

When in 1924 Tessie heard that the boss in the laundry where she had worked for 10 years had been fired, she returned, and at the time of the survey she was back again at her old place, as a starcher earning \$14 a week, content with her job and her trade. Of her 18 years in this country, over 17 had been spent as a laundry worker. She had been entirely self-supporting throughout these years and had sent some money home to the old country but had not been able to save anything for emergencies or old age except small payments on a life-insurance policy. For \$5 a month she rents a room with light-house-keeping privileges. Her sole ambition is to be able to continue to be self-supporting.

*Interview No. 2.*—An early marriage did not give Anna T. the leisure and economic security she expected. Instead her burdens increased, and now she is glad if she has food and clothing for her family. In 1912, shortly after her father died in Hungary, Anna at the age of 16 came alone to the United States. With neither friends nor relatives to help her find work she followed women on their way to work and on her own initiative found a job in a cigar factory, where she began as a bunch maker and earned \$2.50 the first week. Within a year she married a laborer, but he was often ill, his job was too heavy, and he lost much time, so they could not count on a full week's pay. In the 10 years of her married life she had given birth to six children, four of whom were living at the time of the interview. But childbirth never interfered long with her status as a wage earner; she worked within a week or so of confinement and always returned when the babies were very little. Sometimes her baby was brought to the factory for her to nurse during working hours.

Since 1912 Anna has worked 9 hours, 10 hours, day after day, and now one week's pay barely covers the monthly rental of \$15. She lives in a dingy house with no gas and no sewer connection, but she is thankful that, having lived in communities where bunch makers are in demand, she has always been able to find work. Realizing how close they are to the poverty dead line, she added: "So much baby; if I no work, I no eat."

*Interview No. 3.*—In 1905 Agnes D., aged 17, accompanied by a friend, left her farm home in Galicia bound for America, thinking she would make more money and have an easier time in the land of opportunity. Her sister, who had come to Philadelphia some time before, secured the first job for Agnes as a domestic worker at \$4 a week, but she found it so hard that after two months she left it. Her sister then took Agnes to an agency and for a fee of \$1 Agnes was placed as a kitchen maid in a restaurant. Here her working day was from 5 a. m. to 11 p. m. Much of the time her hands were in hot water and the continuous standing made her feet tired and sore, but she hesitated to give up the job, since her sister had paid a fee to secure it for her, and she kept hoping that she would mind it less if she gave it a good trial. In about a year, having secured another job through the help of a friend, she quit the restaurant and began work "painting leather" (seasoning) in a tannery, at \$6 a week. She continued at this place for about eight years, until she married in 1914. Her husband proved to be no good and worked very irregularly, so in 1921, when the eldest boy was 7 years old and the children could shift for themselves, she returned to her old job in the tannery, where she is still employed. When she has a full week she can earn as much as \$17, but lately business has been too bad and she has forgotten what a full pay envelope looks like. She takes pride in her work and regrets that she can never do "measuring," as she does not know her "numbers." Measuring is one of the most desirable jobs in a leather plant, as the skins are measured automatically by a machine, which records their surface in square inches. The operator merely feeds the hides into the machine and copies the measurement, but Agnes can neither read nor write the numbers, for she has never attended school.

For three years this worker has been the chief support of the family, although the husband helps intermittently. She is concentrating all her energy to make ends meet, working by day in the tannery and by night at home, where, in addition to the housework for her own family, she washes for a lodger.

In contrast to the young women who come to this country and enter industry while they are girls are a few older women who, forced into industry in middle age, find the adjustment doubly difficult. Mrs. S. is typical of these.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**JAMES J. DAVIS, SECRETARY**

**WOMEN'S BUREAU**

**MARY ANDERSON, Director**

**BULLETIN OF THE WOMEN'S BUREAU, NO. 74**

# **THE IMMIGRANT WOMAN AND HER JOB**

By

**CAROLINE MANNING**



**SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY'S  
BRANCH LIBRARY  
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## APPENDIX.—SCHEDULE FORMS

### SCHEDULE I

This schedule was used for the interviews with the women in their homes.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WOMEN'S BUREAU

#### I. PERSONAL DATA

1. Name..... 2. Address.....
3. Time at present address..... 4. Marital status: S. M. W. S. D.
5. Present age..... Date of birth.....
6. Country of birth..... Province..... City.....
7. Race.....
8. Date of arrival..... Age at arrival.....
9. Yrs. in U. S..... Came alone..... With (spec.).....
10. Reason for coming to U. S.....
11. Citizenship: Naturalized..... Own act..... Father..... Husband.....  
First papers.....
12. Education:  
Yrs. attending full-time school: O. C..... U. S.....  
Part-time or night school: O. C....., U. S.....  
English: S. R. W. Other lang.: S. R. W. (spec.).....

#### II. LIVING CONDITION

##### A. With family (make-up of group):

1. Wage earners—

2. Non wage earners—

Person	Industry	Occupation	Nat.	Age	Person	Nat.	Age	School
Self.....								
.....								
.....								

3. No. earners: M... F... Total... 4. No. nonearners: M... F... Total...
5. No. of lodgers... 6. Total in house...
7. Own home..... 8. Amt. rent..... 9. No. of rooms.....
- B. Not with family:
  1. Room and board..... With whom?.....
  2. L. h. k..... With whom?.....
- Changes and dates in marital status since coming to U. S.....

NOTES: .....

.....

.....

#### III. INDUSTRIAL HISTORY

##### 1. Experience in own country:

Earned.....

Nonearned.....

2. Experience in U. S.:

Industry	Occupation	T. or P.	How secured	Fee	Training	Age begun	Date begun	Wage in past 4 weeks				
								1	2	3	4	
Present job:												
First job:								Duration	Reason for leaving			

First wage \_\_\_\_\_ Advances in wage \_\_\_\_\_  
 Influence in choice of job \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reason for first going to work \_\_\_\_\_  
 Experience between first and last job \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Periods of nonemployment:

Date	Duration	Reason	Reason for return to work

IV. SPECIAL INDUSTRIAL PROBLEMS

1. Unsuccessful attempts to secure work:

Date	Age	Industry	Occupation	Method used	Fee	Reason not secured

2. Cases of nonadjustment:

Date	Age	Industry	Occupation	Duration	Reason for leaving

3. Industrial accidents:

Date	Age	Occupation	Cause and manner of accident	Nature and extent of injury	Comp. paid	Time lost

V. INDUSTRIAL HOME WORK

1. Ind. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Nature of work \_\_\_\_\_ 3. How secured \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. Busy season \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Other home wrk. past year \_\_\_\_\_  
 6. Mos. of home wrk. past year \_\_\_\_\_  
 7. Earnings (individual or group):

Amt. last received	For what period	Amt. of work	Rate	Est. average weekly earnings

8. Hrs. of day. .... 9. Yrs. at home wrk. (overall) ..... 10. Yrs. unempl. ....  
 11. Other home workers \_\_\_\_\_

VI. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

1. Economic responsibility to family: -----
2. Home duties: All.---- Most.---- Part.---- Describe-----
3. Work done out of home.-----
4. Care of children.-----
5. Ambitions:
  - Education of children.-----
  - Other.-----
6. Affiliations:
  - Foreign societies.-----
  - Trade unions.-----
  - Other.-----

Employer's name	Address
-----	-----
-----	-----

NOTES: -----  
 -----  
 -----

Source of name.----- Informant.-----  
 Date.----- Agent.-----

SCHEDULE II

This questionnaire was filled out by the foreign-born women in the English classes of the Philadelphia public evening schools.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WOMEN'S BUREAU

1. Are you married?----- 2. Do you live with relatives?-----
3. Do you live with friends?-----
4. Do you live where you work?----- 5. What is your job now?-----
6. How old are you?----- 7. In what country were you born?-----
8. What language did you speak in your home in the old country?-----
9. How many years did you go to school in the old country?-----
10. What languages can you read?-----
11. What languages can you write?-----
12. How long have you been in the U. S.? Years.-----
13. How long have you been in school in the U. S.? Years.-----, months.-----, weeks.-----
14. Are you a citizen of the U. S.?----- 15. Have you taken out your first papers?-----
16. Did you work in the old country?----- 17. What kind of work?-----
18. What was your first job in the U. S.?-----
19. How many years have you worked in the U. S.?-----
20. How many jobs have you had?-----
21. Have you had trouble finding jobs?-----
22. Have you lost time hunting a job?-----
23. What was your first weekly wage in the U. S.?-----
24. What do you earn when you work a full week?-----
25. What do you earn a week on an average?-----

Remarks: -----  
 -----

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE WOMEN'S BUREAU

[Any of these bulletins still available will be sent free of charge upon request]

- \*No. 1. Proposed Employment of Women During the War in the Industries of Niagara Falls, N. Y. 16 pp. 1918.
- No. 2. Labor Laws for Women in Industry in Indiana. 29 pp. 1919.
- No. 3. Standards for the Employment of Women in Industry. 8 pp. Third ed., 1921.
- No. 4. Wages of Candy Makers in Philadelphia in 1919. 46 pp. 1918.
- \*No. 5. The Eight-Hour Day in Federal and State Legislation. 19 pp. 1919.
- No. 6. The Employment of Women in Hazardous Industries in the United States. 8 pp. 1921.
- No. 7. Night-Work Laws in the United States. [1919.] 4 pp. 1920.
- \*No. 8. Women in the Government Service. 37 pp. 1920.
- \*No. 9. Home Work in Bridgeport, Conn. 35 pp. 1920.
- \*No. 10. Hours and Conditions of Work for Women in Industry in Virginia. 32 pp. 1920.
- No. 11. Women Street Car Conductors and Ticket Agents. 90 pp. 1921.
- \*No. 12. The New Position of Women in American Industry. 158 pp. 1920.
- \*No. 13. Industrial Opportunities and Training for Women and Girls. 48 pp. 1921.
- \*No. 14. A Physiological Basis for the Shorter Working Day for Women. 20 pp. 1921.
- \*No. 15. Some Effects of Legislation Limiting Hours of Work for Women. 26 pp. 1921.
- No. 16. (See Bulletin 63.)
- No. 17. Women's Wages in Kansas. 104 pp. 1921.
- No. 18. Health Problems of Women in Industry. 11 pp. 1921.
- No. 19. Iowa Women in Industry. 73 pp. 1922.
- \*No. 20. Negro Women in Industry. 65 pp. 1922.
- No. 21. Women in Rhode Island Industries. 73 pp. 1922.
- \*No. 22. Women in Georgia Industries. 89 pp. 1922.
- \*No. 23. The Family Status of Breadwinning Women. 43 pp. 1922.
- No. 24. Women in Maryland Industries. 96 pp. 1922.
- No. 25. Women in the Candy Industry in Chicago and St. Louis. 72 pp. 1923.
- No. 26. Women in Arkansas Industries. 86 pp. 1923.
- No. 27. The Occupational Progress of Women. 37 pp. 1922.
- No. 28. Women's Contributions in the Field of Invention. 51 pp. 1923.
- No. 29. Women in Kentucky Industries. 114 pp. 1923.
- No. 30. The Share of Wage-Earning Women in Family Support. 170 pp. 1923.
- No. 31. What Industry Means to Women Workers. 10 pp. 1923.
- No. 32. Women in South Carolina Industries. 128 pp. 1923.
- No. 33. Proceedings of the Women's Industrial Conference. 190 pp. 1923.
- No. 34. Women in Alabama Industries. 86 pp. 1924.
- No. 35. Women in Missouri Industries. 127 pp. 1924.
- No. 36. Radio Talks on Women in Industry. 34 pp. 1924.
- No. 37. Women in New Jersey Industries. 99 pp. 1924.
- No. 38. Married Women in Industry. 8 pp. 1924.
- No. 39. Domestic Workers and Their Employment Relations. 87 pp. 1924.
- No. 40. (See Bulletin 63.)
- No. 41. Family Status of Breadwinning Women in Four Selected Cities. 145 pp. 1925.
- No. 42. List of References on Minimum Wage for Women in the United States and Canada. 42 pp. 1925.
- No. 43. Standard and Scheduled Hours of Work for Women in Industry. 68 pp. 1925.
- No. 44. Women in Ohio Industries. 137 pp. 1925.
- No. 45. Home Environment and Employment Opportunities of Women in Coal-Mine Workers' Families. 61 pp. 1925.
- No. 46. Facts About Working Women—A Graphic Presentation Based on Census Statistics. 64 pp. 1925.
- No. 47. Women in the Fruit-Growing and Canning Industries in the State of Washington. 223 pp. 1926.
- \*No. 48. Women in Oklahoma Industries. 118 pp. 1926.
- No. 49. Women Workers and Family Support. 10 pp. 1925.
- No. 50. Effects of Applied Research Upon the Employment Opportunities of American Women. 54 pp. 1926.
- No. 51. Women in Illinois Industries. 108 pp. 1926.
- No. 52. Lost Time and Labor Turnover in Cotton Mills. 203 pp. 1926.
- No. 53. The Status of Women in the Government Service in 1925. 103 pp. 1926.
- No. 54. Changing Jobs. 12 pp. 1926.
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- No. 56. Women in Tennessee Industries. 120 pp. 1927.
- No. 57. Women Workers and Industrial Poisons. 5 pp. 1926.
- No. 58. Women in Delaware Industries. 156 pp. 1927.
- No. 59. Short Talks About Working Women. 24 pp. 1927.
- No. 60. Industrial Accidents to Women in New Jersey, Ohio, and Wisconsin. 316 pp. 1927.
- No. 61. The Development of Minimum-Wage Laws in the United States, 1912 to 1927. 635 pp. 1928. Price 90 cents.
- No. 62. Women's Employment in Vegetable Canneries in Delaware. 47 pp. 1927.

\*Supply exhausted.

- ~~State Laws Affecting Working Women, 51 pp. 1927. [Revision of Bulletin~~  
~~65.]~~  
 No. 65. <sup>1928</sup> The Employment of Women at Night. 86 pp. 1928.  
 No. 65. The Effects of Labor Legislation on the Employment Opportunities of Women. 498 pp. 1928.  
 No. 66. History of Labor Legislation for Women in Three States; Chronological Development of Labor Legislation for Women in the United States. 284 pp. 1928.  
 No. 67. Women Workers in Flint, Mich. 80 pp. 1928.  
 No. 68. Summary: The Effects of Labor Legislation on the Employment Opportunities of Women. (Reprint of Chapter II of Bulletin 65.) 22 pp. 1928.  
 No. 69. Causes of Absence for Men and for Women in Four Cotton Mills. 24 pp. 1929.  
 No. 70. Negro Women in Industry in 15 States. 74 pp. 1929.  
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 No. 75. What the Wage-Earning Woman Contributes to Family Support. 20 pp. 1929.  
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\*Supply exhausted.