work before the end of 1918, because of poor pay, interference with school work, or tediousness of the work, or for other reasons. A whole family usually stopped home work at the same time, just as it began and worked as a unit. The character of home work as a family occupation rather than as one in which individuals worked independently is shown by the fact that in more than 75 per cent of the families studied, persons over 16 years of age, usually the fathers and mothers as well as the children, were engaged in the work.

The children worked on about 100 varieties of factory work, distributed by 21 industries. The principal home occupations of children, in the order of their importance, were carding snaps (dress fasteners), stringing tags, drawing threads on lace, linking and wiring beads, setting stones, working on military buttons, carding shoe buttons, finishing underwear, carding jewelry, and putting together chain fasteners. This work consisted of very simple processes constantly repeated. Ninety-one children, however, worked on machines.

The family kitchen was the children's workroom in more than four-fifths of the houses visited. In many cases the lighting was very poor. More than four-fifths—1,963—of the children worked in the evening after supper, and 1,860 of these also worked at some other period during the day.

Eyestrain from home work was reported by 117 children. Many other children complained of sores, callouses, and blisters caused by their work. Some of the teachers reported that child home workers came to school tired and listless. In occupations where presses were used, accidents, chiefly the bruising or cutting of fingers, were frequent.

Almost half the 956 children who reported the maximum amount which they could earn in an hour stated that, working at top speed,

they could not earn as much as 5 cents, while 45 reported an earning capacity of less than 1 cent an hour. More than one-fourth, 29 per cent, could earn from 5 to 10 cents an hour; 9 per cent could earn from 10 to 15 cents; 9 per cent could earn 15 to 25 cents; and only 3 per cent could earn 25 cents or more.

Family groups were the customary working units, and hourly earnings were obtained for 136 of these groups. The average earnings per group were a little over 11 cents an hour, and the average earnings per person, for the 469 home workers in the 136 groups, were a little over 3 cents an hour.

Of the 928 families reporting total yearly earnings from home work, only 4 per cent earned more than \$200; 89 per cent earned less than \$100; and nearly three-fifths less than \$25. The average annual earnings of these families were \$48.17.

It was reported that the standards set up by the State of Rhode Island for school children and children working in factories were violated by home-working children in the following cases:

Children of school age remained at home for extended periods or for a day now and then to do home work, contrary to the compulsory education law of Rhode Island; children under 14 did factory work at home, though the law prohibited them from working in factories; women and minors under 16 employed in factories did overtime work at home contrary to the spirit of the law limiting hours of work; and children injured in the course of home work were deprived of compensation under the workmen's compensation law.

School officials, social workers, and persons other than manufacturers who were interviewed in regard to industrial home work of children, had little information on the subject and attached small importance to it. The public schools countenanced home work to the extent of permitting children to do it in school as manual training work or to earn money for various "drives."

It was found that almost three-tenths of the home-working children between 9 and 13 years of age who reported their school grades were retarded, one-tenth of them being 2 or more years below what is commonly accepted as the standard for their ages. Retardation was more noticeable among the older children, as the percentages increased steadily with each year of age, from 15.6 per cent at 9 years to 43 per cent at 13 years.

A possible danger to the health of the community was found in the fact that large numbers of families reported the performance of home work while members of the family were ill with infectious diseases. In some cases the sick persons took part in the work.

Twenty-one industries of Providence and Pawtucket used home work as a part of their system of production. Of these the jewelry industry was by far the most prominent; of the 153 firms which made

a regular practice of distributing home work, 91 were jewelry establishments.

The 153 manufacturers distributed home work directly to at least 2,019 persons. Those who received the work either took it to their homes, where perhaps several members of the family took part in it, or, if they were contractors, redistributed it to a large number of families. Forty-seven contractors who were interviewed distributed work to 1,203 persons, representing probably as many families.

Five chief reasons were assigned by the producers for the home-work system: Shortage of factory labor; high cost of factory production; seasonal nature of the industry; custom; and assistance to needy families. Unwillingness to pay factory wages or to incur additional overhead expense appeared to be an underlying motive in connection with all the reasons given. A minority of the manufacturers, among whom lace manufacturers were prominent, said that the abolition of home work would ruin their business. Others reported that the prohibition of home work would mean paying more for labor, providing additional factory room and hiring extra help during the rush seasons, but that they could make the adjustments if every other producer were obliged to do the same. It is significant that 92 manufacturers, or three-fifths of the 153, among them some of the larger distributors, said that if home work were prohibited they could adjust their business to the situation.

THE CHILD WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

NUMBER, SEX, AND AGE OF CHILD WORKERS.

In Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls at least 5,006 children under 16 years of age were engaged in industrial home work at some time during the year 1918. This number does not include *all* child workers in this district, but covers only those cases which were obtained from the school canvass and from the other sources already mentioned. Only 2,338 children were found, however, who were engaged in home work for more than 30 days during the year and received compensation. For the purpose of this study schedules were taken only for these 2,338 children, of whom 966 were boys and 1,372 girls. In the majority of these cases home work was not done continuously or regularly, but was begun, dropped, and resumed for varying periods.^a

The total child population, aged 5 to 15, inclusive, in the three cities in 1918, as shown in Table I, was 64,498. Allowing for the small percentage of home workers who were under 5 years of age, it is found that the child workers constituted at least 7.6 per cent of the child population aged 5 to 15, inclusive.

This table shows further that 3.5 per cent of the children of this age group in the three cities were engaged in home work for 30 days or more and received compensation for their services during 1918.

TABLE I.—*Home work in 1918, by city; children under 16 years of age.*

City.	Children engaged in home work in 1918 while under 16 years of age.		Children 5 to 15 years of age, inclusive.				
			Engaged in home work in 1918.				
	Total.	For 30 days or more and receiving compensation.	Total as enumerated in school censuses, January, 1919. ¹	Total.		For 30 days or more and receiving compensation.	
				Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.
All cities.....	5,006	2,338	64,498	4,933	7.6	2,265	3.5
Providence.....	3,447	1,539	47,063	3,395	7.2	1,487	3.2
Pawtucket.....	1,046	524	12,061	1,032	8.6	510	4.2
Central Falls.....	513	275	5,369	506	9.4	268	5.0

¹ Reports of the supervisors of the school censuses, Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls, January, 1919.

² The sum of the children 5 to 15 years of age Dec. 31, 1918, who were scheduled and the children not scheduled who reported home work of less than 30 days or without compensation during 1918 while under 16 years of age.

Providence was the home of 69 per cent of all the children who reported home work in 1918; 21 per cent of the child home workers lived in Pawtucket; and 10 per cent lived in Central Falls. However, the percentage of child workers in comparison with the total

* See pp. 46-61.

child population was higher in Central Falls and Pawtucket than in Providence.

Table II gives the percentages of school children reporting home work in 1918, by age. The proportions increased slightly for the older children, rising to a maximum at 13.

TABLE II.—Home work in 1918, by age; children under 16 years of age.

Age, December, 1918.	Children enumerated in school censuses, 1919.	Children reporting home work in 1918.		
		Number.	Per cent of children of specified age enumerated.	Per cent distribution.
All ages.....	64,498	2,338		100.0
Under 5 years.....		39		1.7
5 to 15 years.....	64,498	2,265	3.5	98.3
5 years.....	6,581	56	.1	2.4
6 years.....	6,368	108	1.7	4.6
7 years.....	6,229	141	2.3	6.0
8 years.....	6,174	209	3.4	8.9
9 years.....	5,932	242	4.1	10.4
10 years.....	5,947	274	4.6	11.7
11 years.....	5,853	322	5.5	13.8
12 years.....	5,737	315	5.5	13.5
13 years.....	5,359	310	5.8	13.3
14 years.....	5,338	191	3.6	8.2
15 years.....	4,980	97	1.9	4.1
16 years ¹		32		1.4
Age not reported.....		2		.1

¹ All these children did home work in 1918 while still under 16 years of age; they are here classified, however, by their ages as of December, 1918, for purposes of comparison with the school census of approximately this date.

Of the 2,336 children whose ages were reported, 95, or 4.1 per cent, were under 6 years of age; 1,069, or 45.7 per cent, were under 11; and 2,016, or 86.3 per cent, were under 14.

A considerable proportion of the older children had begun work at very early ages. In the majority of cases, however, the work was not pursued over a period of years but was dropped within a year or two of the time when it was taken up. Thus, of 310 children 13 years old at the time of the inquiry, 87 had commenced home work since passing their thirteenth birthdays and 143 more in the preceding year. The average time for this group which elapsed between commencing home work and December, 1918, may be estimated at 1 year and 3 months.⁷

NATIONALITY.

The 2,338 children considered in this inquiry came from 1,042 families. Nearly three-fourths of them, as shown in Table III, had foreign-born fathers, representing 24 nationalities. More than two-fifths of the foreign-born fathers were Italians and nearly one-fifth were French Canadians. Next in numbers were Polish, Irish, Russian Jewish, English, and Portuguese.

⁷ See General Table 1, p. 77.

TABLE III.—*Nationality of fathers of children reporting home work in 1918.*

Nationality.	Fathers of children reporting home work in 1918.	
	Number.	Per cent distribution.
Total.....	1,042	100.9
Native white.....	287	27.5
Foreign-born white.....	742	71.3
Italian.....	332	31.9
French Canadian.....	128	12.3
Polish.....	59	5.7
Irish.....	56	5.4
English and Scotch.....	37	3.6
Russian Jewish.....	33	3.2
Portuguese.....	23	2.2
German.....	16	1.5
All other ¹	58	5.6
Colored ²	11	1.1
Not reported.....	2	.2

¹ Includes 10 Syrian, 9 Greek, 9 Serbian and Croatian, 8 Armenian, 7 Swedish, 4 Russian, 3 French, 2 Lithuanian, 1 Ruthenian, 1 Norwegian, 1 Belgian, 1 Rumanian, 1 Danish, and 1 Finnish.

² Includes 4 Portuguese Negro.

While 71.3 per cent of the fathers of children reporting home work were foreign-born white, Table IV shows that of the males 21 years of age and over in Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls only 49.5 per cent were foreign-born white. This would indicate that the tendency to have children do home work was stronger among the foreign-born than among the native white population.

TABLE IV.—*Color and nativity of males 21 years of age and over, Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls, 1910.¹*

Color and nativity.	Males 21 years and over.	
	Number.	Per cent distribution.
Total.....	90,455	100.0
Native white.....	43,563	48.2
Foreign-born white.....	44,777	49.5
Colored.....	2,115	2.3

¹ Compiled from Thirteenth Census, Vol. III, Population, pp. 630 and 632.

The distribution of nationalities among the foreign-born white fathers of children reporting home work was found to be very different from the distribution of nationalities in the total foreign white population of the three cities. For the foreign-born fathers of working children the percentages of Italians and French Canadians were 44.7 and 17.3, respectively, while these nationalities formed only 17.2 per cent and 11.9 per cent, respectively, of the total foreign-born white

population. The opposite tendency was noted for English and Scotch and for Irish; the foreign-born fathers of working children included 5 per cent of English and Scotch and 7.5 per cent of Irish, while these nationalities formed 20.5 per cent and 19.5 per cent, respectively, of the total white population. The percentages for German and Portuguese showed only slight differences.⁸

Of the 2,338 children reporting home work, 2,186, or more than nine-tenths, were native born and only 151 were foreign born; 23 of the native-born children were colored. There was only one case where nativity was not reported.

LIVING CONDITIONS.

Home work was not confined to the poorer districts, since substantial numbers of home workers were found in every ward of all three cities.⁹

In Providence a large majority of the child home workers lived in the Italian quarter and in the district in which the business and manufacturing of the city were centered. The houses, for the most part frame tenements housing from two to six families, were built close to the street and near together, leaving very little space in which children could play. Many of the houses were built on narrow passageways which were not accepted as streets by the city. The owners of property on these passageways had to provide the sewage connection with the city system, a plan which, as a report on housing in Providence points out, might give rise to faulty and insufficient waste disposal.¹⁰ Some of the houses seemed badly neglected and were in poor repair. The individual tenements were reached through long, dark halls, frequently dirty, with narrow, steep stairs. The rooms in the tenements were usually clean, but apparently the halls were nobody's concern. The rooms were usually light and sometimes sunny, and very few really dark rooms were found. Gas was used for lighting.

In Pawtucket and Central Falls the home workers lived for the most part on narrow streets, alleys, and little twisting lanes which lacked sidewalks and were muddy and unsightly. Flagrantly bad housing was encountered in a number of instances. Rooms without windows and insanitary toilets serving several families were found. Some of the houses had inside plumbing and some had outside privies. Many were in bad repair, the plaster peeling off in the hallways, the steps leading to the upper floors broken. A few fami-

⁸ See also General Table 2, Appendix, p. 78.

⁹ See General Table 3, Appendix, p. 78.

¹⁰ Ihlder, John: *The Houses of Providence*, p. 48. Providence, 1916.

lies lived in houses in which the absence of doors between the rooms made privacy impossible. Endless rows of two, three, and six family tenements gave both cities an uninviting appearance.

In more than 70 per cent of the families studied there were 6 or more persons in the household, while the majority of the dwellings contained 4 or 5 rooms. If the rooms had been evenly distributed among all the families there would have been 1.4 persons per room. Actually, however, 182 families were living under more comfortable conditions, with less than 1 person to a room; 391 families had 1 but less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ persons per room; 74 had $1\frac{1}{2}$ persons per room; 179 families had more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ but less than 2 persons per room; and 213 had 2 or more persons per room.¹¹ In 3 cases the number of rooms was not reported. Frequently the larger families were crowded into the more restricted quarters. According to Dr. Chapin's standard,¹² that more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ persons per room constitutes overcrowding, 36 per cent of the families studied were living in overcrowded conditions.

ECONOMIC STATUS OF FAMILIES.

Occupations and earnings of fathers.

In about one-tenth of the 1,042 families the father was dead, or had deserted the family, or was out of work all the year. The remaining 936 fathers were employed in various industries; 187, or one-fifth, in iron and steel industries, and 164, more than one-sixth, in textile industries. The number employed in jewelry factories (62) was very nearly the same as that in the building trades (64) or in public service (56).¹³ A number of fathers owned the stores they worked in, and three of those reporting jewelry work owned the establishments.

In three-fifths of the families for whom earnings were reported the yearly earnings of the father were between \$650 and \$1,250, and within this group the largest number, 239, earned between \$850 and \$1,050. About one-sixth of the fathers earned \$1,250 or more; a little more than one-tenth earned less than \$650; while in about one-tenth of the cases the father was dead, had deserted the family, or was out of work during the entire year. The earnings are given in more detail in Table V.

¹¹ See General Table 4, Appendix, p. 79.

¹² Chapin, Robert Colt: *The Standard of Living Among Workingmen's Families in New York City*, p. 80. Russell Sage Foundation, 1909.

¹³ See General Table 5, Appendix, p. 79.

Earnings of father in 1 year.	Families reporting home work in 1918.	
	Number.	Per cent distribution.
Total.....	1,042	100.0
Under \$450.....	39	3.7
\$450 to \$549.....	33	3.2
\$550 to \$649.....	41	3.9
\$650 to \$849.....	169	16.2
\$850 to \$1,049.....	239	22.9
\$1,050 to \$1,249.....	167	16.0
\$1,250 to \$1,449.....	82	7.9
\$1,450 to \$1,849.....	60	5.8
\$1,850 and over.....	24	2.3
No earnings.....	106	10.2
Earnings not reported.....	82	7.9

Tenure and monthly rental of home.	Families reporting home work in 1918.															
	Total.		Number of rooms in dwelling.													
	Num-ber.	Per cent distri-bution.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	14	15	Not report-ed.	
All tenure	1,042	100.0	3	82	318	333	158	77	44	14	6	2	1	1	3	
Total owned.....	214	20.5	...	7	40	66	37	28	22	5	5	1	1	...	2	
Owned	195	18.7	...	7	35	56	37	26	20	5	5	1	1	...	2	
Owned (buying).....	19	1.8	...	...	5	10	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total rented.....	828	78.8	3	75	277	264	121	48	21	9	1	1	...	1	...	
\$5. under \$7.50.....	40	3.8	3	18	12	2	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
\$7.50. under \$10.....	126	12.1	...	34	46	33	8	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
\$10. under \$12.50.....	240	23.0	...	13	101	87	24	10	4	1	...	...	...	...	...
\$12.50. under \$15.....	197	18.9	...	7	74	68	32	11	4	1	...	...	...	...	...
\$15. under \$20.....	179	17.2	...	1	41	65	47	16	7	2	...	...	...	...	...
\$20. under \$25.....	19	1.8	...	...	...	4	3	4	3	5	...	...	...	...	...
\$25. under \$35.....	10	1.0	...	1	1	2	1	1	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	
\$35 and over.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rent free.....	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Amount not reported.....	6	...	...	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Boarding.....	6	...	...	...	1	3	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tenure not reported.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	

Families known to social agencies.

It was found that 252, or about one-fourth, of the 1,042 families included in the study were known to social agencies in Providence or Pawtucket. However, only a few of these families had received any material assistance, either in cash or supplies, during 1918.

MOTIVES FOR BEGINNING HOME WORK.

In considering the motives for beginning home work, it should be borne in mind that the reasons given are those stated by the parents for their children, and are not, strictly speaking, children's reasons.

TABLE VII.—*Reason for commencing home work by age at commencing; children reporting home work in 1918.*

Reasons assigned for child's commencing home work.	Children reporting home work in 1918 who commenced at specified age.										
	Total.		Under 6 years.		6 years, but under 10.		10 years, but under 14.		14 years, but under 16.		Age not reported.
	Num-ber.	Per cent distribu-tion.	Num-ber.	Per cent distribu-tion.	Num-ber.	Per cent distribu-tion.	Num-ber.	Per cent distribu-tion.	Num-ber.	Per cent distribu-tion.	
A. Reasons.....	2,338	100.0	203	100.0	897	100.0	1,088	100.0	120	100.0	30
To relieve actual family need.....	412	17.6	37	18.2	156	17.4	188	17.3	23	19.2	8
To buy books and clothes.....	140	6.0	11	5.4	17	6.4	63	5.8	7	5.8	2
To supplement family income.....	103	4.4	2	1.0	36	4.0	55	5.1	7	5.8	3
To buy war savings certificates or bonds.....	5	3.2			15	1.7	58	5.3	2	1.7	
To earn spending money.....	178	11.9	7	3.4	96	10.7	150	13.8	22	18.3	3
To help other home workers in family.....	36	31.5	123	60.6	256	37.5	529	21.0	36	30.0	12
To keep child out of mischief.....	187	8.0	11	5.4	78	8.7	91	8.4	6	5.0	1
Because friends or neighbors worked.....	262	15.5	9	4.4	106	11.8	233	21.4	13	10.8	1
All other.....	33	1.4	3	1.5	12	1.3	14	1.3	4	3.3	
Not reported.....	12	0.5			5	0.6	7	0.6			

On the other hand, some children were attracted by the work, thought it would be "fun," and coaxed their parents into letting them help. A mother who worked on a press rolling the edges of snaps said that her 13-year-old boy began the work because "he couldn't resist running the press." "The child gets mad if we don't let her work," said another mother, referring to her little girl who began work at the age of 5.

Eking out insufficient family incomes was the definite purpose in the cases of 655 children, 28 per cent of all those scheduled. For 412 of these children, representing 165 families, actual "family need" was reported as the reason for beginning work. "We didn't have

enough money with just one man working," and "We had to do anything to get a bite of bread," were mothers' comments. In one case the family needed all the money they could earn, as there were 9 children, the oldest 15 years old, and also a dependent grandmother.

Home work was taken up by 140 children in order to earn money for their own books or clothes. In some families it appeared to be a tradition that children should pay for these things. "To keep them in clothes, especially shoes," was the reason one mother gave for her children's home work. One woman made her children work for the first time to buy one of them a graduation dress, while another's purpose was to be able to dress her children as well as the others in the neighborhood.

There were 103 children in 52 families who began home work, not because the family was in actual need, but to make possible the purchase of "extras." One mother of five said, "I make the children string tags; sometimes they cry and want to go out. I can save the money earned and buy something." Another woman "liked to have money of her own," so she had her little boy help her wire rosary beads. Still another mother said she "needed false teeth and thought the children might just as well help to buy them."

Nearly one-third of the children scheduled, as shown in Table VII, worked to help others in the family who were already engaged in home work. In many such instances the children were unwilling participants in the work; their mothers complained that the children hated their tasks and made every excuse to evade them. Sometimes mothers coaxed their children to help with the work by promises of spending money or Christmas presents.

In the cases of 362 children, or 16 per cent of those scheduled, home work was begun because of the example set by friends or neighbors. The fact that "the children across the street strung tags" influenced some mothers to send their children for tags. In certain streets home work was almost a universal occupation, and when a new family moved into the district the children would take up the work either in imitation of their playmates or at the suggestion of their parents. One little girl played with a contractor's daughter and became so interested in the work she saw that she secured some for herself. Very often the work provided an excuse for social gatherings of the children of a neighborhood. In pleasant weather they would congregate on the steps of one of the workers' homes and sing and work. Sometimes children would help their friends without receiving any pay. Some of the parents did not know that their children did home work, and when told of it they would say, "I suppose all the children were going for tags so they went too."

Desire for spending money influenced 278 children to begin home work. Most of these children took up the work voluntarily, but in

some cases the suggestion came from the parents. "Movies" and sweets were the usual objects for which the money was spent. One 9-year-old boy finished underwear and packed knitting needles for 11 months in order to buy some pigeons. Producers recognized this motive and in some instances declared frankly that they were able to pay rates for home work which were incommensurate with the labor expended on it because children would do the work "to make a little spending money."

Keeping the children "busy," "off the streets," or "out of mischief" were the motives for home work reported by the parents of 187 children included in the study. The theory that children "should work while they are young so they will get used to working" was frequently encountered among the parents. The lack of playgrounds other than crowded streets sometimes led parents to have their children begin home work. "In the district where we live," said one father, "the children have to be kept off the streets." Others had a more utilitarian motive in keeping their children in the house. One mother made her two boys assemble celluloid novelty chains every day after school, during vacation, and every night from 7.30 to 9.30 because she thought they might better be at home helping out the family than "roaming the streets and wearing out their shoes." In a family of six which in 1918 had an income of more than \$2,000 the father had his boy and girl wire rosary beads for six months because, as he expressed it, "keep a kid at home, save shoe leather, make better manners." A stepmother found it difficult to manage the children because "they would fight so," and the father advised that they should be kept busy at something. Accordingly the stepmother got some home work for them.

The desire to contribute to war funds influenced 75 children to begin home work. A good many other children not scheduled started home work to pay a war pledge, but dropped it before the end of 30 days because of the poor pay. In connection with the Victory Boys and Girls movement, school children were requested to pledge \$5 earned by their own labors. Some of the children said that the teacher suggested they should earn it by carding snaps, while in other cases they reported that the teacher made them all work in school for a while to earn money for war savings stamps.

Insufficient family income, while reported as the paramount cause for home work in the cases of only 28 per cent of the children, obviously was a contributing or dominant factor in many cases where other reasons were given. If the children started work to help others in the family, the motive of adding to the income was present in many cases with the parents if not with the children; if they imitated friends or neighbors it was often the earnings rather than

companionship or the work itself which attracted them; if they desired spending money it was often because the family income would not permit them to have it otherwise; if the parents wanted to keep the children off the streets they may likewise have wanted to save shoes and clothing and to have the children "help out"; if the teachers asked children to earn money for war funds it was usually because many children could not have contributed without earning the money themselves.

The reasons that have been given for children doing home work indicate in large measure the motives of the adult home workers in these families. However, in the conversations with mothers some comments were evoked which afford interesting side lights on the home-work system. Some mothers who complained bitterly about the poor pay, saying "It's a shame to make people string tags for nothing," still continued the work. The simple fact was that it filled up leisure time for which they knew no other use. "I don't have to string tags, I only want to pass the time away," or "I like to work on thread drawing because it gives me something to do," or "I like the pretty colored beads. I wish I could just sit down and string them all day long"—were some of the comments. The work became a habit and was missed when it was not in the house. "Feels lonesome without the lace," said one woman. Frequently home work served as an occupation at social gatherings. One night some parents were invited out to play whist and the mother slipped her pliers into her pocket as she left the house. Soon she became tired of playing cards and took out her pliers and helped her hostess link chains. One woman said that often when neighbors came in to call they would all gather around a table and card snaps or string tags. At a birthday party in this family the whole company worked on snaps.

Desire for independence was another motive. One mother said that she did home work because her husband's pay was not sufficient to support the family. When asked if she would stop home work if her husband's earnings were increased she hesitated and then said: "No; I wouldn't promise that. I like to have my own money. I like the work and would rather have \$50 earned by myself than \$100 saved out of my husband's pay." Another woman, when telling why she did home work, said, "When a few extra pennies are needed I don't like to go every time to my husband and ask him for the money." The majority of mothers, however, went on with home work without reasoning much about it and with the general idea of "helping out" in making the family living.

MOTIVES FOR STOPPING HOME WORK.

Of the 2,338 children scheduled, 1,318, or more than half, according to Table VIII, had stopped home work before December, 1918.

TABLE VIII.—*Reason for stopping home work; children reporting home work in 1918.*

Reason for stopping home work.	Children who reported home work in 1918.	
	Number.	Per cent distribution.
Total.....	2,338	
Reported doing home work in December, 1918.....	1,020	
Reported no home work in December, 1918.....	1,318	100.0
No work available.....	299	22.7
Regular employment secured.....	19	1.5
Character of home work.....	514	39.0
Poor pay.....	363	27.5
Injurious or disagreeable.....	28	2.1
Too far to go for work or too many trips.....	25	1.9
Tired of home work.....	64	4.9
Unfairness of contractor.....	25	1.9
Irregularity of home work.....	9	.7
Family reasons.....	267	20.3
Mother ill or too busy.....	149	11.3
Prohibition by parents.....	27	2.0
Chief home worker in family stopped work.....	52	3.9
Family vacation or temporary cessation.....	23	1.7
Death in family.....	16	1.2
School reasons.....	182	13.8
All other reasons.....	30	2.3
Reasons not reported.....	7	.5

Poor pay was the reason most frequently given for discontinuing home work. More than one-fourth, 363, of the 1,318 children under consideration stopped the work on this account. "Much work, no pay," expressed a common opinion regarding the carding of snaps and shoe buttons. Some workers discontinued carding snaps and linking rosary beads because they could scarcely make enough money to pay for the gas burned while they worked at night. "My husband kept telling me, 'You are using up gaslight, and all for nothing; you'll ruin your eyesight, and that will be all you'll get,'" said one woman in explaining why her family stopped the work. A widow said, "The price of gas went up and the rate of pay didn't, so we quit carding snaps." One family had stopped working on necklaces because, as the father put it, for a week of hard work they got "nothing except hurta eyes." Work on presses was sometimes discontinued for similar reasons. "When you have given 144 kicks for half a cent it seems ridiculous," said one woman. "The machine wrecks the home," another woman declared. "Somebody had to sit at the press every minute from 6 in the morning until 8 or 9 at night to make anything. It's wicked to work so hard for so little money: it's slavery. Nobody who could do anything else would do it. I would never have the machine in the house again." Another woman suggested that home workers should strike for higher pay. Most of the children who were not included in the study because they had worked for less than 30 days in 1918 had discontinued work because they found, after trying it for a week or two, that it did not pay.

Some children had stopped after several years' experience. Some of the parents said they could not understand why the State permitted such work to continue.

More than one-fifth, 299, of the children stopping home work did so because no more work could be obtained. Either the manufacturer had no more of a particular type of work to distribute or the workers were not able to secure any more because they had not done the work properly or in sufficiently large quantities. The large number of applicants for chain fasteners resulted in some of the children being laid off. Home work on glove fasteners was discontinued because a new machine was installed in the factory which could do the work more quickly and more efficiently. There was a rush among home workers for the presses used in assembling military buttons, and the manufacturer removed the presses from homes where little work was completed. One little girl returned 3,000 tags to a factory, and the person distributing them told her that they were "no good" and would neither pay her for them nor let her have any more.

Interference with school work was the reason given by nearly one-seventh of the children who stopped home work. In some cases the parents had realized immediately upon the opening of school in September that the home work must be discontinued; in other instances the children tried to do both lessons and factory work after school hours and in the evening and fell behind in their classes. Sometimes the parents did not know of this until they were notified by the teachers.

More than one-ninth, 149, of those under consideration stopped home work because tending the sick or household duties left no time for factory work at home.

Sixty-four children refused to continue home work because they were "tired of it." Typical reports in these cases were, "The children thought separating lace was fun at first, but they soon found it tedious and had to be compelled to do it," and "Mary brought some tags to string because the other girls were doing it, but she does them now only when I make her." Several persons testified that work on lace was very disagreeable in the summer time because of the odor. "The child got sick of lace because it was dirty and had a peculiar odor," said one mother.

Injurious or disagreeable work was reported as the cause of stopping in 28 cases. In certain cases the connection of home work with injurious effects was fancied rather than real; for example, one whole family stopped thread drawing on lace because the mother was sure that one of the children had "caught ringworm" from the lace. In some families the mother thought the work made the children nervous. If any member of the family was injured in the course of home

work, the whole family usually gave up the work. "John cracked his finger nail in the press and had to go to the doctor; he wouldn't work any more and neither would the rest of the family," said a mother. Another child injured her hand in a press and narrowly escaped having two fingers amputated, with the result that nobody in her family ever touched home work again.

In the cases of 27 children parents forbade the continuation of home work. In some instances the parents feared to have their children go after the work. One 10-year-old boy had to cross the railroad track on his way to the mills and the father said to the mother, "If my boy is killed on the tracks, I'll kill you."

A belief that the children were defrauded by the contractor of their rightful earnings was the cause of stopping work in 25 cases. One worker said there was no use in complaining to the contractor about the cheating, because "if you said anything, they skinned you more," so this whole family stopped the carding of snaps.

Just as one member of the family often influenced the others to begin home work, so the action of one worker often led a whole family to abandon it. Sometimes the mother who went for the work obtained employment at the mill or decided that home work interfered too much with her household duties. Sometimes the father left the factory from which he had been accustomed to bring work home.

Throughout the investigation it was obvious that home work was a family matter rather than one in which children or individuals acted independently. In 750 families among the 1,042 considered, the father or mother or both participated in the home work, and in 807 families, or more than 75 per cent of those studied, persons over 16 years of age, as well as the children, were engaged in the work.

OCCUPATIONS AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN.

PRINCIPAL KINDS OF WORK.

The 2,338 children did home work which ranged in difficulty from putting snaps through holes in cards to soldering jewelry and manipulating presses. On some kinds of work there were several processes, and the smaller children performed only the simpler operations. Nearly four-fifths of the children, 1,848, did only one kind of work; nearly one-fifth, 430, did two kinds; 36 were engaged on three varieties; and 24 reported four, five, or six different varieties.

In Providence almost all the home work done by children was on jewelry. Carding snaps,¹⁴ linking and wiring rosary beads, setting stones, carding jewelry, putting together chain fasteners, and making military buttons were the chief kinds of work done. In Pawtucket stringing tags, drawing threads on lace, and finishing underwear were the leading varieties of work done by children. Children's home work in Central Falls was confined practically to stringing tags and drawing threads on lace.

The principal kinds of home work done by the children and the number of children engaged in each kind are shown in Table IX.

TABLE IX.—*Kind of home work; children reporting each specified kind in 1918.*

Kind of work.	Children engaged in each specified kind of work. ¹	Kind of work.	Children engaged in each specified kind of work.
Carding snaps.....	529	Assembling military buttons.....	86
Stringing tags.....	413	Carding shoe buttons.....	76
Thread drawing on lace.....	408	Finishing underwear.....	72
Linking rosary beads.....	199	Carding jewelry.....	60
Wiring rosary beads.....	192	Putting chain fasteners together.....	51
Setting stones.....	127		

¹ Only kinds of work on which at least 50 children were engaged are shown. Children are counted for each kind of work in which they were engaged during 1918.

The kinds of work listed in this table were the chief ones in which children were engaged. Other kinds of work done in the homes in which children were engaged or in which they occasionally helped

¹⁴ Snaps were given out by jewelry firms.

the older members of the family included the following: Assembling cartridge clips; assembling adapter plugs; fusing copper terminals; assembling ribbon watch bracelets; linking cuff links; stringing up or wiring jewelry for electroplating; pairing and packing shoe laces; pasting velvet on parts of jewelry boxes; assembling jewelers' brushes; assembling novelty chains and bracelets; pinning up jewelry; soldering jewelry; linking chains; hitching up jewelry; making paper products, including ice-cream boxes and paper toys; and shelling peanuts.¹⁵

Carding snaps.

The knobs on the snaps were put through holes in the cards and the tops of the snaps were snapped on these knobs. The cards of snaps were then ready for sale. The number of snaps on each card was one or two dozen. Sometimes there were complaints that pressing the top of the snap on the knob hurt the children's tender thumbs. One mother said, "Big holes in the card and little snaps make hands sore and are hard to do, because when you've got the bottoms all in and then try to put the tops on they all spill out." In some families the workers, not excepting the youngest, stood up to card snaps.

Three manufacturers distributed carding to be done in the homes, but the great bulk of this work was given out by one establishment. A contractor for this establishment said that she distributed snaps to 40 families in 1918. One contractor from whom a large number of children secured work said that she distributed the work to children living in her neighborhood, but that she would not give out work to any child whose mother did not first come to her and sign a statement that she (the mother) would be responsible for the work. The snaps were given out in boxes or baskets which were weighed before being distributed. They had to be returned in the same receptacles and were then weighed again. The contractor allowed for a little loss in weight, but beyond this allowance she refused to pay for missing snaps. Soiled or spoiled cards were not paid for, and the snaps on these were kept by the contractor, who had them recarded.

Many complaints were made about one of the snap contractors. A frequent accusation was that "she fixed the scale, weighed the snaps, said a lot were missing, and wouldn't pay." Work was not always to be secured when the children called for it. One mother said that her children went for snaps daily, and that often they had to call three or four times before they could get any. They were obliged to return the work at 6 o'clock the next morning. Some children said they stopped carding snaps because the contractor treated them "roughly." This contractor reported that she received 1 cent a gross from the manu-

¹⁵ See Appendix, p. 74.

facturer and paid all home workers a flat rate of half a cent for carding a gross of snaps. The home workers, on the other hand, frequently asserted that they received only one-quarter, one-third, or one-sixth of a cent per gross.

Nearly one-fourth, 23 per cent, of the children scheduled carded snaps. These 529 children—217 boys and 312 girls—all lived in Providence and constituted slightly over one-third of the children scheduled in that city. Forty of the children engaged in this work were under 6 years of age. One mother said that her little boy of 4 learned how to card snaps when the family was working, and that he was "crazy to do more." Most of the very young children would only put the knobs of the snaps through the holes in the cards and the older workers would snap the tops on. One little girl not quite 3 years old was found using a clothespin to press the tops of the snaps on, to keep from hurting her fingers. The mother said that this child never worked more than a few minutes at a time. More than nine-tenths, or 482, of the children working on snaps were under 14 years of age, and more than half, or 289, were under 11.

Stringing tags.

Pieces of string were run through the holes in the tags and then tied. There were various kinds of stringing, (1) single knot at the end of the string on a slipknot at the hole of the tag; (2) double knot—that is, one at the end of the string and another at the hole of the tag; (3) double stringing, which necessitated double knotting; (4) bob stringing—the attachment of a bob at the end of the string before it was tied. Sometimes the tags had to be bunched before they were returned. This meant that the tags were strung, knotted, 50 or 100 put on a needle or hairpin, both ends tied, and the ends of string carefully clipped without cutting the knots.

The home workers reported receiving from 1 cent to 28 cents per 1,000 tags strung, while the manufacturers reported paying 10 to 30 cents per 1,000. Bunching was included under stringing. If the tags were punched by the home workers, 8 cents extra per 1,000 was paid. If the tags had to be kept in consecutive order, an additional sum was paid.

One large printing establishment, the chief product of which was tags, distributed almost all the tags on which children were found working. This producer stated that nearly all the tags manufactured were sent to the homes to be strung. Stringing tags for his factory, he said, was done by hand because very few machines adapted to the purpose were on the market. He thought that some companies had machines to string the various sizes of tags, but that these machines were covered by patents. His company had installed one machine for stringing tags, but it could string only one size of tags, without

metal edges or metal eyelets. Moreover, the same number of workers was not required every day. Some days 20 were needed, while on other days 50 or 100 were required; hence work was given out to be done in homes.

This establishment distributed the tags to the children at the factory. "A man is on duty from 7 to 8 o'clock in the morning to distribute the work, and after school is another busy period," said a member of the company. "The children apply for work every day and sometimes the same children come twice in the same day." The tags were distributed in boxes of 1,000, and the strings in bundles of 100. They were packed in telescope bags.

Stringing tags was done by 413 children, or 18 per cent of all those scheduled; 169 boys and 244 girls. In Pawtucket 213 children did this work, while in Central Falls 156, or more than half the child home workers, were so engaged. In Providence only 44 children did tag stringing. Twenty-three children, or 5.6 per cent of those who reported stringing tags, were under 6 years of age. The younger children, as a rule, only put the strings through the holes, after which older children tied the knots. More than four-fifths of the children engaged in this work were under 14, and about half were under 11.

Thread drawing on lace.

A breadth of lace consisting of a number of bands or insertions was given to the home worker. The threads holding the bands or insertions together were drawn out by the home worker in order to separate them. This was done by taking hold of one end of the thread with the fingers, or a hairpin, a needle, or scissors. The narrower the lace, the more bands in a piece. A piece sometimes contained as many as 292 bands.

The rates varied with the number of bands that made up the piece. Pieces containing 61 bands or under were paid for at the rate of 4½ cents per 100 yards; pieces of over 61 bands were paid for at the rate of 4 cents per 100 yards. The following is a sample computation:

Number bands breadth (291 threads).....	292
Number yards length of each band.....	18
Total number yards of bands.....	5, 256
Number threads separating every two bands.....	2
Total number of yards done.....	10, 512
Rate paid per 100 yards.....	\$0. 04
Amount home worker receives for the piece of lace which is made up of 292 bands 18 yards long.....	\$4. 2048

Because of the varying rates for thread drawing on lace and the different methods of computing payments many workers did not know just how their payments were reckoned. Many of the state-

ments concerning rates for this kind of work were exceedingly vague, and showed how advantage might be taken of those who were unfamiliar with the methods of computing their earnings. A frequent reply was that they were paid "so much for so much." Others were paid for "bundles completed," but did not know how many yards were in the bundles. In some instances the children returned the finished work to the mill and took "whatever they gave them" without asking the rates. Sometimes a contractor refused to tell the rates, but one mother thought they were paid 1 cent a row; the length of the rows varied. From the reports of those interviewed it was found that the lace mills varied in their methods of payment. One mother said that at the mill "you had to take what they gave you," and so she was unable to judge whether or not she was paid fairly. At another mill, on the other hand, a slip which gave the number of bands and the number of threads was handed the worker before she was paid, and she could see for herself what the cashier should pay her.

The manufacturing establishments reported paying from 3 to 5 cents per 100 yards for thread drawing on lace. The rates reported for the children for this unit varied from 1 to 8 cents. Some mothers said they were paid by the lot, from \$2.70 to \$5 per lot; some by the piece, from 1 cent to $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per piece; others by the yard or by every 12 yards. Several reported \$3.65 per web as the rate and unit of pay.

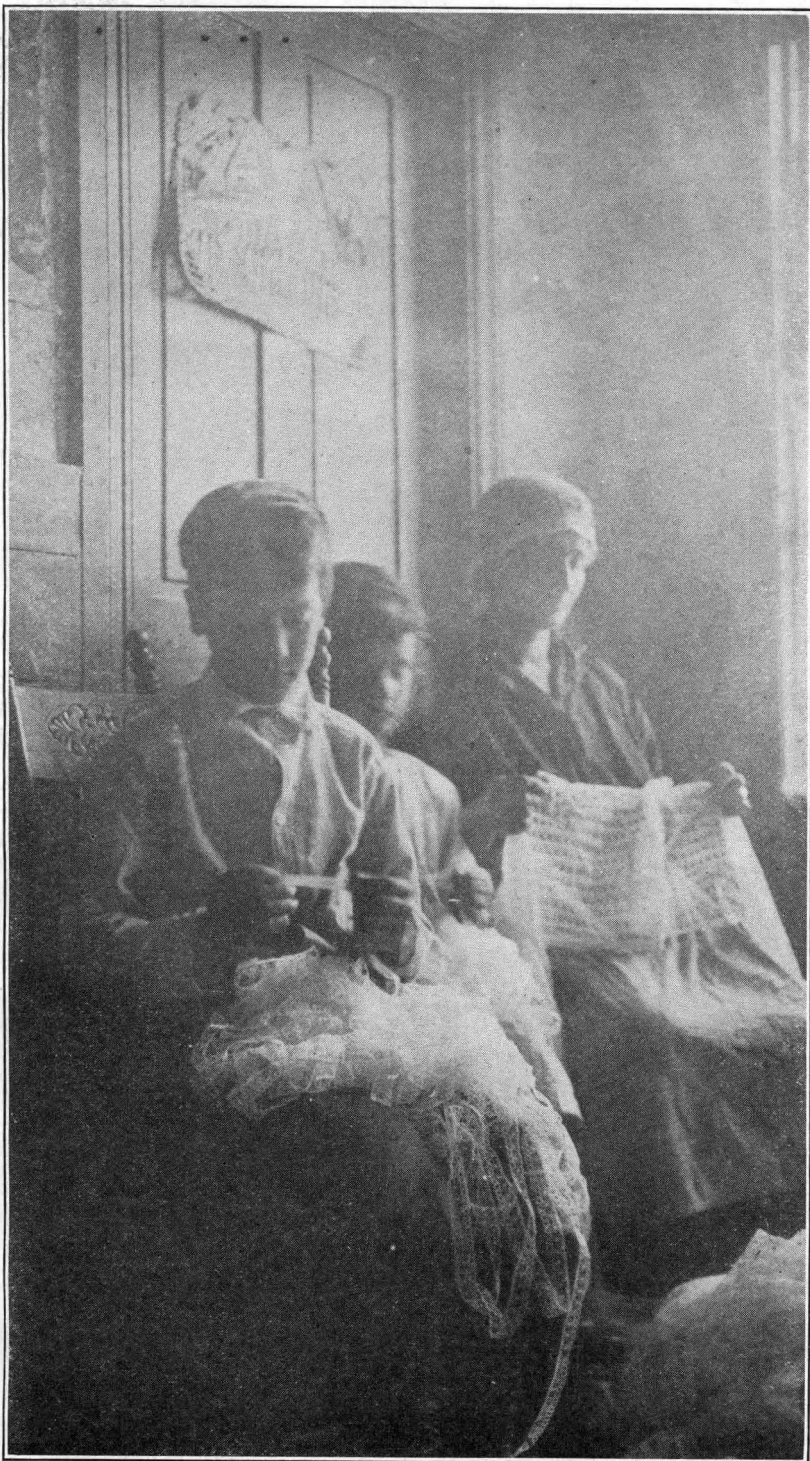
Lace was distributed directly from the mill to the workers and also through contractors.

More than one-sixth, or 408, of the 2,338 children scheduled were engaged in thread drawing on lace. Of this number 171 were boys and 237 were girls. Only a little over 2 per cent of all those scheduled in Providence reported thread drawing. In Pawtucket, on the other hand, where several lace mills were situated, and in the adjoining city of Central Falls, about 40 per cent of the children scheduled worked on lace.

Of the 408 children engaged in thread drawing on lace, 351 were under 14; of these only 9 were under 6 and 162 were under 11 years of age. The fact that thread drawing on lace was perhaps more difficult than either carding snaps or stringing tags, and that there was more danger of injury to the material, as well as the fact that the material was more valuable, probably accounts for the smaller percentage of very young children engaged in this work.

Linking and wiring rosary beads.

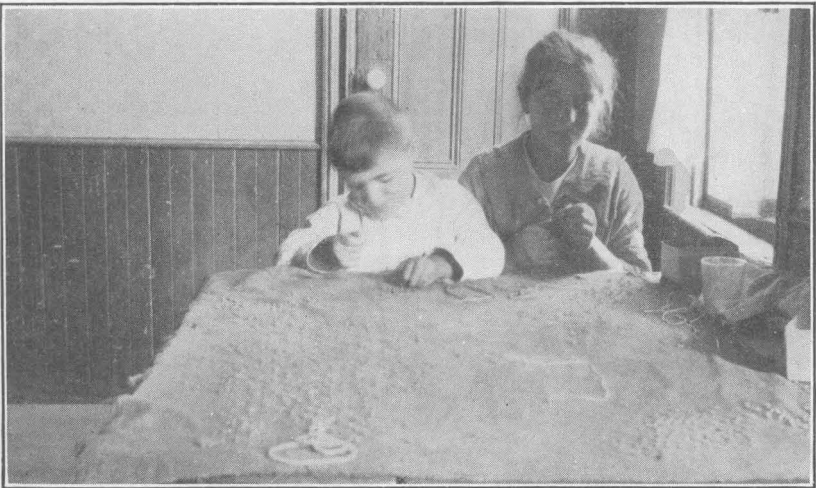
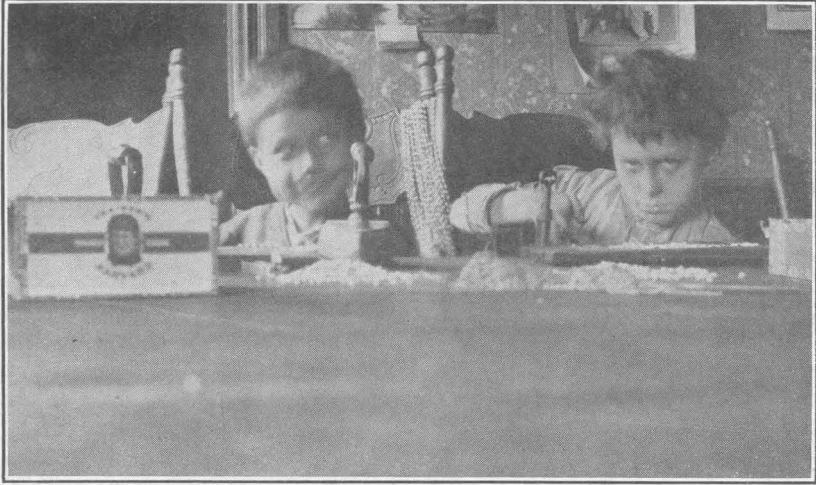
By means of pliers the 59 beads constituting a rosary were linked or attached to each other. Sometimes the beads were already wired when given out, and sometimes the wiring was done in the homes.



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THREAD DRAWING ON LACE.

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LINKING AND WIRING ROSARY BEADS.

In addition to ordinary linking, the hearts or centers and crucifixes were sometimes linked to the rosary. Before the chains or rosaries were returned to the factory the crucifixes were wrapped in tissue paper. A screw wedged into the upper part of the opening of a clothespin served as the mechanism for opening and closing the link. The worker, after pinching the link with the pliers, applied it to the groove in the head of the screw. With a twist of the pliers the link was closed or opened. A screw in a table, or a second pair of pliers, was occasionally substituted for the clothespin with the screw.

A manufacturer said he paid from 21 to 75 cents a dozen rosaries. The rate varied with the quality of the product. In some instances a contractor acted as the medium of distribution and had to make her profits. A woman who distributed the linking of rosary beads to 50 home workers said that a few years before she had received 30 cents a dozen and paid the home workers 25 cents a dozen, but the rate gradually fell to 15 cents, which was the rate at the time this study was made.

In wiring rosary beads a short wire with a hook at one end was run through the bead, and the other end of this wire was bent with a pair of pliers to form a hook or link like the first.

The unit of pay in most cases was the "mess," consisting of 1,000 or 1,200 beads. The rates reported by the home workers varied from 15 to 40 cents per mess, as compared with 20 to 38 cents reported by the manufacturer and contractor.

Work on rosary beads was distributed both directly and through contractors. A manufacturer who gave out a large amount of wiring and linking employed six contractors, and only in exceptional cases distributed work directly to home workers.

Wiring or linking rosary beads was reported by 391 children, or more than one-sixth of those scheduled; 126 of them were boys and 265 girls; 199 were engaged in linking and 192 in wiring. All but 13 of the children working on rosaries lived in Providence, where the jewelry firms manufacturing ecclesiastical goods were situated; 4 children in Pawtucket and 9 in Central Falls reported work on rosaries. There were also 2 children in Providence and 3 in Pawtucket who both wired and linked rosary beads.

As in thread drawing on lace, the number of children under 6 engaged in linking or wiring rosary beads was negligible. A child under 6 is far too young to handle pliers with any dexterity. The 7 young children found working on rosaries did not use the pliers. In the case of linking, these children linked the beads together with their hands, and then another member of the family tightened the link with the pliers, while in wiring the little children put the wire through the bead and another worker made the loop. Less than

half the children engaged on rosary beads, or 167, were under 11 years of age, 343 were under 14, and only 48 were 14 or over.

Setting stones.

A number of processes or different kinds of setting were included under the general head of stone setting. In block settings the stone was held in place by means of glue or cement, and the cup in which the stone was placed was pressed over it with a stone setter or with pliers. The stone setter usually used by the children was a flattened nail like a screwdriver. Manufacturers said they paid 25 to 75 cents per gross of stones.

In beaded stone setting the stone was placed in a hole bored into the metal and the metal was then pushed tight against the stone by drilling four little beads around the hole. The manufacturer paid 7 to 50 cents per gross of stones.

Two kinds of setting were included under soft point setting. In cup setting the stone was set in a cup-shaped setting, and the prongs were bent over it with a stone setter or with pliers. The rate of pay generally reported was 8 cents per gross of stones. In Swiss setting the stone was set into a cavity formed by long prongs, and these prongs were then bent over the stone with a stone setter or with pliers. It took skill to place the stone accurately in this setting, as there was no cup. Rates of from 15 to 25 cents per gross of stones were generally reported for this work.

In the process known as star cutting the star was cut with a cutter which also made prongs. A hole was then drilled with a pump drill for the stone, which was picked up by means of wax on the end of a point and placed in this hole. The prongs were then bent over the stone to hold it in place. The producer said he paid $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per stone for this work.

In stone setting on celluloid articles the stones were sometimes cemented into holes already drilled in the celluloid articles. Another method consisted of first cementing tiny gold rings on the celluloid article and then placing the stones inside the rings. When hard stones were to be set the celluloid articles were sometimes heated on small electric stoves. The warmth melted the celluloid sufficiently to make the stones stick without an application of cement. Five cents per gross of stones was the rate reported by the manufacturer.

In pasting stones or pearls cement was first applied with a brush on the article and the pearls or stones were then put on the article. Ten cents per gross of pearls was the rate paid.

In pasting stones or pearls in earrings the pearl or piece of jet was adjusted on the cup of the earring with a layer of paste. The hole in the stone or jet fitted over a protruding piece in the cup of the earring. The rates reported by the manufacturing establishments

varied from 3 cents to \$2.16, while those reported by the home workers varied from 2 to 35 cents per gross of stones.

Contractors, as well as manufacturers, distributed stone setting to the children. One mother stated that her daughter learned the trade of stone setting at the shop of a contractor. The girl worked for two weeks without pay in order to recompense the contractor for teaching her the trade; she then taught her brother what she had learned.

Since manufacturers and contractors were almost unanimous in stating that stone setting was done only by adults, it was surprising to find 127 children, 46 boys and 81 girls, engaged in the less difficult varieties of this work. All these children lived in Providence. Five children under 6 years of age were engaged in stone setting, but as in the other more difficult kinds of work these children performed only part of the process. They placed the stone in the setting and some older member of the family turned down the prongs. Of the children engaged in this work 109 were under 14 and 53 were under 11.

Carding shoe buttons.

Shoe buttons were carded before they were lacquered.

The shanks of the buttons were pushed through perforations in a card.

The most common units of pay reported by the home workers were the great gross and the card of 444 buttons. The producers said they paid 8 cents a great gross, while the home workers reported that they received from one-fifth of a cent to 1 cent a great gross. The contractors paying by the card of 444 buttons gave from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per card as the rate, while the rate for this unit reported by the children was from three-quarters of a cent to 2 cents.

Shoe buttons were given out both directly by manufacturing establishments and indirectly through contractors.

The carding was done by 76 children, all living in Providence, 31 boys and 45 girls. Five of them were under 6 years of age, 44 were under 11, and 69 were under 14.

Finishing underwear.

Under finishing underwear the following processes were included: Trimming, i. e., fastening or tying the ends of the threads and cutting the loose ends; running ribbon around the necks of garments and tying it in bows; buttoning or pinning the garment, as the case might require; smoothing the garments; folding the sleeves; tying the garments into bundles of one dozen, and tying tickets to each dozen.

One of the manufacturers interviewed said that this work was done in the homes because "it is tedious work and the girls in the

factory don't like to do it." This establishment employed 230 people in the factory and distributed work to 110 home workers. It had been giving out homework for 11 years. About half the work it gave out in 1918 was on Navy underwear.

One manufacturer reported that he paid from 6 to 15 cents a dozen for finishing, depending upon the size and style of underwear, while the rates reported by the home workers ranged from 2 to 18 cents a dozen.

Finishing underwear was done by 72 children, 28 boys and 44 girls; 70 of them lived in Pawtucket, and 1 each in Providence and Central Falls. Only 1 child was reported as being under 6. Twenty-seven were under 11 and 58 under 14. The percentage of children 14 to 16 years of age was larger in underwear finishing than in any other of the principal kinds of children's home work.

Carding jewelry. •

The finished products were placed on cards; the pin stems of the jewelry were pushed through the cardboard; in some cases tissue paper was wrapped around the cards and in some the jewelry was packed in boxes after it was carded. Only the cheaper jewelry was carded in the homes.

The worker was paid by the gross of articles or cards, and, when payment was made in terms of the latter, usually more than one piece of jewelry was placed on a card. The producers reported paying 4 to 30 cents a gross; the home workers said they received from 2 to 16 cents a gross. For carding and packing jewelry the home workers said they were paid from 2 to 20 cents for each gross of articles.

Jewelry was carded by 60 children, 25 boys and 35 girls, all living in Providence. One child was less than 6 years old, 27 were under 11, and 51 were under 14. In a great many cases contractors were the medium of distribution for this work.

Putting together chain fasteners.

The spring of the clasp was slipped into the socket or barrel part. Sometimes an additional process was done at home—that of opening the spring of the clasp with a penknife to make it ready to be slipped into the socket.

All the home workers reported receiving 1 cent a gross for putting together chain clasps. The manufacturers said they paid from 1½ to 2½ cents a gross. For opening the spring, the manufacturers reported that they paid 2 cents extra per gross.

Work on chain fasteners was done by 51 children, 26 boys and 25 girls; 45 of them lived in Providence and 6 in Pawtucket. Four of these children were under 6 years of age, 24 were under 11, and 43 were under 14.

Assembling military buttons.

Assembling or rolling the edge of military buttons, consisted in fastening the fronts over the backs. The parts were first fitted together and arranged in rows on a small narrow board. By means of a foot press, the parts were then joined together by rolling the edges of the fronts over the backs. The eyes or holes were made in the back of the buttons also by means of a light foot press.

The producer reported that he paid $4\frac{1}{2}$ cents per gross for assembling or rolling the edges of military buttons, while the home workers reported 3 and 4 cents a gross. For "swedging" the eyes, the rate of 4 cents a gross was reported by producers and home workers. Military buttons were distributed both directly and through contractors.

Work on military buttons was done by 86 children, 45 boys and 41 girls. The majority of these children worked only on the preliminary operation of fitting the buttons together and arranging them on boards, while the others used foot presses for rolling the edges or "swedging" the eyes. All the children working on military buttons lived in Providence. Four of them were under 6, 44 were under 11, and 74 were under 14.

Work on Government contracts.

During 1918 an abnormal situation existed in that some of the home work was done on distinctly war products, which were manufactured by certain Providence firms on direct or indirect contracts with the Government. Work on these war products was done by 129 children, or 5.5 per cent of those included in the study. All these children lived in Providence.

Cartridge clips were assembled by 19 children. Into the base of each clip was slipped a spring that was to hold the five shells of each group in place until they were forced into the rifle magazine. The contractor received 35 cents per 1,000 plus a \$1 bonus on every 50,000 completed, while the home workers received 25 cents per 1,000. One contractor distributed all this work for a local firm engaged in the manufacture of ammunition. The manager of this firm, when questioned as to why he had work done outside, said: "The War Department urged speeding up. It was a matter of winning the war; that's the size of it."

One child was engaged in assembling the adapter plugs which were used to prevent moisture from coming into contact with the shell. He said he received 13 cents per 100 plugs, while the manufacturer reported paying \$1.90 per keg of 1,500 plugs.

Two children reported that they worked on fusing copper terminals for the Navy Department. The contractor who gave out the copper terminals to 20 families said that she had received instructions from

the manufacturer not to permit any children to work on them. She made a house-to-house canvass every two weeks and sometimes every week, without previous warning to the workers, and if she found any children working she cut off the work from that family.

Presswork.

Ninety-one children worked on seven processes which required the use of machines. Two of these processes, rolling the edges and "swedging" the eyes of military buttons, have been mentioned previously (see p. 37). Cutting holes in snaps, making knobs on snaps, rolling edges on snaps, assembling collar buttons, and looping hosiery were the others. All this work was done on foot presses except the looping of hosiery.

Of the children who worked on presses, 32 were under 11 years of age; 1 of these was only 4, and 2 were 6; 75 were under 14 years of age and 16 were over 14.

CONDITIONS OF WORK.

Workrooms.

The family kitchen was the children's workroom in the great majority of cases. More than four-fifths, or 853, of the 1,042 families interviewed carried on their home work in this room. In some cases these kitchens were in basements. In 57 instances the dining room was used for work, in 30 the living room, and in 9 a bedroom. Home work was done by 40 families in rooms which served two other purposes besides that of workshop; 21 families worked in combination kitchen-bedrooms, 10 in kitchen-living rooms, and 9 in kitchen-dining rooms. In some houses the same room was used for kitchen, dining room, bedroom, and workshop.

In one case a dark closet off the kitchen was the workroom, while in other instances pantries, garages, storerooms, cellars, or sheds in the back yard were utilized. In one instance a number of children in a neighborhood used a shed as a workroom for two hours every evening during a period of two months. They worked on the floor, by the light of a kerosene lamp.

Lighting was poor in many of the workrooms visited. Some rooms were dark in bright midday, the only light being a small gas jet in the ceiling very high above the heads of the workers. In some of the houses there was no gas or electricity and the children worked by the light of kerosene lamps. One family was found stringing tags in a kitchen which was very dirty and had no windows. The workers depended for their light and air upon the windows of the adjoining room.

In the matter of cleanliness and order there were evidences of extreme neglect in some of the houses visited, but the conditions found in the majority of houses were reported by the agents as good.

Time of working.

The great majority of the children, 1,963 out of the 2,338, or 84 per cent, reported, according to Table X, that they worked in the evening after supper. Even of the children under 6 years of age 71, or three-fourths, worked in the evening. Of the 1,963 night workers, 1,860 did home work also at some period during the day, usually in the afternoon after school hours, while only 103 did night work exclusively. On the other hand, 373 reported that they worked only in the daytime, and 106 that they worked only during the summer vacation. Even during school hours, however, the children were not always free from home work; some of the teachers reported that pupils brought snaps to card or beads to string during recess.

TABLE X.—*Evening work, by age; children reporting home work in 1918.*

Age of child.	Children reporting home work in 1918.					
	Total.	Reporting evening work.		Reporting no evening work.		Time not reported.
		Number.	Per cent. ¹	Number.	Per cent. ¹	
All ages.....	2,338	1,963	84.0	373	16.0	2
Under 6 years.....	95	71	74.7	23	24.2	1
6 years.....	108	85	78.7	23	21.3	.....
7 years.....	141	123	87.2	18	12.8	.....
8 years.....	209	180	86.1	29	13.9	.....
9 years.....	242	199	82.2	43	17.8	.....
10 years.....	274	228	83.2	46	16.8	.....
11 years.....	322	274	85.1	48	14.9	.....
12 years.....	315	268	85.1	47	14.9	.....
13 years.....	310	261	84.2	49	15.8	.....
14 years.....	191	161	84.3	30	15.7	.....
15 years.....	97	83	85.6	13	13.4	1
16 years.....	32	28	.....	4	.....	.....
Age not reported.....	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....

¹ Not shown where base is less than 50.

As to the hours of night work, it will be of interest to note the schedules reported for a few of the children:

A child 14 years of age worked on stringing tags four nights a week until 11 o'clock, December and January.

A child 11 years of age worked on tags from 6 to 10 p. m. and sometimes to 11 or 12, to finish work so it could be returned the next day, January to September.

A child 8 years of age worked on stringing tags from 6 to 10 p. m. and sometimes until 11 or 12, January to September.

A child 7 years of age worked on tags from 5.30 to 9 p. m. (sometimes she fell asleep in her chair before 9 p. m.) four or five nights a week, September to December.

Some of the mothers said that the children sometimes fell asleep at their work. "A—— often works on carding jewelry until very

late at night," commented one mother, "but S—— goes to sleep on them and we put her to bed."

In homes where presses were used accidents were frequent, both to the persons working on them and to children playing with the presses. Fingers were crushed, cut or bruised in the presses, and in some cases children had the ends of their fingers cut off. Loss of finger nails, and running needles and dies through fingers, were also reported.

Of the children considered in this study 20 had regular employment for 8 or 10 hours a day. On their return from the store or factory they ate their suppers and then started home work, often continuing it until a late hour of the night.

TESTIMONY CONCERNING PHYSICAL INJURIES FROM HOME WORK.

Many complaints were made by workers concerning the injurious physical effects of home work. Eyestrain was reported for 117 children during the year covered by the inquiry, and in numerous instances the workers stated that they had to begin wearing glasses as a result of carding snaps, linking and wiring rosary beads, stringing tags, and setting stones. One mother said that after her little girl had painted flags for 10 or 15 minutes she would complain that they "began to walk." Carding snaps made sores and blisters on fingers, and the pliers used in linking beads also caused blisters and callouses. Inexperienced workers at thread drawing on lace often cut their fingers on the threads.

Some of the teachers who were interviewed had observed signs of fatigue in certain children which they attributed to home work. An ex-principal said that home workers came to school in the morning tired and listless. He said he had also observed a lack of proper physical development which he traced to the performance of home work after school and late at night. Another teacher said she knew of cases where children were allowed no playtime at all and worked until late at night, and that these children came to school utterly exhausted. Another teacher reported that children came to school worn out because the whole family got up at 5 o'clock in the morning to do home work after working late the night before.

EARNINGS OF HOME WORKERS.

MAXIMUM HOURLY EARNINGS OF CHILDREN.

Information concerning hourly earnings could be obtained for only 956 children, or a little more than two-fifths of the 2,338 included in the study. The estimates of earnings for a given period of time were computed by the agents from statements made by the parents or older children; only cases in which a fair degree of accuracy was attainable were considered. In other cases information was not available for a number of reasons, the chief of which were: (1) In a great many instances the child worked as a member of a team with other members of the family; (2) some children never worked continuously for an hour; (3) some workers and parents had never thought of home work in terms of time spent and consequently could not make accurate estimates. The estimates obtained did not represent the average hourly earning power of the individuals in question, but rather the amounts which they could earn by working at full speed for an hour; such amounts might actually have been earned only once or on a very few occasions. Hence the designation "maximum hourly earnings" has been used.

A maximum earning capacity of less than 1 cent an hour was reported, as shown in Table XI, by 45 children; 13 of these children could earn only half a cent an hour, while 32 could earn larger fractions of a cent. More than half the 956 children reported maximum earnings of less than 5 cents an hour; nearly four-fifths of them reported less than 10 cents; about nine-tenths reported less than 15 cents; while only 3 per cent could earn 25 cents or more an hour.

TABLE XI.—*Maximum hourly earnings by age; children reporting home work in 1918.*

Maximum hourly earnings.	Children of specified ages, December, 1918, reporting home work.								
	Total.		Under 6 years.	6 years, under 11.		11 years, under 14.		14 years, under 17.	
	Num-ber.	Per cent distribution.		Num-ber.	Per cent distribution.	Num-ber.	Per cent distribution.	Num-ber.	Per cent distribution.
Total.....	956	100.0	15	315	100.0	462	100.0	164	100.0
Less than 1 cent.....	45	4.7	7	24	7.6	12	2.6	2	1.2
1 cent, less than 5.....	438	45.8	6	184	58.4	204	44.2	44	26.8
5 cents, less than 10.....	276	28.9	.....	75	23.8	146	31.6	55	33.5
10 cents, less than 15.....	84	8.8	2	18	5.7	39	8.4	25	15.2
15 cents, less than 20.....	51	5.3	.....	7	2.2	25	5.4	19	11.6
20 cents and over.....	162	6.5	.....	7	2.2	36	7.8	19	11.5

¹ Includes 34, 20 cents but less than 25; 7, 25 cents but less than 30; 13, 30 cents but less than 40; 3, 40 cents but less than 50; 2, 50 cents; 2, 60 cents, and 1, \$1 an hour.

A relatively larger number of reports of maximum hourly earnings was obtained from the older children than from the younger ones. Table XI shows also that in general the older children were able to earn more than the younger ones.

The three kinds of work on which the largest numbers of children were engaged—snap carding, tag stringing, and thread drawing—were also the kinds at which they could earn the least. Almost all the children who reported maximum earnings of less than 1 cent an hour were engaged in these three kinds of work, while of the children so engaged three-fourths of those reporting failed to earn as much as 5 cents an hour. Even at stone setting, one of the more profitable kinds of work, more than 63 per cent of the children reporting earned less than 10 cents an hour; while at jewelry carding, for which the highest earnings were reported, 53 per cent of those reporting failed to earn as much as 10 cents an hour. Children's earnings for the 11 kinds of work on which most of them were engaged are given in Table XII.

TABLE XII.—*Maximum hourly earnings, by kind of home work; children reporting maximum hourly earnings from home work in 1918.*

Kind of work.	Children engaged in each specified kind of work.								
	Total.	Children reporting specified maximum hourly earnings.							
		Total.	Less than 5 cents.		5 cents, less than 10.		10 cents and over.		Maximum hourly earnings not reported.
			Num-ber.	Per cent. ¹	Num-ber.	Per cent. ¹	Num-ber.	Per cent. ¹	
Carding snaps.....	529	149	121	81.2	23	15.4	5	3.4	390
Stringing tags.....	413	175	142	81.1	25	14.3	8	4.6	238
Thread drawing on lace.....	408	114	65	57.0	40	35.1	9	7.9	294
Linking rosary beads.....	199	112	45	40.2	56	50.0	11	9.8	87
Wiring rosary beads.....	192	70	21	.....	42	.....	7	.....	122
Setting stones.....	127	57	18	.....	18	.....	21	.....	70
Assembling military buttons.....	82	10	5	.....	2	.....	3	.....	72
Carding shoe buttons.....	76	29	21	.....	7	.....	1	.....	47
Finishing underwear.....	72	20	4	.....	11	.....	5	.....	52
Carding jewelry.....	60	15	.....	.....	8	.....	7	.....	45
Putting chain fasteners together.....	51	12	5	.....	3	.....	4	.....	39

¹ Not shown where base is less than 100.

MAXIMUM HOURLY EARNINGS OF ADULTS.

The maximum hourly earning power of adult home workers was not one of the subjects of inquiry in this study, but since information on this subject was obtained in 82 instances it is of interest to compare the earning power of these adults with that of the children. Many of the adults for whom information was obtained were engaged on typical children's occupations—drawing threads on lace,

linking rosary beads, finishing underwear, carding snaps, stringing tags, carding jewelry, assembling military buttons, setting stones, and wiring rosary beads.

Adults had a considerably higher earning power than children. Only 17 per cent of the adults reported that they could earn less than 5 cents an hour, as compared with 51 per cent of the children, while an earning power of 20 cents or more an hour was reported by 30 per cent of the adults, as compared with only 7 per cent of the children.

MAXIMUM HOURLY EARNINGS OF GROUPS.

One of the reasons for failure to secure more estimates of children's maximum hourly earnings was that the children very often worked with other members of the family. In fact, the family group was the customary working unit. Estimates of maximum hourly earnings were obtained for 136 such groups.

The same kinds of home work were found to predominate among the families reporting group earnings as among the children alone. Carding snaps was the occupation of 49 families reporting group earnings. In this occupation the maximum earnings per group per hour in the majority of cases fell between 5 and 8 cents, while the 202 persons in the 49 groups could earn in one hour \$3.03, an average per person per hour of less than 2 cents.

Group earnings for stringing tags were analyzed for 33 families. The maximum earnings per hour, in the majority of cases, fell between 8 and 19 cents, while the 147 persons composing the 33 groups could earn \$4.28, a little less than 3 cents an hour per worker.

Averages were computed for 27 families reporting thread drawing on lace. The 96 persons in these 27 families could earn \$3.29 in one hour, or a little over 3 cents per person.

Seventeen families reported hourly earnings for linking rosary beads. In an hour the 54 home workers in these groups could earn \$2.59, an average of less than 5 cents an hour per worker. Wiring rosary beads was even less profitable. At this 15 families consisting of 48 persons could earn \$2.01 in an hour, or a little over 4 cents per person.

Fifteen groups reported finishing underwear. The 54 persons in these groups could make \$2.76 an hour, a little over 5 cents per person.

Earnings for stone setting were a trifle higher. In the majority of cases the maximum hourly earnings were from 10 to 13 cents, and the 46 persons comprising 15 groups could earn about 7½ cents an hour.

The summary for the groups engaged on the seven kinds of work enumerated is given in Table XIII.

TABLE XIII.—*Monthly hourly earnings by number in group; groups reporting home work in 7 kinds of work in 1918.*

Number of home workers in group.	Number of groups.	Number of home workers.	Total of maximum earnings in an hour.	Average of maximum earnings in an hour.	Average maximum hourly earnings per person.
Total.....	136	469	15.21	0.11	0.03
2.....	39	78	4.77	.12	.06
3.....	35	105	3.90	.11	.04
4.....	38	152	4.27	.11	.03
5.....	14	70	1.07	.08	.02
6.....	6	36	.47	.08	.01
7.....	4	28	.73	.18	.03

It should be noted that the average maximum earnings per hour per person for the groups of two, three, and four persons each were higher than those for the groups of five and six workers, and that, in spite of the higher earning power of adults, the maximum earnings in these mixed groups averaged practically as low as those of children working alone. Only the groups of two home workers each, including 78, or about one-sixth of the 469 persons in all the groups, could earn as much as 5 cents an hour per person.

GROUP EARNINGS FOR PERIODS OTHER THAN AN HOUR.

Since the hour was an arbitrary unit selected for the purposes of the study, and the hourly earnings given represent maximum rather than average earnings, it will be illuminating to cite a few typical instances of earnings reported by workers during longer periods.

A family of six reported carding snaps one day from 4 in the afternoon until supper and then again after supper until 11 p. m. They completed 50 gross of snaps and earned 50 cents, an average per person of less than 9 cents for an afternoon and evening of work. Another family of five reported carding snaps every evening, some working until 8 p. m., others until midnight or later. Four workers reported carding 10 gross of snaps one evening and earning 5 cents. Complaints of the poor rates were general. One worker said, "When you stop all you got is a stiff neck and a half a cent a gross."

Five persons, stringing tags all one evening, earned 20 cents, while another group of five working all day earned only 12 cents. Two groups of four each worked all one day, and in one case the earnings were 24 cents and in the other 36 cents, an average per person per day in the one case of 6 and in the other of 9 cents. A third group of four working all day and all evening finished only 1,000 tags, for which they received 10 cents. Three workers strung enough tags in 3 hours to net them 8 cents, while another group of two earned 12

cents in the same period of time. The highest earnings reported were for a group of two who worked one day and one evening and made \$1.18, 59 cents per person. Two other groups of two persons each worked two days and each completed 1,000 tags, for which they received 10 and 12 cents respectively. The rates for stringing tags were commonly called "starvation pay."

At thread drawing on lace, five persons working one evening made 14 cents; two groups of four each working one evening made 12 and 15 cents, respectively; while a group of three working until midnight one night earned 20 cents. Seven persons working for an afternoon and evening at putting together chain fasteners earned 50 cents, while 3 persons working one day made 25 cents.

ANNUAL EARNINGS OF FAMILIES.

Annual earnings from home work were reported for families, since pay for this work was given not to each individual worker but to one member of the family, who took the responsibility for the work done by the family. Only in the cases where there was only one home worker in a family were individual annual earnings reported.

The total yearly earnings from home work in 1918 of all the families reporting are given in Table XIV.

TABLE XIV.—*Total family earnings from home work in 1918; families reporting total earnings.*

Total earnings in 1918 from home work.	Families reporting total earnings.	
	Number.	Per cent distribution.
All families.....	¹ 928	100.0
Under \$25.....	527	56.8
\$25, under \$50.....	148	15.9
\$50, under \$100.....	147	15.8
\$100, under \$200.....	69	7.4
\$200 or over.....	37	4.0

¹ Total earnings from home work in 1918 were not reported for 114 of the total of 1,042 families studied.

According to this table more than half (56.8 per cent) of the 928 families which reported total family earnings from home work for the year earned less than \$25, while 7.4 per cent earned between \$100 and \$200, and only 4 per cent earned \$200 or over. From these figures it is evident how small a percentage of the families were able to raise their income in any appreciable degree by their earnings from home work.

Number of months of work during the year.

Annual earnings from home work do not in most cases, of course, represent returns from steady employment throughout the year. The seasonal and irregular character of home work appeared more clearly in the reports of home workers than in those of manufacturing establishments. Only one-tenth of the families reporting did home work during 12 months of the year, slightly more than one-third had work in the house for as much as six months of the year, more than two-fifths of them had home work for three months or less, while nearly one-fourth had it for two months or less. The detailed figures are given in Table XV.

TABLE XV.—*Number of calendar months in which home work was done; families reporting home work in 1918.*

Number of calendar months in which home work was done in 1918.	Families reporting home work in 1918.	
	Number.	Per cent distribution.
Total.....	1,042	100.0
1 month.....	1	0.1
2 months.....	243	23.3
3 months.....	204	19.6
4 months.....	133	12.8
5 months.....	71	6.8
6 months.....	77	7.4
7 months.....	59	5.7
8 months.....	35	3.4
9 months.....	40	3.8
10 months.....	33	3.2
11 months.....	20	1.9
12 months.....	109	10.5
Not reported.....	17	1.6

Of the 243 families having work in the house for only 2 months 142, or more than half, earned less than \$10 and only 1 earned \$100 or more. Of the 204 families which did home work for 3 months 100 earned less than \$10, and only 4 earned \$100 or more. Of the 77 families having work in the house 6 months, over half earned \$25 or more and 8 earned \$100 or more, while of the 33 families which worked for 10 months, 7 earned less than \$25 and 11 earned \$100 or more. Of the 109 families which reported home work throughout the year, 4 earned less than \$10, 10 earned from \$10 to \$24, 13 earned from \$25 to \$49, 24 earned from \$50 to \$99, 26 earned from \$100 to \$199, 10 earned from \$200 to \$299, 4 earned from \$300 to \$399, 1 earned between \$400 and \$500, and 2 earned \$500 and over.

Number of workers in families.

The number of workers in the families, another factor affecting earnings, is shown in Table XVI.

TABLE XVI.—*Number of home workers in family, families reporting home work in 1918.*

Number of home workers in family.	Families reporting home work in 1918.	
	Number.	Per cent distribution.
Total.....	1,042	100.0
1.....	76	7.3
2.....	249	23.9
3.....	276	26.5
4.....	222	21.3
5.....	113	10.8
6.....	65	6.2
7 or over ¹	41	3.9

¹ Includes 10 families with 8 home workers, 1 with 9, and 1 with 12.

Of the 76 home workers who worked alone—all children, since only families in which there was a child worker were included in the study—51 per cent earned less than \$5 a year, 68 per cent earned less than \$10, and only two earned \$50 or over. Of the 249 groups of 2 workers each, 35 per cent earned less than \$10, 50 per cent earned less than \$20, and 22 per cent earned \$50 or over. Groups of 5 to 8 home workers earned in some instances less than \$10 and in a few instances they earned \$500 or more.

Illustrative examples of family earnings.

Illustrative examples of family earnings during the year are given in this section. It must be borne in mind that many of the children worked in snatches rather than steadily, but the time devoted to the work and therefore lost for purposes of recreation or rest, as set over against the returns received, is important.

Two children did stone setting, for which they were paid from 4 to 8 cents per gross of stones. They worked after school, during the vacation period, and about three evenings a week, for a period of 12 months. The maximum amount earned during one week was 75 cents, and during the year they earned \$14.

Two other children wired and capped rosary beads for 11 months and carded shoe buttons for 1 month. They worked after school and during vacation, and in the evening until 9.30 and sometimes, when there were rush orders, until 11.30. Their maximum weekly earnings were \$1, and their total earnings for the year were \$10, an average of less than 10 cents a week apiece.

A mother and two children, one of whom was engaged in regular employment all day, worked at thread drawing on lace. One of the children worked before school and during most of the day when there was no school, and the mother and sister helped her in the evenings.

The earnings for the nine months during which the work was constantly in the house were \$18.

Four workers, two children and their parents, assembled rosaries at 45 cents a dozen for 12 months. The children worked after school and during vacation. In the evenings after supper they were assisted by their parents until 9 o'clock. Their earnings for the year were \$117, less than \$2.50 per month per person. The mother said: "Rosary beads are interesting. I figure like this: I have two children and would rather be at home to get them something to eat at meal time. Only trouble with that work is that you have to stay right with it all the time or you won't make anything."

Five home workers carded snaps and worked on military buttons during a period of five months, with total earnings of \$11. The home work was done not only after school, but in the evenings for three of the five months. Three school children and three adults who worked in a jewelry establishment during the day, worked in the evenings for two and a half hours for six months putting together chain fasteners and setting stones. Their total earnings for the six months were \$22.79. Another family of seven workers wired rosary beads at 16 cents per 1,200 and carded snaps at one-half to three-fourths cent per gross. They worked during seven months and earned \$115.

One family of five, frequently assisted by an aunt and a cousin, earned \$621 in 1918, working the entire year. During six months the father had no other employment but home work. Six kinds of work were done—carding shoe buttons, carding snaps, putting together chain fasteners, linking cuff buttons, assembling military buttons, and setting stones. At one time two presses were in the house, which were used in the work on military buttons.

HOME WORK AS A MEANS OF SUPPLEMENTING FAMILY INCOME.

The fact that the family income from other sources was insufficient was reported by 217 families as the reason for doing home work. In these cases, where the economic incentive to work was strongest, it is important to consider how much the families were able to earn.

In the 165 families reporting "family need" as the motive for doing the work, the average yearly earnings from home work were \$80.17, as compared with an average of \$48.17 for all families reporting annual earnings. The comparatively high average of this group is due to the inclusion of a few cases with very high earnings; for example, one case of yearly earnings of \$789 raises the average for the 165 cases by \$4.78. The median earnings for this group are found to be slightly under \$50, as compared with a median of slightly under \$25 for all families reporting earnings. In a number

of these cases the father was dead or had deserted the family. One widow did home work for an entire year, being assisted in the evenings by her two daughters. The mother said she frequently sat up almost all night at the work, and that it "nearly put her eyes out." The earnings of this family from home work during the year were \$182. Another widow worked on rosary beads and stone setting for two months and was assisted by her four children. She said they worked every night until 10. In the two months they earned \$44.44.

Three little girls started thread drawing on lace because "father was ill and couldn't work much, and all the children had to help support the family." The girls worked after school and were assisted by their parents in the evenings. The mother stated that for several weeks she and the father worked all night two or three times a week. During eight months the total earnings of the family from this work on lace were \$69. Three other children started home work because the family "didn't have enough money with only one man working." They carded shoe buttons and military buttons and wired rosary beads. The work was in the house for 10 months, and the total earnings were \$15.

Another family worked at pairing, labeling, and packing shoe laces. The father was not well enough to go out and he and the mother and two sons, 13 and 14 years of age, spent 8 hours a day at the work for 7 months. Two other children assisted in the evenings. During the 11 months in which the work was in the house the earnings of the family were \$789. These relatively high earnings were possible only through the full-time work of the father and two sons of school age.

In 52 cases families reported that, while there was no actual "family need," they did home work in order to supplement the family income. The average earnings of these families from home work during 1918 were \$64.72, or \$16.55 higher than the average for all families reporting.

A family of 12 was dependent upon 2 wage earners whose total income from regular employment in 1918 was \$1,562. The mother secured some lace and made her 5 children work on it. The 6 home workers, working every day during school vacation and three nights a week from 7 to 9 o'clock, earned \$32.

The earnings of the father of another family of 4 were \$942, and the mother, with the assistance of her two boys, earned \$325 doing thread drawing and scalloping on lace, bringing the family income up to \$1,267. Another mother and two children working on military buttons for 9 months earned \$276, and in this way increased the total income of the family of 6 from \$910 to \$1,186. The earnings of these two families were exceptional.

Five home workers, three of them children, worked at hitching and pinning up jewelry in the evenings during a period of six months. Their total earnings were \$33, increasing the family income from \$575 to \$608.

The extent to which the father's earnings in all the families scheduled were supplemented by earnings from home work is indicated in Table XVII.

TABLE XVII.—*Family earnings from home work, by father's earnings in 1 year; families reporting home work in 1918.*

Father's earnings in 1 year.	Families earning specified amounts from home work in a year.												
	Total.	Less than \$5.		\$5, less than \$10.		\$10, less than \$25.		\$25, less than \$100.		\$100 and over.		Earnings not reported.	
		Num- ber.	Per cent.	Num- ber.	Per cent.	Num- ber.	Per cent.	Num- ber.	Per cent.	Num- ber.	Per cent.	Num- ber.	Per cent.
Total.....	1,042	173	16.6	152	14.6	202	19.4	295	28.3	106	10.2	114	10.9
No earnings.....	106	22	20.8	13	12.3	21	19.8	27	25.5	11	10.4	12	11.3
Under \$650.....	113	23	20.4	19	16.8	15	13.3	39	34.5	6	5.3	11	9.7
\$650 to \$1,250.....	575	87	15.1	74	13.6	118	20.5	172	29.9	65	11.3	55	9.6
\$1,250 and over.....	166	33	19.9	32	19.3	35	21.1	39	23.5	18	10.8	9	5.4
Earnings not reported.....	82	8	9.8	10	12.2	13	15.9	18	22.0	6	7.3	27	32.9

If the median earnings from home work are computed for each of the groups classified by fathers' earnings, it appears that the lowest groups have slightly higher median earnings than the two upper groups. This confirms the statement made above, that the families reporting family need as the reason for taking up home work tended to earn slightly more from such work than other families. The table also brings out clearly that in a great proportion of families, even where family need existed, the earnings from home work formed no considerable addition to the family income.

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF HOME WORK.

HOME WORK AND CHILD-LABOR STANDARDS.

State compulsory education law.

The compulsory education law of Rhode Island¹⁶ required all children between 7 and 16 years of age to attend school during the entire school term, with the following exceptions: (1) Children between 14 and 16 years of age who were "lawfully employed at labor, or at service, or engaged in business;" (2) children who had completed the first eight grades; (3) children whose physical or mental condition made attendance inexpedient or impracticable; (4) children who were not provided with suitable clothing, and whose parents were unable to furnish such clothing for them; and (5) children excluded from school "by virtue of some general law or regulation."

The law also required a certificate for every child between 14 and 16 years of age employed in any factory, manufacturing, or business establishment.¹⁷

Fifteen children 7 years of age and over included in the study had never attended school. Some of these children were supposed by their families to be mentally defective, but no record was found to show that they had been excused from school attendance. Other children had left school to work, but no records could be found of their ever having taken out employment certificates. Still others had received employment certificates, but either had never been employed or had left their positions to work at home. A few children who had obtained special permission to leave school temporarily, in some cases because of illness in the family, had remained away permanently and were doing home work. In one case two boys were excused from school with the recommendation that they be admitted to special classes, but their parents kept them at home to help in pairing and packing shoe laces.

Several school principals who had charge of large numbers of children who did home work said that this work kept children from school. "We have run across several instances where children stayed away from school because of home work," remarked one principal. He said that the attendance at his school was poorer than that at any

¹⁶ General Laws, Rhode Island, 1909, ch. 72, sec. 1, as amended by Acts of 1917, ch. 1492.

¹⁷ General Laws, Rhode Island, 1909, ch. 78, sec. 1, as amended by Acts of 1916, ch. 1378.

other school in the city, and he attributed this fact to one of two conditions: Ignorance of the school laws on the part of the parents; or the large amount of factory work done at home by the children. One superintendent of schools said that a former truant officer complained about the children staying away from school to do industrial work in the home. A principal stated that children were constantly staying at home to help their mothers, and he was under the impression that they might really be helping at home work. The head of a school in the heart of the home-work district said that children were kept at home to work or were sent to school late after calling at the factory for work, and that this fact constituted the chief evil of the home-work system.

State and Federal child-labor laws.

The Rhode Island child-labor law¹⁸ required that no child under 14 years of age should be employed in any factory, manufacturing, or business establishment, while the Federal law¹⁹ provided "That no producer, manufacturer, or dealer shall ship or deliver for shipment in interstate or foreign commerce * * * any article or commodity the product of any mill, cannery, workshop, factory, or manufacturing establishment, situated in the United States, in which within thirty days prior to the removal of such product therefrom children under the age of fourteen years have been employed or permitted to work, or children between the ages of fourteen years and sixteen years have been employed or permitted to work more than eight hours in any day, or more than six days in any week, or after the hour of seven o'clock postmeridian, or before the hour of six o'clock antemeridian."

Altogether, 2,016, or 86.2 per cent, of the home workers included in this study were under 14 years of age.

Workers, manufacturers, and other citizens frequently declared that home work was a means of "getting around" the child-labor laws. One of the manufacturers stated the situation plainly, from his point of view, when he said: "The ablest time in a child's life is from 12 to 14; the fingers are nimble and quick to catch on. The Government steps in and says the child can't work in the factory under 14; ergo, home work. Able, healthy girls from 14 up want to work and need the money. Government steps in and says they can't work more than 8 hours; again home work is forced upon the manufacturer. The Government does not seem to see the point of view of business or labor." On the other hand, some manufacturers deplored the evasion of child-labor laws.

¹⁸ General Laws, Rhode Island, 1909, ch. 78, sec. 1, as amended by Acts of 1916, ch. 1378.

¹⁹ This law went into effect Sept. 1, 1917, and was declared unconstitutional June 3, 1918. Hence it was in effect during only 5 of the 12 months covered by this study.

State law limiting hours of labor.

Under the Rhode Island law women and minors under 16 years of age were not permitted to work more than 54 hours a week or 10 hours a day in any factory, manufacturing, mechanical, business, or mercantile establishment.²⁰

Manufacturers who gave out home work to their women and minor factory employees were deliberately thwarting the purpose of this law. One of the manufacturers said: "This is the way we beat the law. We have a slack season in our industry, and when there is a rush period—that is, the regular season—the girls like to take work home. They can't work overtime in the factory." Some manufacturers opposed overtime work in evasion of the law, and one of them said: "I would like to see home work prohibited. Eight hours a day is enough for all people. Women should take care of their homes and children and should certainly not do home work."

State workmen's compensation law.

Under the Rhode Island law²¹ factory workers were compensated for injuries received in the course of their duties, but no such protection was accorded to home workers. Hence producers could lessen their expenditures for insurance and medical services by the use of the home-work system. As already stated, foot presses were often installed in the homes and operated by children, and home workers reported frequent accidents from these presses. Injuries received in the performance of industrial work in the home were not covered by the Rhode Island workmen's compensation law.

FACTORY WORK IN THE SCHOOLS.

It was found that in a number of instances factory work was done by children either in the classrooms of the public schools or in the homes at the suggestion of teachers. During the school canvass agents of the Children's Bureau, when visiting classrooms in various schools, saw the children in the special classes carding snaps and stringing rosary beads during the school session. When questioned about this the supervisor of special classes in one of the cities said that the appropriation for manual training work in these classes had been cut and the teachers were put on their own resources to obtain materials. In this predicament some teachers had resorted to factory work. The supervisor said, however, that she disapproved the practice, and in a case reported to her a short time before had forbidden its continuance. Two teachers of special classes reported that they

²⁰ General Laws, Rhode Island, 1909, ch. 249, sec. 22, as amended by Acts of 1915, ch. 1218.

²¹ Rhode Island. Acts of 1912, ch. 831, as amended by Acts of 1913, ch. 936 and 937, by Acts of 1915, ch. 1268, and by Acts of 1917, ch. 1534.

had permitted their pupils to card snaps for a period each day during the Red Cross drive in the spring of 1918. One of these teachers said that most of the children attending the school in which she taught worked on either snaps or rosary beads, and that she thought in general it was a good practice. "Children should be kept off the streets, and that can't be done unless there is some occupation provided for them in their homes," she said. "There is no danger of children being overworked in this district; the trouble is they are all too lazy." She thought it especially important that the feeble-minded children in the special classes should be kept busy every minute of the day.

Other teachers reported that they had kept children after school to do factory work in order to raise money for various war funds. In one case the children worked on chain fasteners for 15 minutes after school each day, while stories were read aloud to them. One hundred children working 15 minutes three afternoons a week—that is, for a total of 45 minutes—could do 50 gross of the fasteners and earn \$1 each week, a rate per child of $1\frac{1}{4}$ cents an hour. Another teacher suggested to her pupils that each one should work 15 minutes a day on snaps in order to earn 10 or 15 cents a week toward the payment of their pledges. She put on the blackboard the name of a contractor who gave out snaps and rosary beads, so that the children would know where to go for the work. This teacher said, nevertheless, that in some cases the effects of home work had seemed to her detrimental. The superintendent of schools in this city said that the teachers had been under great pressure to obtain funds, so that he did not greatly blame them for resorting to these methods, but that he did not think in future he would permit factory work in connection with the schools.

In another instance tags were strung after school hours in a seventh-grade classroom for one week before the Christmas holidays in order to raise money for an entertainment to which each room was expected to contribute \$5. The work was wholly voluntary. Twenty children could do 5,000 tags in an hour and a half by dividing the process. Some of them got the strings ready, others put them through the tags and tied them, and still others bunched the tags. Yet with this efficient procedure the 20 children could earn only 60 cents in the hour and a half.

In still another case a former school principal said that one class had worked for 15 minutes each day at stringing tags and the money earned (which usually amounted to \$3 or \$4 a week) was contributed to the Red Cross or for the relief of European war orphans. He said he introduced factory work into the school because the other schools in the city were doing it.

RETARDATION AMONG CHILD WORKERS.

Almost three-tenths of the home-working children between 9 and 13 years old who reported their school grades, as shown in Table XVIII, were retarded, one-tenth of them being two or more grades below the very conservative standard adopted as a measure of retardation at their various ages.²²

TABLE XVIII.—*Retardation, by age; children 9 to 13 years of age reporting home work in 1918.*¹

Age.	Children aged 9 to 13 years whose grades were reported.								
	Total.	Retarded.						Normal.	
		Total.		2 years or over.		1 year.			
		Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.
Total, 9 to 13 years....	1,359	389	28.6	145	10.7	244	18.0	744	54.7
9 years.....	231	36	15.6	5	2.2	31	13.4	146	63.2
10 years.....	258	49	19.0	10	3.9	39	15.1	168	65.1
11 years.....	301	86	28.6	29	9.6	57	18.9	167	55.5
12 years.....	290	98	33.8	40	13.8	58	20.0	137	47.2
13 years.....	279	120	43.0	61	21.9	59	21.1	126	45.2

Age.	Children aged 9 to 13 years whose grades were reported—Continued.						Children aged 9 to 13 years whose grades were not reported.		
	Advanced.						In un-graded classes.	In special classes.	Not re-ported.
	Total.		Over 1 year.		2 years or over.				
	Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.			
Total, 9 to 13 years....	226	16.6	179	13.2	47	3.5	56	29	17
9 years.....	49	21.2	37	16.0	12	5.2	3	2	5
10 years.....	41	15.9	31	12.0	10	3.9	6	4	5
11 years.....	48	15.9	40	13.3	8	2.7	12	8	1
12 years.....	55	19.0	42	14.5	13	4.5	15	6	4
13 years.....	33	11.8	29	10.4	4	1.4	20	9	2

¹ A child was considered to be retarded who at 9 years of age had not completed the second grade, at 10 the third grade, at 11 the fourth grade, at 12 the fifth grade, and at 13 the sixth grade. The ages shown are the ages as of December, 1918; in classifying the children as to retardation, their ages are estimated as of the end of the school year, when they completed their grades.

The percentage of retarded children was least, less than one-fifth, among the 9-year-old children, increasing with each year of age until at 13 years more than two-fifths of all the child home workers who reported their grades were found to be retarded, over half of them two or more years.

²² The standard of retardation adopted was as follows: Children were considered to be retarded who at 9 years of age had not completed the second grade, at 10 the third grade, at 11 the fourth grade, at 12 the fifth grade, and at 13 the sixth grade.

To what extent, if any, home work was a factor in producing retardation, it is impossible to determine. A low standard of living and non-English-speaking parentage were no doubt in many cases causes of slow progress in school.

The increase in the amount of retardation with each year of age may have been due partly to the fact that the children of less than normal mentality do not reach the limit of their capacity to learn during the earlier years of their school life, and so do not influence retardation figures so strikingly as in later years. It may be, however, that the increase was a direct result of home work, since on the one hand the older children probably did a greater amount of home work than the younger ones, and, on the other hand, these older children were often expected to do more or less home studying, which was impossible if they were burdened with industrial work after the school day was over.

While an hour or two a day spent at work need not in itself seriously interfere with a child's success in school, it is certain that periods of work after school or in the evening, or both, leave little or no time or inclination either for home study or for proper rest and recreation. Under these circumstances it is not to be expected that children will appear in the schoolroom alert and refreshed, ready and able to get the most out of the instruction furnished.

POSSIBLE DANGERS TO HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY.

Many of the persons interviewed who opposed home work did so upon the ground that it endangered the health of the community because it was sometimes carried on in homes where there was contagious disease. The canvass on this point was not complete, since at the beginning of the study the families were not questioned about sickness; but after about one-fifth of the schedules had been taken every family interviewed was asked whether factory work was in the home at any time when a member of the family was sick and, if so, whether the sick person worked on it during his illness or while convalescing. If the family was known to the District Nursing Association or the Society for Organizing Charity the records of these agencies were consulted to ascertain, if possible, what was the physician's diagnosis of the case in question. It is sufficient for the purpose of this report merely to give instances of home work being done in homes where there was contagious disease, without taking up the question as to whether or not disease can be transmitted from one person to another by means of goods manufactured in homes where such disease is present.

Influenza was stated to have been present in the homes of 91 families while work was being done. In some cases the patients worked

during illness or convalescence. Every member of one family had had influenza, and all had strung tags during their illness. In another home, where the whole family was ill, lace was in the home during the entire time, and "they would take it up as they felt better." However, all lace coming from homes where there was influenza was disinfected at the factory.

Among the other diseases reported by the families studied were pneumonia, mumps, typhoid fever, measles, whooping cough, tonsillitis, diphtheria, tuberculosis, and syphilis. The Rhode Island State Board of Health considered most of these diseases communicable and dangerous to the public health,^{22a} and in most of them quarantine was required. In every instance the work was in the house at the time of the illness and in some cases it was being done by the person affected.

One woman said that her three children carded and packed jewelry all the time they were ill with measles. Children who were kept out of school because they had whooping cough did tag stringing and thread drawing on lace at home. In other instances children with eruptions on their faces were found doing home work.

In addition to 7 cases in which tuberculosis was reported by the families, there were found on the records of social agencies reports of 12 other cases of this disease in the families included in the study. A mother who worked every day at putting screws in earrings and linking chain fasteners had been ill since 1913 and was known as a tuberculosis case. In another family where the mother, father, and two children carded snaps and strung tags, the father and one child were recorded as positive cases of tuberculosis, while the diagnosis recorded for the other child was "suspected T. B." Another man who was unable to do any outside work and who was reported as in the last stages of tuberculosis, did work on lace as his sole means of supporting his family.

Along with the possibility, which these instances demonstrate, that any product made in a Rhode Island home might have been handled by a person so seriously diseased as to be excluded from a factory, it is important to consider the way in which some of the products are used by the consumers. Such objects as beads, chains, rings, and toys are continually handled and are sometimes put in the mouth, especially by children. The assembling of these articles by home workers, as well as the making of ice-cream boxes and the shelling of peanuts, was probably a menace to the public health.

^{22a} See General Laws, Rhode Island, 1909, ch. 110, as amended by Acts of 1913, ch. 939, and by Acts of 1917, ch. 1520; Reports of State Board of Health of Rhode Island.

INDUSTRIAL ASPECTS OF HOME WORK.

The home work of children in Rhode Island was only part of a labor system which affected individuals of all ages and both sexes. Up to this point the discussion has related almost entirely to home work from the point of view of the workers—especially the children—engaged in it, but any consideration of the subject must also take into account the standpoint of the manufacturer as well as of the worker. It is necessary, therefore, to take up briefly such questions as: What industries used the home work system, manufacturers' reasons for the use of the system, methods of obtaining home workers, the actual distribution of home work, methods of payment, and the contract system.

INDUSTRIES USING THE HOME-WORK SYSTEM.

Industries which lend themselves to the system of home work are those which utilize a large amount of hand labor in the production of small and inexpensive wares. Home work is possible when articles or material in quantity can conveniently be distributed from the factory to the homes and worked on by hand or with the aid only of hand tools or small machines; where the product is inexpensive, also, the manufacturer can let work go outside the factory without great risk of financial loss through spoilage or loss of the goods distributed. Processes requiring large machinery and the working of heavy and bulky materials must be carried on in the factory, and in the case of expensive materials the manufacturer naturally does not wish to assume the risks involved in sending such work outside the plant.

In this study the jewelry industry was found to be the largest distributor of home work. This industry might not at first thought seem to be distinguished by cheapness of product. However, a great volume of cheap articles is placed on the market each year. Providence is the chief jewelry manufacturing center in the United States,²⁸ producing 25.8 per cent of all the jewelry manufactured in this country.

In 1914 jewelry was second in importance among the industries of Providence; 277 jewelry establishments were in business in the city, employing 8,479 persons; and the value of the product was

²⁸ U. S. Bureau of the Census, Abstract of the Census of Manufacturers, 1914, p. 270.

\$20,934,000.²⁴ Of the 153 establishments covered by this inquiry 93, or more than three-fifths, were jewelry establishments and all but — of them were in Providence.

The lace industry, another large distributor of home work, is centered in the adjoining city of Pawtucket, which is one of the most important lace manufacturing cities in the country.²⁴ Other home work industries were divided between the two cities.

Table XIX shows the industries found distributing home work and the location of the establishments studied.

TABLE XIX.—*Industry and location; establishments which reported distributing home work in 1918.*

Industry. ¹	Establishments.		
	Total.	Providence.	Pawtucket.
All industries.....	153	139	23
Jewelry products.....	93	90	3
Textile products.....	22	9	13
Cotton small wares.....	9	4	5
Lace.....	6	—	6
Knit goods.....	5	3	2
Other.....	2	2	—
Paper products and printing.....	9	7	2
Food products.....	3	3	—
Miscellaneous.....	26	21	5
Novelties and toys.....	8	6	2
Brushes and buttons.....	7	5	2
Hardware and sporting goods.....	4	4	—
Articles of war origin.....	2	2	—
All other.....	5	4	1

¹ For detailed description of kinds of work included in each classification, see pp. 28-33.

No attempt was made to determine, by means of a direct survey of all the manufacturing establishments in the territory covered, the total number distributing home work. The 153 establishments covered by the inquiry were discovered through the home workers and contractors who received work from them, through the reports of Federal child-labor law inspectors, and through advertisements for home workers in the local newspapers. These 153 establishments made a regular practice of distributing home work in 1918, and they are probably fairly representative of concerns giving home work to children or to families in which children worked.

PRINCIPAL KINDS OF HOME WORK.

An analysis of the data obtained shows that 142 different kinds of work were distributed by the 153 manufacturers who were questioned. Even this does not represent all of the varieties given out, as some of those who were engaged in the manufacture of cheap jewelry or novelties had no record of all the kinds of work given

²⁴ See Industries of Providence and Pawtucket, Appendix, p. 73.

out during the year. In the cheap jewelry and novelty industries each season brings with it new styles, and some process of nearly all these is done in homes. The fact that 153 manufacturers distributed as many as 142 different kinds of work is explained by the absence of standard methods in manufacturing these products. A process in the manufacture of a service pin, for instance, which one manufacturer would have completed inside his plant, another sent out to the homes. Again, some processes could be done by press or by hand and the method used varied with the different manufacturers, depending largely upon the size of the establishment.

TABLE XX.—*Establishments distributing and children engaged in specified kinds of home work in 1918.*

Kind of home work.	Establishments distributing each specified kind of home work. ¹	Children engaged in each specified kind of home work.
Setting stones.....	34	127
Pinning up jewelry.....	12	31
Soldering jewelry.....	10	6
Carding jewelry.....	9	60
Hitching up jewelry.....	9	9
Linking chains (not celluloid).....	9	5
Assembling ribbon watch bracelets and fobs.....	7	12
Linking rosary beads.....	7	199
Pairing and packing shoe laces.....	7	14
Stringing tags.....	5	413
Wiring rosary beads.....	5	192
Assembling celluloid novelty chains or bracelets.....	4	19
Assembling jewelers' brushes.....	4	6
Linking cuff links.....	4	14
Stringing up for electroplating.....	4	17
Thread drawing on lace.....	4	408
Carding snaps.....	3	529
Making cardboard and pasteboard boxes.....	3	11
Putting together chain fasteners.....	3	51
Scalloping lace.....	3	34

¹ Not shown if less than 3 establishments reported distributing the specified kind of home work, nor unless children in the study were reported engaged in it. Each establishment counted for each kind of home work distributed.

Table XX gives the number of establishments distributing specified kinds of home work, and also the number of children engaged in each specified kind. In considering this table it should be borne in mind that the establishments varied greatly in size and that 5 or 10 small concerns combined may not have distributed as much work as 1 large establishment. Thus a large number of establishments giving out a certain kind of work does not indicate a correspondingly large number of children employed. (Cf. Table IX.) For example, 34, or 22 per cent, of the 153 establishments gave out stone setting, and only 127, or 5.4 per cent, of the 2,338 children did this kind of work; while on the other hand 3 of the 153 establishments, only 2 per cent, gave out snaps to be carded, and this work was done by 529, or 22.6 per cent, of the children scheduled.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOME WORK.**Number of home workers.**

The number of persons to whom home work was directly distributed by these establishments was at least 2,019. This figure does not represent the number of home workers actually engaged in work on material given out by these shops. Whole families commonly worked on the material given out to one individual, and in many cases the individuals receiving the work were contractors, whose business it was to distribute the work to others, some of them having a clientele of 100 or more workers, who in turn distributed it to their families.

The distribution of home work was not confined to the small shops. While 52 of the establishments distributing home work employed less than 20 factory workers each, and 37 employed from 20 to 50 workers in the shop, 30 employed from 50 to 100 inside workers and 32 employed 100 or more inside workers. Some of the larger establishments, employing more than 100 factory workers, reported the largest numbers of home workers.²⁵

Seasonal and irregular nature of work.

More than half the jewelry establishments reported some distribution of home work during the entire year, but more than one-third of them distributed it during six months or less. Of the establishments manufacturing cotton small wares and paper goods, only one-third distributed home work throughout the year. Half the lace factories reported distribution during 12 months. Of the manufacturers as a whole, a majority reported some distribution throughout the year.

The busiest season in the jewelry industry, according to the reports of various manufacturers, was about one month before Easter and in the fall from September to December. Most of the producers reported distributing the largest amounts of home work during these months. Rosary beads were distributed for linking and wiring to a greater extent during the month before Easter and in November and December than at any other time of the year. However, the manufacturing establishments that made a practice of having all the wiring and linking done at home distributed some work throughout the year to keep the workers from drifting to other employment. Home work provided the manufacturers with a temporary supply of labor during the busy season, and it was also called on for the filling of rush orders which might come in at any season of the year.

²⁵ See General Table 6, Appendix, p. 80.

Table XXI shows the number of months during which the various industries gave out home work, according to the number of establishments distributing it.

TABLE XXI.—*Number of months in which home work was distributed, by industry; establishments which reported distributing home work in 1918.*

Industry group.	Establishments distributing home work for specified number of months.													
	Total.	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Not reported.
All industries.....	153	93	1	3	1	1	2	5	2	10	11	10	7	7
Jewelry products.....	93	53		1	1		1	3	2	8	7	7	6	4
Textile products.....	22	12		1		1	1	2		1	1	1	1	1
Paper products and printing.....	9	5								1	1	1		1
Food products.....	3	3												
Miscellaneous.....	26	20	1	1							2	1		1

Methods of obtaining home workers.

Many of the manufacturers depended largely upon applicants for their supply of home workers. Thirty-eight producers secured a sufficient number of workers in this way and never resorted to any other method of obtaining them. They said they could always count upon a certain number of women who were prepared to accept work which they could do at home in their spare moments. Some producers stated that they always had many more applicants than they could supply with work. In some cases a certain amount of skill was required on the part of applicants. This was true particularly of the establishments which used relatively expensive materials, and where the manufactured article had to come up to a standard of good workmanship. For instance, in the embroidery of silk hosiery the applicants had to present proof of experience before work was given to them.

In 74 of the 153 establishments home work was given out to the factory employees. The following reasons were given for the preference for inside workers: (1) The work required skill gained by previous experience; (2) the work was on solid gold jewelry which could not be intrusted to unknown persons; and (3) through close touch with the workers home work could be hurried up. In selecting home workers from inside help, preference was given to those having large families who would help with the work. Some manufacturers stated that it was definitely against their policy to give out home work to inside employees for the reason that factory work suffered after the workers had worked at night.

Twenty-five manufacturers stated that they were in the habit of advertising to secure an adequate supply of home workers. Ten

manufacturers depended upon soliciting for part of their supply of home workers. They would either write to former employees or send out one or two of their employees or contractors to ask friends to begin home work. Twenty-six manufacturers distributed part of their home work through contractors, and seven of these depended wholly upon contractors for their labor supply.

Checking up the work distributed.

Most of the manufacturers weighed, measured, examined, or counted all the work when distributed and returned. Twelve manufacturers said they took no precautionary measures. They either trusted the workers to return the goods or considered the work not worth the trouble of checking up. Only 24 of the 153 manufacturers made deductions for loss or spoilage. Of these, 16 made cash deductions, 4 had the work done over, and 4 used both methods.

Place and method of payment.

Of the 153 manufacturers, 133 paid the home workers at the factory, 6 paid at the homes, and 13 paid either at the factory or at the homes. The home workers were paid every week by 111 producers, while 26 other producers paid them at the completion of every job. Six producers used both methods of payment. In one instance the manufacturer paid home workers twice a week. It must be borne in mind that contractors, who were reported by manufacturers as home workers, after being paid by the manufacturers for the work they turned in, had their own methods of paying the persons to whom they distributed work. These methods are described on page 64.

The contract system.

A contractor, as defined for the purpose of the present study, was a person who obtained work from manufacturers or manufacturing establishments and redistributed it to persons other than his own family. The contract system, besides being an interesting link in the home-work system, is important for the purposes of this study because the kinds of work in which children were engaged in the greatest numbers were largely distributed by contractors.

Forty-seven contractors who gave out work for 30 days or more in 1918 and who paid lower rates to the home workers than they received from the manufacturers are considered here. Eighteen other contractors who distributed work during 1918 were excluded from consideration, 1 because he gave inadequate information, 8 because they distributed work for less than 30 days, and 9 because they stated that they paid the home workers the same rates that they received from the manufacturers. The motive of the latter group was given as "charity," or to obtain help in completing work within a speci-

fied time. There was difficulty in arriving at an accurate estimate of the extent of the contracting system, because persons reported as contractors often denied being in the business or refused to give information.

Of the 47 contractors, 19 reported distribution of work to less than 10 home workers each, 18 reported 10 to 24 home workers, 1 reported 25, 1 reported 38, 2 reported 40, 2 reported 50, and 4 reported 100, 101, 175, and 210, respectively. The last 4, reaching 100 or more persons each, distributed the linking and wiring of rosary beads and thread drawing on lace.

The maximum number of persons to whom the 47 contractors gave out home work in 1918 was 1,203. A large proportion of these persons redistributed the work to their families, while a few of them acted as subcontractors, distributing the work outside their families.

The 47 contractors, of whom 41 lived in Providence and 6 in Pawtucket, distributed 34 kinds of work. Twenty-eight gave out jewelry work, including snaps; 5 gave out celluloid novelties; and 3, lace.

Twenty contractors distributed work throughout the entire year, 11 distributed it during 3 months or less, 4 during 4 months, 3 during 5 months, and 2 during 6 months.

The methods used by contractors to secure home workers were similar to those adopted by the manufacturers. Employment of applicants, advertising, and personal solicitation were the most common methods reported. In the main, the contractors said they had little difficulty in obtaining the required number of workers, and some contractors reported more applicants than they had work for. Just as certain establishments became well known as distributors of home work, so certain persons became recognized as the distributing agents for particular kinds of work. Contractors frequently were known to the workers not by their names but as "the snap woman," "the lady with the beads on T— street," or "the lace man."

Of the 47 contractors, 39 had the home workers call at their homes for their pay, 3 sent the money to the workers' homes, and 3 utilized both methods of payment.²⁶ Thirty-two contractors paid their workers every week, 8 paid on the return of every job, 2 paid by either the job or week, and 5 had no definite time of payment.

Thirty-nine contractors said that they made no deductions from the home workers' pay for delivery, collections, loss, or spoilage. They said they made it a policy to pay even when the work was imperfect, to preserve their reputation for fair dealing. On this point, however, the testimony of the contractors was at times contradicted by that of the home workers with whom they had dealings.

²⁶ Two contractors did not report definitely on this point.

As to the profitableness of contracting, two kinds of evidence were obtained, the contractors' statements of their weekly earnings and the comparative rates received by contractors from the producers and paid by them to home workers.

Only a few statements as to weekly earnings could be obtained. A contractor distributing work to 10 persons said he made \$9 a week. Another said he made \$50 in 9 months giving out work to 15 or 20 persons. One woman said she made from \$7 to \$9 a week, while another stated that her husband made \$36 in 3 weeks. A man who distributed cartridge clips said he earned \$45 a week, but that half this sum went toward the upkeep of the truck used in delivery.

Table XXII shows that the contractors' profits exceeded 20 per cent for most kinds of work, though in many cases this was not entirely clear, as the contractor bore the cost of loss or spoilage. This is significant as showing the rate of profit which went to the contractor rather than that the contractor received any large sums.

TABLE XXII.—*Comparison of rates of pay received and paid by contractors distributing home work, according to kind of work, 1918.*

Kind of work.	Rates of pay reported by contractors.			
	Received from manufacturers.		Paid to home workers.	
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.
Assembling cartridge clips, per 1,000.....	\$0.35	\$0.35	\$0.25	\$0.25
Assembling celluloid novelty chains or bracelets:				
Per gross of links.....	.10	.12	.07	.10
Per piece.....	.01½	.01½	.01½	.01½
Assembling novelty shoe buttons, per gross.....	.06	.08	.06	.06
Assembling toys, per gross.....	.18	.18	.14	.14
Carding shoe buttons, per card of 444.....	.02	.03	.01½	.02½
Carding snaps, per gross.....	.01	.02	.00½	.01
Enameling or hand painting dots on dice, per gross.....	.50	1.00	.30	.72
Fusing copper terminals, per gross.....	.04	.04	.03	.03
Linking and putting chain fasteners on necklaces, per gross.....	.15	.15	.12	.12
Linking rosary beads, per dozen chains.....	.18	.21	.15	.18
Painting (soft enameling) jewelry (includes service pins, flags, and patriotic fobs), per gross.....	.36	.72	.50	.60
Pinning up jewelry, per gross.....	.07	.07	.05	.05
Putting screws in earrings, per gross.....	.02½	.04½	.02½	.04
Setting stones (includes pasting pearls and stones), per gross of stones.....	.04	.20	.02	.19
Stringing up slicker hooks (not for electroplating), per gross.....	.02	.02	.01	.01
Thread drawing on lace, per 100 yards.....	.06	.06	.04	.05
Wiring and capping rosary beads, per mess ¹.....	.30	.40	.27	.37
Wiring rosary beads, per mess ¹.....	.21	.23	.16	.20

¹ A "mess" was composed sometimes of 1,000 and sometimes of 1,200 beads.

The majority of manufacturers did not look with favor upon the contract system. On the other hand, the 26 producers who availed themselves of the services of contractors reported four distinct advantages of the system: (1) Convenience in distributing work; (2) centering of responsibility for loss, spoilage, and return of work

on time; (3) shifting to the contractor of responsibility for using child labor and for paying low rates; and (4) increase in labor supply, since workers at a distance would call at a neighbor's house for work when they would not come to the factory for it. A number of manufacturers opposed the contract system because they considered it unfair to the workers, while others stated that they had found that it increased the cost of production.

MANUFACTURERS' ATTITUDE TOWARD HOME WORK OF CHILDREN.

The attitude of the manufacturers regarding the use of children on home work varied. There were manufacturers who, though they were opposed to the employment of children on the factory work distributed to homes, said that they could not control the situation. The president of a jewelry establishment which distributed home work to a number of workers said: "I gave out an order forbidding the employment of children, but it was difficult to enforce. An inspector could have caught me almost any moment. I stopped children from working whenever I came across any."

In several instances the press was taken out of the home and more work refused when children under 14 were found engaged on presses making military buttons. One mother said: "Boss came in and found my boy working on the press. He said, 'No more work; boy not 14.' I said, 'Take press out,' so he took the press out of the house."

One establishment attempted to prevent the use of children by refusing to give work to families where they knew that children would be employed. Another made all children who applied for home work bring notes from their parents stating that they (the parents) were responsible for the work. Other producers were more interested in having the work done than in who did it and disclaimed knowledge as to who was engaged on the work. Among the latter was the owner of a jewelry establishment who refused to give any data as to the rates paid for work given out or as to the number of home workers employed. He said, "Children engaged in home work? Well, this is none of my business; doesn't interest me. All I care about is to have the work returned and satisfactorily completed." An official of another jewelry establishment which distributed home work said that his employees took the work home at night once in a while and the company did not object. He did not care who did it, or where it was done, provided the employees returned it completed.

On the other hand, some manufacturers freely and frankly admitted that children worked on the goods they distributed. The owner of a jewelry establishment which has its snaps carded in the homes said: "All my home workers are children from 7 to 14 years of age who are glad to make a little spending money. I wouldn't give the work out to anyone but children, as the rate of pay is too low."

A manufacturer who distributed the stringing of tags said he gave this work to children "to keep them busy and teach them habits of industry."

A representative of a jewelry manufacturing firm which gave out home work said: "When the man went to deliver the work in his automobile, the children literally swarmed about him. One night after school there were 200 children at the factory for chain-clasp work. Children can do it quicker than adults. A child 3 years old can do it at home."

The producers who commented on the use of child labor on home work invariably told the agents that it was not usual to distribute directly to the children. In most cases, the names of the children would not appear on the pay roll. If any names were carried by the firm, they were those of the parents.

MANUFACTURERS' REASONS FOR USING THE HOME-WORK SYSTEM.

To determine the reasons for using the home-work system, every producer interviewed was asked why he distributed home work. It was sometimes difficult for those interviewed to answer specifically, because, in many instances, more than one motive was involved. As a rule, however, the producers were able to state definitely their reasons for using the system.

Five chief reasons were reported by the 153 producers. Shortage of labor was the explanation most often given. The next most frequent explanation was saving in cost of production, either because home workers received lower wages than factory workers, or because of the elimination of overhead expenses—rent, light, heat, insurance, etc. The need for temporary help for seasonal or rush work was the third reason. Giving out home work was simply a custom, according to the statement of other manufacturers, while a number asserted that they were actuated chiefly by motives of charity. The reasons for the use of home work are shown in Table XXIII, according to industry and the number of manufacturers reporting each.

TABLE XXIII.—*Reason assigned for use of home-work system, by industry; establishments which reported distributing home work in 1918.*

Industry.	Establishments reporting specified reason for use of home-work system.						
	Total.	Shortage of labor.	Saving in cost.	Seasonal or rush work.	Custom.	Motives of charity.	All other reasons.
All industries.....	153	57	41	127	12	11	5
Jewelry products.....	93	38	23	18	5	7	2
Textile products.....	22	8	7	4	4	1	2
Paper products and printing...	9	1	3	3	1	1	—
Food products.....	3	2	1	1	—	—	—
Miscellaneous.....	26	8	8	5	2	2	1

¹ Includes 10 establishments where special novelties were manufactured and 6 cases where special rush orders for contract articles were being filled.

An analysis of the statements made by the 57 manufacturers who resorted to home work because of the shortage of labor shows that the saving in cost was an additional consideration in some cases. Such comments as the following were made: "The girls working in the jewelry industry left for higher wages in the ammunition factory," and "When I can get employees they are girls new from the munitions works, who insist on the munition wages even when learning. I can't afford to give what they ask, so I get the work done outside."

Among the 41 manufacturers who gave saving in cost of production as the primary reason for distributing home work were included 21 who assigned saving in cost of labor as the principal reason and 20 who said that their chief motive was to reduce overhead expenses. Some of those in the latter group paid the same rates to inside and outside employees, figuring that the saving on light, rent, and insurance was worth while. Many in the former group candidly remarked that they were persuaded to distribute home work partly by the presence of a group of workers who were willing to take it, irrespective of whether or not a living wage was paid. Typical comments were: "People depending upon home-work earnings for a living don't do this work. It is pin-money work." "People do it for the movies, not because of necessity." One jewelry manufacturer stated the comparative cost of inside and outside labor as follows: "If we had the work on chain fasteners done inside, the labor would cost us 6 or 7 cents per gross compared with 1½ cents per gross when done outside. The labor on carding of snaps if done inside would cost 10 cents per gross, as compared with 2 cents outside."

Since inside workers were usually paid time rates, while home workers were paid piece rates, it was difficult to calculate the comparative cost of inside and outside labor. This was done, however,

in a few cases. A jewelry firm paid its home workers 11 cents a gross for setting stones. Inside employees doing the same work received \$12 for a 48-hour week. The owner, who said that a daily record was kept of the amount of stone setting completed inside, thought that the average worker could finish 12 gross in an 8½-hour day, making the labor cost inside about 18 cents a gross, while that outside was 11 cents a gross.

Home workers for one shop got 75 cents a dozen for wiring and linking rosary beads, while the labor cost inside was 80 cents to \$1.20 per dozen, since the factory workers were paid \$2.40 a day and could do from 2 to 3 dozen a day. Another firm paid home workers 25 cents to 30 cents a dozen for linking rosaries, while the factory workers, according to the superintendent, received 50 cents a dozen. For carding kettle-cover knobs one firm paid comparative rates of 7 cents a gross outside and 8 cents a gross inside. A celluloid novelty firm paid its home workers 50 cents a gross for cementing flowers on celluloid pins, while the inside workers were paid from \$9 to \$12 a week (for a 54-hour week) for the same work. A factory worker completed one-third of a gross an hour, making the labor cost 51 cents to 66 cents a gross.

Twenty-seven of the 153 manufacturers gave as their primary reason for the use of home work the fact that it enabled them to fill seasonal or rush orders without engaging extra factory help. Home workers provided the producer with a supply of labor which for the most part could be "hired and fired" at will. One jewelry manufacturer said: "Home work is an easy way of expanding and contracting labor forces rapidly. Inside workers can not be laid off; they have to be paid in slack as well as in busy seasons."

Home work also enabled manufacturers to experiment on novelties and specialties without a large investment or additional overhead expense. In the cheap jewelry trade novelties are continually springing up. Manufacturers can not tell in advance how great the demand for the new product will be, and do not wish to divert their employees from regular lines of production, but by the use of home work they can get orders filled as they come in. For example, there was a sudden great demand for "victory necklaces" in 1919, and manufacturers said they would not have been able to fill the orders without recourse to home work. They did not utilize their regular employees on this work, and hired no additional factory help.

The economic motive was very evident in the cases of the 125 producers who gave shortage of labor, saving in cost of production, and seasonal or rush work as the reasons for the distribution of home work. They effected savings by paying lower rates to home workers

than they were obliged to pay to their factory help, by avoiding additional overhead expenses, and by eliminating the necessity of engaging extra factory help during the rush seasons.

Those manufacturers who asserted that they gave out home work because it was the custom either of the firm or of the industry, or who said that they were actuated by motives of charity, sometimes gave as secondary motives the saving of factory space, the filling of rush orders, etc. "Home work is an advantage to everyone," said one of them. "It gets orders filled and it helps the people who do the work."

From the data presented, it seems that savings in cost entered into all the motives for the distribution of home work. Ninety-one, or nearly three-fifths, of the manufacturers who distributed home work in 1918 said that they experienced no disadvantages from the procedure. Sixty-two firms reported inconvenience, such as delay, trouble giving out the work, and inferior quality of the goods produced. However, it was evident that these disadvantages did not outweigh the economic advantages of the home-work system.

MANUFACTURERS' TESTIMONY ON PROBABLE EFFECTS OF PROHIBITION OF HOME WORK.

Each producer was asked what would be the probable effect on his business if home work were prohibited. As a rule they welcomed this opportunity to express their views and were candid in their comments.

Fifty-seven of the 153 manufacturers said that their business would be affected by the prohibition of home work. The estimated effect in these cases varied from "complete wrecking of the business" to "only a slight effect which could be adjusted with a few changes." Ninety-two manufacturers said that the prohibition of home work would have no effect on their business because the necessary readjustments could be made very easily. Among this latter group a number remarked, "I don't care what restrictions are made as long as we have the same chance as other manufacturers." The information regarding estimated effects of the prohibition of home work is given in Table XXIV.

TABLE XXIV.—*Effect of prohibition of home work, by industry; establishments which reported distributing home work in 1918.*

Industry.	Establishments distributing home work in 1918.			
	Total.	Probable effect of prohibition of home work.		
		Some injurious effect.	No injurious effect.	Not reported.
All industries.....	153	57	92	4
Jewelry products.....	93	31	60	2
Textile products.....	22	9	12	1
Cotton small wares.....	9		9	
Lace.....	6	5	1	
Knit goods.....	5	3	1	1
Other.....	2	1	1	
Paper products and printing.....	9	5	4	
Food products.....	3	1	2	
Miscellaneous.....	26	11	14	1
Novelties and toys.....	8	4	3	1
Brushes and buttons.....	7	3	4	
Hardware and sporting goods.....	4	3	1	
Articles of war origin.....	2		2	
All other.....	5	1	4	

It is noteworthy that in the jewelry industry, the largest distributor of home work, exactly one-third of the firms reported that prohibition of home work would injure their business. The lace industry stood out most prominently against the prohibition of home work, five of the six factories reporting that readjustments could be accomplished only at the cost of injury to the business.

Among the producers reporting that prohibition would have a serious effect was an officer in a large jewelry firm, who said: "When there is extra work to be done we can not get trained workers to come in, and it doesn't pay to train them for so short a time, whereas there are plenty of trained home workers available." A firm manufacturing rosaries reported that the prohibition of home work would mean a reduction of about 70 per cent in production during the busy season. Another jewelry firm's representative reported: "It would put me out of business. We would have to get new workers and enlarge our factory." An official of a lace mill which distributed its thread drawing to a number of home workers said: "We couldn't do business without home work. We couldn't get the help and would need too much space. If home work were discontinued, we might as well box our machinery and send it back to England."

On the other hand, some of the producers reporting that their business would be affected said that they would be able to make the necessary adjustments, such as paying more for labor, providing additional factory room, and hiring extra help during the rush seasons. They reported that certain cheap products would be eliminated. For example, in the case of one establishment manufacturing

a fairly high grade of jewelry, cheap bracelets were made outside as a side line. "We couldn't bother with those cheap things in the shop; we would have to stop making them," said the secretary of the company. The owner of a concern manufacturing ecclesiastical jewelry said: "It is only cheap rosaries that are made outside. We couldn't afford to pay the higher wages necessary if all were done inside. We would have to stop making the cheap ones."

Many manufacturers of the cheap articles on which much home work was done agreed that readjustments would not be difficult if all were "in the same boat." "I have never figured out whether or not it would be possible to dispense with home work," said the owner of a novelty firm, "but I wouldn't want to do anything others were not doing."

Among the 92 manufacturing establishments reporting that the prohibition of home work would have no effect on their business was a celluloid novelty concern employing a large number of persons both inside and outside. The owner said that the elimination of home work would have no effect on his business, since he had adequate space to do the work inside. The owner of a jewelry establishment which had many home workers said that the prohibition of home work would not affect producers seriously, although it would be difficult to get workers for short periods.

The fact that a large majority of manufacturers reported that prohibition of home work would not harm their business, and that this majority included some of the larger distributors of home work, was one of the most significant findings of the study.

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.¹ 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., 1914.²

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 ³	98	11,192,000	6,549
Cotton goods, including small wares.....	10	2,451,000	1,625
Printing and publishing ⁴	109	3,337,000	1,150

¹ U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Manufactures, 1914, vol. 1, p. 1389.

² 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.

³ 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.^a

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

^a U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Manufactures, 1914, vol. 2, p. 1389.

^b Includes cotton lace.

^c Includes hardware.

^d Includes bookbinding and blank-book making.

¹ U. S. Bureau of the Census, Abstract of the Census of Manufacturers, 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 miles² and has a population of 235,555, of which about two-thirds are native born.³ Pawtucket has an area of 8.94 square miles² and a population of 62,260.³ Here also about two-thirds are native born.³ Central Falls, with an area of 1.27 square miles² and a population of 23,936,³ has a slightly higher percentage of foreign born than the other two cities.³

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-

² Figures furnished by the geographer of the U. S. Census Bureau.

³ 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

¹ None of the kindergartens was included, and some of the first grades were omitted.