

## CHILDREN IN THE SWEAT SHOPS

### NEED OF MORE INSPECTORS SHOWN TO ASSEMBLYMEN.

**Jacob A. Riis Tells Children's Ages  
by Their Teeth—Inspector White  
Has an Easy Time.**

The eighth weekly session of the Assembly committee which is investigating the sweating system of New-York was held yesterday in Part II. of the Superior Court.

Jacob A. Riis, author of several books relating to the life of children on the east side, was the first witness. He said he thought the factory inspection law had done a little good in reference to child labor on the east side, but the law was frequently evaded by the father of the child giving the wrong age on the certificate allowing the child to enter a workshop. The Factory Inspector cannot go behind the certificate, and must accept as true the age given.

He said four times the present number of Factory Inspectors would not be sufficient to properly look after the many places where children are employed.

"How would you determine the true age of a child?" Mr. Riis was asked.

"The way I did it was to examine the child's teeth."

"What, in your experience, is the prevailing nationality of child labor?"

"Greatly Italian, in the shops I examined. There were many children under twelve years."

"Can you give the name of one of those shops?"

"Yes. One was Hawley & Hoops, corner of Mulberry Street and Jersey Street."

"Is that Henry W. Hoops, the member of the Assembly?"

"I don't know which member of the family it is."

Factory Inspector White was recalled.

"How many inspections can you make in a day?" he was asked.

"Five."

"What are your working hours?"

"From 9 A. M. to 1 P. M. But I spend some time in writing out my reports."

Chairman Reinhardt asked to see a specimen of one day's report.

"Do you work on Sunday?"

"No."

"Do you work on Saturday when assigned to the east side?"

"No."

"So you only work five days a week?"

"That is so."

"What is the salary of a Factory Inspector?"

"Twelve hundred dollars a year."

"Any allowances?"

"Yes. We are allowed for car fare and lunches."

"Any limit for expenses for lunches?"

"No."

"Do you speak German?" Counsel Mayer asked.

"No."

"How do you get information when you go into a sweat shop where they are all German-speaking people?"

"Get one of them to act as interpreter."

"And you rely on whatever information they wish to give you?"

"Yes."

"How do you know if violations of the law are corrected?"

"We send them a notice to correct the violation."

"But how do you know if they comply?"

"They send us word."

"So that you leave it to themselves, and don't know whether they correct the violation or not?"

"Yes."

Reuben Siegel of 73 Essex Street, a boy, was next in the witness chair and became so frightened that he could not answer many questions. He said that he worked for a Mr. Rosenwasser, at Cannon and Stanton Streets. He made \$2 a week pulling basting threads from coats.

Rosenwasser, the employer of the boy, was then placed on the stand. He said that he was not familiar with the factory laws. He was asked if he required certificates of age from the children in his employ, if he thought they were under age.

"How do you tell if they are under fourteen years?" was a question to which he replied:

"Oh, I just tell by looking."

"Do you examine their teeth?" Chairman Reinhardt asked.

"No, Sir."

"How did you pay this boy Siegel?"

"He got 1½ cents a coat for pulling out threads, and could do about eighteen coats a day."

The committee adjourned until 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.