Analyzing the Effects of the Factory Act, 1833

1.

Extract from a Factory Inspectors report – British Parliamentary Papers (1836) No 353

Transcript

My Lord, in the case of Taylor, Ibbotson & Co. I took the evidence from the mouths of the boys themselves. They stated to me that they commenced working on Friday morning, the 27th of May last, at six A.M., and that, with the exception of meal hours and one hour at midnight extra, they did not cease working till four o’clock on Saturday evening, having been two days and a night thus engaged. Believing the case scarcely possible, I asked every boy the same questions, and from each received the same answers. I then went into the house to look at the time book, and in the presence of one of the masters, referred to the cruelty of the case, and stated that I should certainly punish it with all the severity in my power. Mr Rayner, the certificating surgeon of Bastile, was with me at the time.

1. This is an extract from a Factory Inspectors Report (1836).

- Who gave the evidence to the factory inspector?
- Work out how many hours (not including breaks), the boys are reported to have worked without stopping
- Which parts of the new Factory Act have been broken?
- What does the tone of the letter tell us about what the factory inspectors thought about the firm Taylor, Ibbotson & Co?
- Having studied this source, would you be right to conclude that the 1833 Factory Act did nothing to solve the problems of child workers? Explain your answer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names and Addresses of Persons Summoned</th>
<th>Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and place of Hearing</th>
<th>Nature of the Offence</th>
<th>Amount of Penalty</th>
<th>Amount of Costs</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>Mary Jones, Courtgwillym, near Bridgend, Glamorganshire</td>
<td>Richard Franklin and Charles Knight, Esqrs., and Captain Quint, Town Hall, Bridgend</td>
<td>Informations laid by Mr. Buller. Employing three young persons after 6p.m.</td>
<td>£ 1 0 0</td>
<td>£ 1 0 0</td>
<td>Two cases withdrawn on payment of costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* 24</td>
<td>John Jones, Forest Factory, near Newbridge, Glamorganshire.</td>
<td>William Perkins, Esq., and the Rev. Evan Morgan, Newbridge, Glamorganshire</td>
<td>Employing three young persons and one female (adult) after 6p.m.</td>
<td>1 0 0</td>
<td>1 1 0 3</td>
<td>Three cases withdrawn on payment of costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 26</td>
<td>William Llewellyn, Lamb and Flag Factory, Glynneath near Neath.</td>
<td>Ilowel Gwyn and Griffith Llewellyn, Esqrs.; Town Hall, Neath</td>
<td>Employing three young persons and two children after 6p.m.</td>
<td>2 0 0</td>
<td>3 0 0</td>
<td>Four cases withdrawn on payment of costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>John Howell, Mynyddislwyn, near Blackwood, Monmouthshire.</td>
<td>Frederick Levick, Esq., and the Rev. Edward Leigh: Tredgar, Monmouthshire.</td>
<td>Employing four young persons after 2 p.m. on Saturday.</td>
<td>1 0 0</td>
<td>2 1 5 0</td>
<td>Three cases withdrawn on payment of costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 8</td>
<td>Samuel P, Harris, Glynn Wenffrowd, near Abergavenny, Monmouthshire.</td>
<td>The Honourable W.P. Rodney, Rev. James Farquhar, W.W.Manning and Thomas Davis, Esqrs.; Town Hall, Abergavenny</td>
<td>Employing two young persons and two children after 2p.m. on Saturday</td>
<td>- - -</td>
<td>1 1 4 0</td>
<td>Withdrawn on payment of costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>William Kirk, Burnley.</td>
<td>Thomas Hordern Whittaker and John Neels Esqrs.; Burnley</td>
<td>Employing two young persons without surgical certificates</td>
<td>3 0 0</td>
<td>1 0 0</td>
<td>One summons withdrawn on payment of costs, in consideration of the state of trade.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- What is the most common offence recorded?
- Work out how much is fined for the different offences
- By looking at the fines, which offence is regarded as the most serious?
- How effective was the 1833 Factory Act? Explain your answer. (Hint: is the number of convictions a good or bad sign?)
Photograph of workers in a factory 1903

- What kind of factory is the boy working in?
- How old do you think he is?
- Write a list of all the dangers you can see in the factory and what you think could be done to improve them.
- This photograph is from 1903, 70 years after the first Factory Act. Explain whether you think work in the factory had improved for child workers by this time.
- Is the illustration at the top of this page and this photograph reliable evidence of working conditions in a factory? Give reasons for your answer.