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HISTORY AND REPORT

OF THE WORK OF

114  
**The Anti-Tenement House League,**

FROM ITS ORGANIZATION TO OCTOBER 1, 1894.

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Published by the League.

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ORGANIZED MARCH 1891.  
INCORPORATED OCTOBER, 1893.

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BOSTON:  
PRESS OF A. T. BLISS & CO.,  
111 MILK STREET.  
1894.

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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*Be it Known*, That whereas, A. A. Miner, J. Q. A. Brackett, John Crowley, Philip S. Moxom, George E. McNeill, V. H. Rae, O. P. Gifford, C. B. Fillebrown, and W. D. P. Bliss have associated themselves with the intention of forming a corporation under the name of THE ANTI-TENEMENT HOUSE LEAGUE, for the purpose of arousing attention to the dangers that threaten public health and morals from the herding of people in unsanitary tenement houses, and the manufacturing of clothing and other articles therein, and seeking a remedy therefor by public agitation, private philanthropic effort and Legislative action, and have complied with the provisions of the statutes of this Commonwealth in such case made and provided, as appears from the certificate of the President, Treasurer, and Directors of said corporation, duly approved by the Commissioner of Corporations, and recorded in this office :

Now, therefore, I, William M. Olin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that said A. A. Miner, J. Q. A. Brackett, John Crowley, Philip S. Moxom, George E. McNeill, V. H. Rae, O. P. Gifford, C. B. Fillebrown, and W. D. P. Bliss, their associates and successors, are legally organized and established as and are hereby made an existing corporation under the name of THE ANTI-TENEMENT HOUSE LEAGUE, with the powers, rights, and privileges, and subject to the limitations, duties and restrictions which by law appertain thereto.

Witness my official signature hereunto subscribed, and the seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereunto affixed, this thirteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three.

(Signed)

WM. M. OLIN,  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

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REV. A. A. MINER, D. D., LL. D.



## OFFICERS FOR 1894.

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### PRESIDENT:

REV. A. A. MINER, D. D., LL. D.,  
Pastor Columbus Avenue Universalist Church, Boston.

---

### VICE-PRESIDENT:

REV. PHILIP S. MOXOM, D. D.,  
Pastor South Congregational Church, Springfield, Mass.

---

### SECRETARY:

JOHN CROWLEY,  
P. O. Box 2881.

---

### TREASURER:

HON. J. Q. A. BRACKETT,  
48 Congress Street.

---

### HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS:

HON. GEO. F. HOAR.  
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.  
ROBERT TREAT PAINE, JR.  
HON. NATHAN MATTHEWS, JR.  
EDWIN GINN.  
HON. HENRY F. NAPHEN.  
REV. EDWARD EVERETT HALE, D. D.  
HON. HENRY CABOT LODGE.  
HON. JOHN W. CORCORAN.  
HON. WILLIAM H. HAILE.  
REV. GEO. C. LORIMER, D. D.  
HON. MICHAEL J. McETTRICK.  
HON. GEO. E. McNEILL.  
HON. ELIJAH A. MORSE.

## PAST OFFICERS.

---

### PRESIDENTS:

REV. O. P. GIFFORD, D. D., 1891.

REV. EMORY J. HAYNES, D. D., 1892-'93.

---

### AUDITORS:

HON. MICHAEL J. McETTRICK.

H. J. SKEFFINGTON.

---

### DIRECTORS:

HON. JOHN Q. A. BRACKETT.

REV. A. A. MINER, D. D., LL. D.

JOHN CROWLEY.

REV. PHILIP S. MOXOM, D. D.

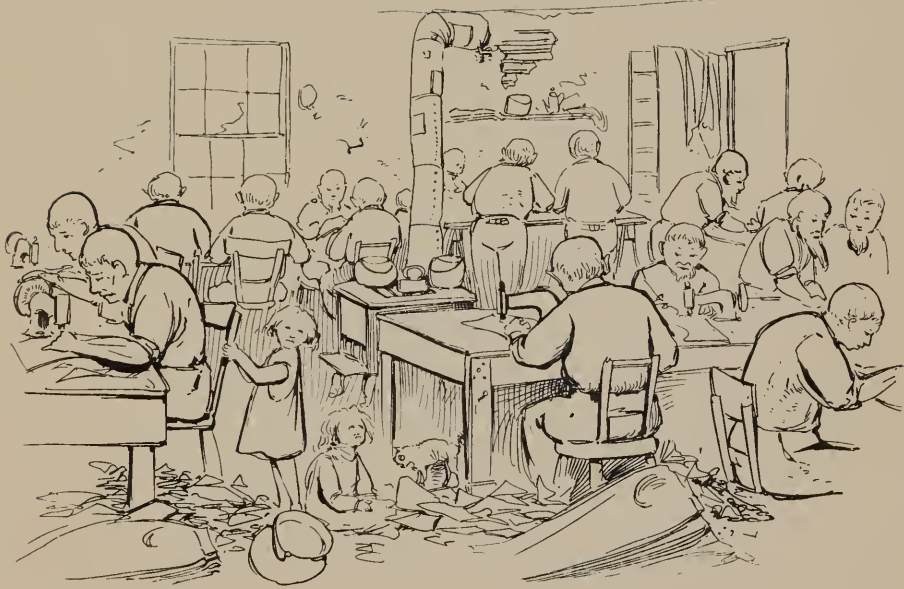
REV. EMORY J. HAYNES, D. D.

HON. JOSIAH QUINCY.

REV. O. P. GIFFORD, D. D.

HON. GEO. E. McNEILL.

CYRUS F. WILLARD.



WHERE SIX CHILDREN DIED.



# ORIGIN OF THE ANTI-TENEMENT HOUSE LEAGUE.

---

. . . . . "O; I have suffered  
With those that I saw suffer.  
. . . . . O, the cry did knock  
Against my very heart!"

---

Society suffers from no greater evils than those which forced the League into existence.

These evils are embedded and have flourished in the soil of public apathy.

The investigations of the Anti-Tenement House League, the Bureau of Statistics, the State Legislature, and the National Congress reveal that in Boston and other large cities the housing of the poor and the manufacture of clothing have become a covenant with disease and a league with death.

The organization of the Anti-Tenement House League was preceded by an agitation against the Sweating System, emanating from the victims of this great evil, who, under the direction of the present secretary of the league, formed a society, the main object of which was to call attention to this new slavery and to the fact that the shackles that had fallen from the negro were still in use, and served in the hands of sweaters the purpose for which they were forged.

This society dwelt exclusively in facts which were of life and death importance to the public at large, and the agitation reached an intensity unparalleled in the labor movement. In revealing the horrors of the Sweating System they left no loop to hang a doubt upon in the minds of thoughtful men and women that a crime was being perpetrated, with the consent and connivance of men standing high in the community, which would appal the stoutest heart and bring tears from the most hardened and depraved.

It brought to light the fact that the spirit of King Herod still lived, minus the horror excited in days of yore at the slaughter of

the innocents. This woeful apathy was due largely to ignorance on the part of the public who were skillfully made to believe that none but the most disreputable dealers resorted to the tenement house Sweating System.

The charge was made and proved by this society that with a few exceptions, every establishment in Boston dealing in wearing apparel of every description, was tainted with its workings. It was shown that when the stock was not made wholly, or in part, in lethel tenements, amid clustering vermin, filth and disease, it was worked upon by the inmates of such dwellings whose wretched wages forced into the slums from which they emerged to their daily toil bearing the germs of disease and death, rioting in their midst.

This society threw a flood of light on the causes of mysterious diseases among children and adults, by showing that men's and women's apparel sold over the counters of respected stores commonly served as bedding for the family by whom it was worked upon, that often some member of the family would be sick, and that clothing belonging to reputable Boston houses had been found pillowed beneath the heads of diphtheria patients, scattered with the sputa of diphtheria that ran unnoticed and uncared from dying lips.

With fervid zeal the veil was torn aside that hid this misery and tragedy, revealing amid the splendor that goes to make up palatial stores a lurid background,—whited sepulchures, fair to the eye without, but concealing within death and corruption.

Not slow to recognize the indisputable facts so earnestly advanced by this society, nor slow to see the danger to the public, not slow to see that the home, the foundation of our American civilization was being sapped and eradicated by the workings of a system whose branches grow up darkening homes, shutting out the light of Heaven, and like the fabled tree breathing forth pestilence and death, poisoning the atmosphere which rich and poor breathed in common, not slow was the State of Massachusetts to see that the question involved was a moral one which could not be ignored without defying that relentless Fate, which dogs with slow but avenging steps great social wrongs.

It was on the 20th of September, 1890, that the united cry of the victims of this horror filled the air reaching throughout the land,—yes across the sea. This dirge was heard in palace and hovel, smiting the ears as might the cries of drowning men and



women. A thrill of sympathetic feeling and fear went through the land. Swiftly to the succor of these submerged victims of 19th century civilization sped this renowned state, whose governor, William E. Russell, after his election unhesitatingly sprang to the front, deaf to the combined protests of men who were the very roots of this deadly tree, who thought only of the crop of golden apples it bore, and cared not that they contained the seeds of disease and death. It required on the part of the governor no other consultation than the welfare of the Commonwealth in ordering an investigation into the Sweating System, though arrayed against his action was the greatest power on earth — money that fights covertly.

Weighing down counters throughout Massachusetts was millions of dollars worth of tainted tenement house made clothing which this society charged, and offered to prove, and did prove in the subsequent investigation emerged from Boston and New York slums which were a menace to the public health.

Space will not permit us to tarry over a matter which is now one of history and part of the archives of Massachusetts. Nor can we here go into minute details of all that was done by this society to arouse the public conscience to a full realization of the evils of the tenement house sweating system. Suffice it to say that in their interest Secretary Crowley carried the crusade into New York and as far west as Detroit, Mich., filling the newspapers with illustrated articles which served to arouse people to the fact that the tenement house sweating system, as a result of being let undisturbed, had reached proportions which rendered it at once a national institution, crime and disgrace. Although the society was chartered under the American Federation of Labor, its policy was confined exclusively to exposing the workings of the Sweating System, and its strength turned upon this issue. Its leaders were long headed enough to see that the panacea lay not in strikes, but in winning over to their side the purchasing public. They believed that there was moral power enough in America, if it could only be aroused, to sweep away the Sweating System in a day, and that the good people of Boston did not want disease-bearing clothing at any price.

But crushed beneath the sweaters' yoke, the victims often found their woes unbearable and clamored for more radical action than that pursued by their society. Thus were the energies of the leaders divided between conducting the reform and holding these

people back from participating in rash strikes which could serve no other purpose than to drive away every stitch of work to New York slums or elsewhere. As a matter of course sagacious clothing manufacturers who reaped fortunes at the expense of their poorer brethren, and whose interests lay in perpetuating the Sweating System, fanned into a blaze through paid agents and spies, whom they had everywhere, any spark of discontent. Under these conditions it was found necessary to bring against this evil a still stronger power; and the thoughts of the leaders turned to the formation of a still stronger society—one with sufficient leverage to tear out by the roots this fungus growth which still continued to poison earth and air.

One thing, at least, had been accomplished by this society, namely: The attention of communities was attracted to the Sweating System and the deep sympathy of all classes enlisted.

Outside help had arrived and poured in from every side.

Righteous anger replaced the tear of pity and deeds thrust aside vapid professions of sympathy.



REV. O. P. GIFFORD, D. D.



## ORGANIZATION OF THE ANTI-TENEMENT HOUSE LEAGUE.

---

“To such sad pitch their gathering griefs were wrought  
Life seemed not life save when convulsed with thought.”

---

On March 6, 1891, during the height of the agitation, a few men came together at 122 Boylston Street, Boston, and decided to formally organize the Anti-Tenement House League. Temporary officers were elected with Rev. O. P. Gifford, D. D., President, and John Crowley, Secretary.

The organization of the League was completed September 14, 1891, at a meeting held in the Parker House. The meeting was well attended and brought together many men of national repute. By-laws were adopted and the election for permanent officers resulted as follows :

Rev. O. P. Gifford, D.D., President and Director; John Crowley, Secretary and Director, Hon. John Q. A. Brackett, Treasurer and Director; Hon. Josiah Quincy, Director; Hon. Geo. E. McNeill, Director.

An Advisory Committee of fifteen were elected, among whom were Rev. A. A. Miner, D. D., LL. D., Rev. Phillips Brooks, D. D., LL. D., Rev. Philip S. Moxom, D. D., Hon. Geo. F. Hoar, Rev. E. E. Hale, D. D., Rev. Emory J. Haynes, D. D., Hon. M. J. McEttrick.

What gratitude and hope must have stirred the victims of avarice who saw such men band together in their cause! Pent up grief and agony was dissolved by tears of joy, and overburdened hearts, swollen with miseries relieved. Among those to rejoice were mothers who gazed with pallid faces and hollow eyes at their starving children; fathers, who with breaking hearts hears their unavailing cries for bread, and sees them growing up in ignorance and vice, breathing in the vile atmosphere of their surroundings. The young girl shivering in her bleak attic, cooking her scanty meal over an oil-stove, and whose heroism in preferring privation and death to prostitution is only known to Him

who hears the sighs and groans of those poor prisoners, unjustly appointed to die. Her weaker sister, already driven by this infamous system to a life of shame, but who has not followed the path so long but that improved conditions of industry would induce her to forsake it, would also take courage. And while these victims rejoiced the firms who dealt in the product of the tenement house Sweating System trembled when they saw the proportions that the agitation for healthful conditions was assuming. In the League's birth they saw a small unheeded cloud increase in size and blackness, and felt the breath of the tornado upon their cheeks.

### THE WORK DONE BY THE LEAGUE.

No evil was ever known to withstand an aroused public sentiment. The promoters of all great movements have been guided by this fact. To bring into existence laws to govern an evil before public sentiment is aroused, is to set the cart before the horse, or plant before ploughing. Laws that are in advance of public sentiment are dead letters. Thus it was that the efforts of the League to secure legislation for the regulation of the tenement house and its train of evils, went hand in hand with a steady agitation.

In the time that elapsed between the temporary organization in March, 1891, and the permanent organization in September following, the agitation had been taken up by the league and carried on without abatement. It would require volumes to go into details of each move made by the League, or to dwell upon the far-reaching results. Examination of the files of Boston papers during this interim will show that in the hands of the League the agitation gathered force and strength. Reaching its height in Boston it spread throughout the land. In the first month of the League's existence, Gov. Russell's sympathy and interest, to which we have already referred, crystalized into the transmittal of a special message to the Legislature, accompanied by the official report of District Police Chief Wade and his officers.

With careful foresight Gov. Russell did not take anything for granted and awaited before sending his message, Chief Wade's report. A perusal of Gov. Russell's special message, together



HON. WILLIAM E. RUSSELL.





with Chief Wade's letter of transmittal will show how true were the charges made by Secretary Crowley in behalf of his society (see House Document No. 149).

The extent to which the reeking rookeries of New York were used by the Boston clothing dealers to manufacture their product is shown in the following extracts from this report :

To one firm there was shipped,

February, 1890 . . . . .	3 cases.
October 30, 1890, to December 19, 1890 . . . . .	11 "
December 23, 1890, to January 21, 1891 . . . . .	23 "
	<hr/>
	37 cases.

Average number of suits to a case, 250, making 9,250 suits.

To one firm there was shipped,

January 2, 1890 . . . . .	4 cases.
February 22, 1890 . . . . .	22 "
May, to June, 1890 . . . . .	13 "
December 1, 1890, to Jan. 4, 1891 . . . . .	14 "
December 2, 1890, to January 8, 1891 . . . . .	6 "
	<hr/>
	59 cases.

Average number of suits to a case, 250, making 14,750 suits.

To one firm there was shipped,

April 3, to July 11, 1890 . . . . .	23 cases.
July 14, to August 8, 1890 . . . . .	15 "
August 11, to September 27, 1890 . . . . .	17 "
January, 1891 . . . . .	7 "
	<hr/>
	62 cases.

Average number of suits to a case, 250, making 15,500 suits.

To one firm there was shipped,

May 23, to August 8, 1890 . . . . .	36 cases.
August 10, to September, 1890 . . . . .	10 "
September 23, to December 23, 1890 . . . . .	35 "
December 24, 1890, to January 20, 1891 . . . . .	14 "
	<hr/>
	95 cases.

Average number of suits to a case, 250, making 23,750 suits.

The above are but a few of the cases officially reported. The following extracts from this report explain the conditions under which these garments were made :

"The tenement workshops visited on Division Street were not in a condition of cleanliness—men and women were crowded in small rooms engaged in the making of children's sacks for a firm in Boston, small children were about the room, utensils of various kinds were here and there, the light was poor and ventilation bad.

On Elizabeth Street, in a tenement workshop about 10 x 12, some nine men and three women were employed making sack coats for a Boston firm.

The condition of this room was not clean, here and there were piles of dirt, the floor had the appearance of not having been scrubbed for a great length of time. In an adjoining room, which was very small, was a cookstove, and the odor arising from what was being cooked penetrated the workroom in every part. A very small room was used for pressing, scarcely large enough to allow but one person to work. The ventilation was bad, and scarcely any light could be obtained.

Entering through the basement a bad smell could be perceived, which was discernible throughout the building, which contained three stories. Filth and dirt were apparent upon the stairs. The passageways were dark, and the general condition was that of uncleanness.

On Ridge Street a tenement workshop was found where there were employed six men and three women. This place was situated in the rear of 88, on the third floor. Sack coats were being made for a Boston firm. The room was small, with bad light and poor ventilation. A peculiar smell could be detected. The floor was dirty, and half made-up coats were lying upon the floor, as well as some that had been finished. Half-clad children, untidy and unclean, were playing about the room here and there among the goods.

On Hester Street the condition is almost beyond description. Filth of every description abounded; garbage and dirt met the eye in every direction. In some of the houses, from basement to attic, could be found filth and uncleanness. The same condition was discernible in the localities of Mott, Essex and Clinton Streets.

On Pitt Street the same condition as in Hester Street was observed; floors greasy and sanitation bad. Suffolk, Delancy and Cherry Streets presented a filthy and unclean condition. The exterior sometimes was no comparison with the interior. Poles, Russian Jews and German Jews seemed to be the majority of those engaged in the sweating or tenement house system of workshops.

A majority of the places visited had their entrances through long, dark, narrow entries and stairways, matches had to be lighted in order to find where the stairs were situated. In many

of the rooms were cooking stoves, in some, one or two beds, no appearance of neatness, and odors of repulsive character were discernible.

Plates of food, vegetable matter, chamber utensils, covered and uncovered, were seen in the same rooms where garments were being manufactured. Meals were being prepared, and the smell of garlic added to the vile odor of the close, ill-ventilated rooms. Piles of ashes lay alongside of overflowing coal hods and boxes. Dust covered the sewing machines, and such things upon which it could find a resting place.

Beds rumpled and tossed, not made up, showing the unclean linen, met the eye in several of the visited workrooms. Half-made up garments were piled upon beds and in corners upon the floor. Bundles of cloth, cut and ready to be made into suits, were here and there.

The pipe was a great comfort to the workmen, and the air was tainted with the effluvia arising from the bodies, which, from the appearance of some whose uncovered skin could be seen, had not touched water for some time. Cot beds were standing against the partition upon several floors of a place visited, which had been taken from the room to give space to at least three workmen, while there still remained a large bed, and in one room a child's crib, together with the bed, where there were some seven or eight employed.

In some places the ceiling was low, the room badly lighted and no attempt made to obtain fresh air, the people breathing their own breath over and over again. Household furniture and clothing mixed indiscriminately, and in many instances had the appearance of a rubbish storehouse. In some entryways, as well as yards, through which passage had to be made, were barrels, boxes and coal hods overflowing with ashes. Garbage and swill was noticed piled in one corner of an entryway.

In some instances entrance to workshops were effected through damp, gloomy, bad-smelling hallways. Cookstoves stood in the workrooms of some places, and the floor around them was covered with wet ashes, dust from coal, crumbs of food and great blotches of grease here and there. The cook stove in two instances was found to be for a double purpose, that of cooking and heating the irons for pressing garments.

Dilapidated furniture, beds resting on boxes, piles of rags, chamber utensils exposed to view, unmade beds, dirty and soiled

linen; small children whose appearance was unkempt and unwashed; soot and grease, unclean windows, cloth and clothing piled on the floor so that to get into the room piles of clothing had to be stepped over, and in order to move around the room the same course to be pursued. This was the case in several instances.

In some places, in order that there might be more room made for workmen, bedding was piled in entryways and hung on fire escapes, and the bed used to sit upon.

For sixteen hours a day women and men are engaged in making garments in such places and under the conditions as herein enumerated. The same atmosphere, no matter how deadly, is inhaled over and over again. Situated as they are, some in damp basements in rear of high buildings, some in lofts and attics with low ceilings, sanitation bad and no ventilation, stifling odors and bad smells coming from those closely packed together, has been the condition of places that have been investigated.

The statements made in this report have not been obtained by hearsay. Houses and localities have been visited personally. No exaggerations have been made, and no attempt to present more than bare facts.

Should an epidemic occur in the localities where the tenement house or sweating shops, so-called, exist, the germs of disease would rapidly spread among the clothing in these shops, and be carried to the homes of the poor as well as the rich to almost every section of this country."

Similar conditions existing in Boston were thus described: RUFUS R. WADE, *Chief Massachusetts District Police*,

SIR: In compliance with your instructions to investigate and report on tenement house workshops located in Boston, the following is most respectfully submitted:

The condition of houses visited in October, 1890, as reported in the *Boston Herald*, issued on or about the 4th of said month, remained, in many instances, about the same, although there has been a lapse of about four months. The cool weather of this period of the year has added much in favor of many of the tenements.

The additional places visited, whose locations were in the North and West ends of the city, but mostly in the North End, were found in an unclean and filthy condition.

Some of the rooms where work on garments was being done

were ill-ventilated, poor light, close and bad smelling. In two or three instances the rooms were not more than 10x10, the people cooking and sleeping in the same room. Ashes around the stoves, particles of unprepared meats, utensils of various kinds, here and there, were noticed in several cases.

In two places visited work was being done in the attic, whose low slanting roof made discomfort, poor light and bad ventilation. The odor of the room was rather obnoxious. The inmates cooked and slept in the same room.

Another place visited was in the basement, the entrance to which was through a narrow alleyway, into the back yard, then through the back door into the basement kitchen, and another room leading from the kitchen, (which is very dirty) was a stove used for heating pressing irons; a bed, tables, sewing machine, chairs and loose bedding encumbered the room. Half made-up garments lay upon and around the sewing machine. A woman with a small child in arms sat upon the bed. The general condition of the room was unclean. Russian Jews were the occupants.

Another place visited was in the rear of some wooden buildings. The inmates were Portuguese. The room was small, and contained a bed, stove, bureau and two chairs. Two women and a small child were the occupants. Knee pants were being finished. The inmates cooked and slept in the same room which was very close and badly ventilated. The entrance to this place was narrow and very dark.

The nationality of the families engaged in making the various kinds of garments were found to be as follows; German Jews, 7; Italians, 6; Russian Jews, 10; Portuguese, 4.

From careful observation, the most filth and uncleanness predominated among the Russian Jews, Italians, and Portuguese, the Russian Jews being in the ascendancy so far as regards uncleanness and filth.

In one or two instances the condition of the rooms and the surroundings where garments are made are as bad as many places in New York City. Although houses are not so thickly populated as those in New York, and the number employed in tenement-house work can in no way be compared with those in that city, yet it is safe to infer that disease emanating from these tenement-house work-rooms might be carried to very many homes, thereby causing untold suffering and misery.

The conditions are perhaps more favorable at this time of year than they would be in the hot summer months, but at best they are bad enough for the good and welfare of the community.

Names of streets and numbers of houses visited will be found on file with the inspectors who were detailed upon the above investigation.

ISAAC S. MULLEN.

JOSEPH HALSTRICK.

*State Inspectors of Factories and Public Buildings.*

Great was the public interest in the state investigation that followed the Governor's message, which was accompanied with these reports, and great the part played in the work by the daily papers, which came out with illustrated articles, six and seven columns in length. The investigating committee were furnished with overwhelming facts through the League's agency, and the chairman of the legislative committee, Senator Gilman, requested the secretary of the Anti-Tenement House League to bring in a bill. This was done, but the bill suffered amendments at the hands of its opponents that rendered it incapable of successfully coping with such a giant evil.

Still, an entering wedge had been driven into future and more perfect legislation, and the law passed had the distinction of being the first ever enacted in the country aimed against the tenement house sweating system. It also created endless discussion and wide interest, other states being aroused to the fact that similar conditions confronted them and that the example of Massachusetts was a good one to follow. As a result this state found itself in the van with New York, Illinois, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and other states following.

All other issues were for a time overshadowed and dwarfed by that of the tenement house sweating system. Sympathetic mass meetings to protest against this evil were held everywhere. One of the most spontaneous and notable that grew out of the League's agitation occurred in Huntington Hall. It was commented upon by a leading Boston daily paper thus: "It was a remarkable gathering which met in Huntington Hall, Institute of Technology, yesterday afternoon, in response to a call for a public meeting on the tenement house and sweating system. The large amphitheatrical hall was crowded with some of the



best known ladies and gentlemen in the city, and it was a revelation as to the extent to which the agitation of the Anti-Tenement House League, for the abolition of the tenement house sweating system, has taken hold of the public mind." Dr. Samuel Eliot presided, and among the speakers were Jacob A. Riis, of New York, the author of the well-known book, "How the Other Half Live;" Hon. Horace G. Wadlin; Chief Rufus R. Wade, of the District police, and Mrs. Alice B. Lincoln, a lady well known for earnest and persistent effort in the line of practical reform.

Articles and stories emanating from the League, constantly appeared in newspapers, magazines and pamphlets.

The people of Worcester filled Mechanics Hall to hear the evils of the tenement house sweating system expounded by representatives of the League. The event was noteworthy. Over a thousand men, with bands of music, marched into the hall. The route of the procession through the streets was marked by a liberal display of red fire and roman candles. Crowds of sight seers watched the display, applause greeting the men at many points on the line of march. At the conclusion of the exercises in Mechanics Hall the representatives of the League were banqueted.

Among the important meetings of this nature was one held in Keene, N. H. The auditorium and gallery of the Opera House was crowded, many ladies being present. The meeting was addressed by the Hon. George E. McNeill and Secretary Crowley. At its close resolutions condemning the tenement house sweating system were adopted.

The attention of Postmaster Hart was called to the fact that the postmen's uniforms were made in filthy tenement houses and sweatshops. The charges were specific and corroborated, and the contract was awarded next year to a firm whose methods of manufacture were more healthful.

In the same month, June 8th, the League sent an open letter to the clergy, requesting them to take up the theme, and in response, among others, the sermons were preached by Rev. L. A. Banks, since published under the name "White Slaves."

Other important steps too numerous to mention were made in rapid succession, aimed against the tenement house sweating system, striking it with crushing force.

November 24, 1891, the League held a Mass Meeting at the

Maoenaon, which was addressed by the Rev. A. A. Miner, D.D., LL. D., Rev. Drs. Gifford, Haynes, Lorimer, Banks, and others. The clergymen were again invoked to join in the League's crusade, and in response powerful sermons were delivered by Rev. Drs. Gifford, Haynes and others. The League sent typewritten copies of these sermons to newspapers all over the state, and in many instances they were published in full. Soon after, the President of the League, Rev. Dr. Gifford, accepted a call from the Immanuel Baptist Church in Chicago, and the League in accepting his resignation at a meeting held in the Parker House, December 5, 1891, presented him with a handsome engrossed set of resolutions.

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## WORK OF THE LEAGUE — Continued.

ELECTION OF REV. DR. HAYNES.— CONFERENCES WITH CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS.— MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS.— SENATOR HOAR'S BILL.— CONGRESS GRANTS THE LEAGUE'S PRAYER.— ORGANIZED OPPOSITION OF CLOTHING DEALERS.— STIRRING MASS MEETING.— PRESIDENT HAYNES' FINAL ANNUAL REPORT.

The League had just completed nine months of its existence when the Rev. Dr. Haynes succeeded the Rev. Dr. Gifford as president.

In an earnest speech of acceptance he showed how intensely he realized the responsibility he had assumed and how much sacrifice of time and labor on his part would be involved in order to maintain the high standard of performance set up by his predecessor.

It became evident from the moment he took the office that he believed action to be the first, second and third condition of success. We print his farewell report, made nearly two years later, in its entirety, because it mirrors in concise form the progress of a reform that has stamped its principles in letters of living truth upon the times.

The first step taken after Dr. Haynes' election was to send out an invitation to the principal clothing manufacturers and dealers in Boston to meet the League in conference at the Parker House,





HON. GEORGE F. HOAR.



December 10, 1891, the object being to discuss ways and means for the suppression of the tenement house sweating system. The slim attendance of clothing dealers left the impression that they were more interested in perpetuating the evil than in its abolition. Rev. Dr. Haynes opened the proceedings by stating that the League's intention had been to make a friendly effort to reach a fair and honest understanding as to the best way to meet the question under consideration, and thus to secure the co-operation necessary to effect the purpose of the League. At his request, the Secretary of the League stated that the invitations to the conference had been sent out by mail, or delivered by hand, to all the large clothing firms in the city.

It was decided to give the manufacturers another opportunity to be present in force, and it was voted that notes of invitation, asking the representatives of the clothing firms to another friendly conference at 11 o'clock on Thursday, December 24th, at the Parker House, be delivered by hand. That was the day before Christmas, and if there was any christianity to be rallied to the aid of the cause the members of the League had at heart, it ought to show itself at that time. The second meeting was a repetition of the first, only four clothing houses being represented.

The next step of the League was to petition Congress to make an official examination and investigation into the Sweating System and to enact such legislation as would stamp out the evil. This step brought the Clothing Dealers together *en masse*, not only in Boston but throughout the country. Their silence was broken and lethargy dispelled; their actions removing any doubt that they preferred to join hands with one another to perpetuate the sweating system than come together with the League to assist in its abolition. Before Congress took action on the League's memorial for an investigation into the Sweating System, the Secretary of League was dispatched to Washington, D. C., where placing the facts before Senators and Congressmen he found nearly all, without reference to party in favor, of an investigation or even of the passage of a bill without it, the facts in relation to the sweating system being so notorious and undeniable, involving widespread peril to the people, and conducted only in the interest of the comparatively few who rule the greatest and richest of our industries.

Senator George F. Hoar advised the League to draw up a Bill. After conferring with the Directors of the League, Secre-

tary Crowley drew up the following bill which was promptly presented by Senator Hoar and referred to the Committee of Education and Labor.

## A BILL.

To prevent the manufacture of clothing in unhealthy places and the sale of clothing so manufactured.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That all articles of wearing apparel manufactured in one State to be sold in another, or sold in one State to be delivered in another, or sold or manufactured in one State to be delivered or sold in a foreign country, or transported from one State to another or to a foreign country designed for sale, shall be identified by a tag or label not less than two inches in length or one in width which shall show the place or places, including the street and number of any house or building, where each article of clothing was made. The tag or label shall be placed on a conspicuous part of the article.

SEC. 2. That whoever shall sell or expose for sale, any one of said articles of wearing apparel without a tag or label as aforesaid affixed thereto, or shall sell or expose for sale, any one of said articles with a tag or label in any particular false or fraudulent affixed thereto, or shall willfully remove, alter, or destroy any such tag or label upon any one of said articles, when exposed for sale, shall forfeit for each offense not less than fifty dollars nor more than one hundred dollars.

SEC. 3. That no person, firm, or corporation shall sell or expose for sale, outside of the State where it is made, any article of wearing apparel that has been made, or worked upon, in any room occupied by any person ill with contagious or infectious disease, or in any room which contained less than three hundred feet of air space for each person occupying it while work was being done upon said wearing apparel, or in any room in any dwelling house occupied by two or more families, or in any room containing vermin or filth, or foul stenches, or in any room where the factory laws of the State are violated.

SEC. 4. That no wearing apparel which has been manufactured in part or wholly as described in section three shall be

sold in one State to be delivered in another, or sold or manufactured in one State to be sold in another, or sold or manufactured in one State to be delivered in a foreign country, or transported from one State to another or to a foreign country designed for sale or exchange.

SEC. 5. That whosoever shall violate any of the provisions of this act, or any clause thereof, shall forfeit for each offense not less than fifty dollars nor more than one hundred dollars.

SEC. 6. That the Secretary of the Treasury shall appoint an inspector for each State whose duty it shall be to enforce this law under such regulations and restrictions as the Secretary shall provide. The Secretary shall also in his discretion appoint for any State where it may seem necessary, an assistant inspector, who shall be subject to the lawful order of the inspector in the discharge of his duties. The inspector and his assistant shall receive compensation at a rate not exceeding per month, to be fixed by the Secretary, for the time they are actually employed in the discharge of their duties."

The League took this double step knowing that nothing could be lost thereby. If its first request, namely, for an investigation was granted, well and good, if the second, so much better. If both,—the investigation preceding the passage of the bill,—the law would come into existence with the eyes of the Nation opened wide to its need. However, it was the League's prayer for an investigation that Congress granted. Space forbids a reprint of the League's Memorial which bore the following signatures, and many others:—

EMORY J. HAYNES, President of the Anti-Tenement House League.  
 JOHN Q. A. BRACKETT, Treas. of the Anti-Tenement House League.  
 JOHN CROWLEY, Secretary of the Anti-Tenement House League.  
 NATHAN MATTHEWS, JR., Mayor of Boston.  
 A. A. MINER, Pastor Columbus Ave. Universalist Church, Boston.  
 JOHN W. CORCORAN.  
 CHARLES S. HAMLIN.  
 M. J. McETRICK.  
 GEO. C. LORIMER, Pastor Tremont Temple, Boston.  
 JOHN D. LONG.

Secretary Crowley remained in Washington until satisfied that his mission was successful, and returning to Boston after ten days absence, was tendered a vote of thanks by the League for his able efforts at the Capitol. Immediately after Secretary

Crowley's return, the organized opposition of Boston Clothiers concentrated itself against the work of the League.

The following circular went the rounds of the wholesale clothing dealers :

"There will be a meeting of the wholesale clothiers of Boston, Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 11 A. M., at the rooms of the Boston Merchants' Association, 56 Bedford Street, to consider what action they will take in regard to the bill introduced in Congress by Senator Hoar, concerning the manufacture of clothing. Matters of importance will come before the meeting. Your presence is earnestly desired."

Signed by Miner, Beal & Co., Freeland, Loomis & Co., A. Shuman & Co., Smith, Whiting & Co., Rhodes, Ripley & Co.

The meeting was well attended, and, according to accounts thereof in Boston papers, denounced the agitation against the sweating system and its promoters. The following extracts from the newspapers, which are rendered reliable by events following the meeting, convey a clear idea of what transpired at this meeting.

"Senator Hoar's bill was read. Mr. Beard and Mr. Loomis claimed that its provisions interfered with free traffic in clothing \*. Mr. Loomis said, he would be willing to wear clothes made under the filthiest conditions, after they had been pressed. All were unanimous in speaking against the bill, and declared that it should not become a law, with the exception of one dealer who said, "that the question of making clothing in filthy tenements could not be treated too seriously." "The agitation," he continued, "for clean conditions was justified on the ground of healthfulness. The agents of the sweaters stood at the gates of Castle Garden and utilized the scum of European civilization in making clothing in the slums. The miseries of Southern slavery were dwarfed by that existing in the tenements where clothing for our people is made. He protested against any attempt to prevent the passage of the bill which would bring about healthful and civilized methods in manufacturing clothing." "But," said the *Boston Herald*, "the speech, however proved ineffectual, as it was finally voted to send a committee—composed of A. Shuman, Mr. Beal and Mr. Loomis—to confer with representatives in Washington in regard to killing the bill."

\*See Senator Hoar's bill, sections 3, 4, page 20.

On March 17, 1892, at the Capitol in Washington, the hearing on the Sweating System began. Clothing dealers were in attendance from East, West, North and South, representing the principle clothing centres of America. Pressed into their service were lawyers eminent for their political influence. Their presence was not the result of desire to enlighten the Congressional Investigating Committee upon the evils of the Sweating System, but to oppose Senator Hoar's bill, which they evidently thought would come up for discussion. They were disappointed when told that the investigation would be confined to taking evidence in relation to the Sweating System, and the Committee were informed by representatives of one clothing centre, that had they known, prior to leaving home that the inquiry was not in reference to Senator Hoar's bill, they would not have come. They expressed sorrow at inability to enlighten the Committee on the Sweating System, claiming to know nothing of it. But, if these gentlemen were diplomatic, so were the Committee, who, pressing them with questions, deduced the fact that they not only knew all about the evil, but were the roots from which its branches grew.

To attend this hearing in behalf of the League, Secretary Crowley was a second time sent to Washington, arriving a few minutes after the hearing opened, just as the clothing dealers' attorney was addressing the Committee in behalf of his clients and trying to make capital for them out of the fact that the Anti-Tenement House League had no representative present. "It is evident," the lawyer said, "that the people who set this investigation in motion have not taken enough interest in it to come here to-day, and they may never come here." Secretary Crowley's arrival at this juncture caused the attorneys remarks to lose much of their weight.

Secretary Crowley explained to the Committee that his detention was due to attendance the day before with the President and other members of the League, at an important hearing at the State House advocating amendments to the Massachusetts law governing the manufacture of clothing. The Chairman reassured the Secretary, saying, "that the meeting had just opened."

That day and next was occupied in examination of the Clothing Dealers. Many of the questions propounded by the Committee were suggested by the experience of Secretary Crowley who



received the thanks of Chairman Warner for his earnest co-operation in behalf of the League.

Speaking of the testimony of the representative of the Clothing Manufacturers of Boston, Mr. Warner asked Secretary Crowley if he thought the gentlemen's hesitating and evasive answers the result of stupidity, to which Secretary Crowley replied, "that the vast interests of Boston Clothing Dealers in the profits of the Sweating System would not be left to the protection of a fool and that what looked like stupidity was merely the shrinking of a lost, unworthy, and ignoble cause, from accepting its fate. To this Mr. John De Witt Warner replied, "that he would not for any consideration have the record made by that man, that day, in the annals of the Nation."

The Committee held other sessions in Boston, New York and Chicago presenting their report to Congress, January 20, 1893, when it was laid on the table and ordered to be printed. To all who desire thorough enlightenment on the evils, dangers, and vast scope of the tenement house sweating system we recommend this report. (*Report No. 2309, 52d Congress 2d Session.*)

Prominent among notable Mass Meetings held at this time and since by the League stands out one held in the Peoples Church, February 15, 1892.

President Emory J. Haynes introduced Ex-Governor Brackett, the League's Treasurer, as chairman of the evening in the absence of Governor Russell who had promised to preside but was unavoidably detained. Upon the platform and among the speakers were such men as Rev. A. A. Miner, D. D., LL. D., Robert Treat Paine, Rev. George C. Lorimer, D. D., and a host of other philanthropists and reformers.

Ex-Governor Brackett in accepting the chair said, "The name of our Society may be considered misleading by some, but I hope that when we have accomplished our present object, we will turn to that other subject and try to give every man a habitation where he will have the sky above him and the earth beneath with no intervening families; when the hundreds of acres of vacant land in the suburbs will be occupied by thousands of neat cottages, which can be reached easily and cheaply.

But at present we are confining our work to the Sweating System, an evil so great that the Parliament of Great Britain made an inquiry. I have become convinced that the Sweating System is execrable; not only baneful to its immediate victims, but



dangerous to the whole community. Heroic treatment is demanded, State and National Legislation are both necessary.

The man with a \$50 custom made overcoat may sit beside a \$5 sweat shop made overcoat in the street car and carry off with him the germs of disease.

A prominent physician declares that the filth in these tenements is indescribable ; and that there are the germs of many diseases and the clothing manufactured in such places must be infected.

This Association having accomplished its present purpose of abolishing the Sweating System might well take up the other task of abolishing the tenement house itself."

The earnest eloquence of the speakers at this meeting created much enthusiasm. Public sentiment ran high, encouraging the Board of Health to radical action in condemning rookeries that had long outlived their usefulness. The day after the meeting they condemned a large number of tenements in which existence seemed scarcely possible to any one who knows what pure air and light really are. These places were, in common with many left untouched (awaiting another wave of public sentiment), especially adapted for the breeding of typhus microbes and small pox microbes, and those other deadly but invisible enemies of life and health. At this meeting the following resolution was offered :

"*Resolved*, that, we, citizens of Boston, in mass meeting assembled, endorse the action of our Senators and Representatives in Congress in favoring an investigation of and legislative action upon the Sweating System of tenement house labor in the manufacture of clothing.

By national legislation only can the evils of that system be effectually remedied and we demand that such legislation shall be promptly enacted."

The resolution was adopted and the meeting closed after "America" had been sung by the audience.

A courteous invitation was sent to the manufacturers' committee, extending to them the privileges of the platform at this great demonstration to enable them to lay before the public, reasons for their society's opposition to measures that struck at the roots of the Sweating System. Nothing was heard from them in reply. A gentleman representing one of the largest clothing firms in Boston made a speech in favor of Senator Hoar's Bill, advancing reasons for its passage, that will long linger in the

memories of the audience. The methods of this firm were as far removed from those pursued by any member of the invited committee as the North Pole is from the South (speaking not of workmanship or quality, but of cleanliness). And yet this is the story he told: "A Sister of Charity found a pair of trousers at the North End, tucked under the head of a child suffering from diphtheria. That pair of trousers did not belong to any of our competitors, but to us. There is not one of us clothiers but believe milk ought to be pure. We believe oleomargarine ought to be marked oleomargarine, but when you ask us to stamp our clothing, making sure it is made under healthful conditions, then we must plead human nature. While we can see the moat in the milkman's eye we can't see the beam in our own.

But then it all lies with the public.

The milkman didn't make the laws on purity of milk.

If the bill passes—and I believe it will—do you suppose you will see clothing hung up in Boston show windows labelled Hester Street and Mott Street? Well, I guess not."

And yet, withal the terrible confession made publicly by this firm, and known to the League to be true, they stood comparatively high in advanced and clean methods of manufacture.

Few bills introduced into the Senate have received as many indorsements as Senator Hoar's Bill. These endorsements poured in from Mass Meetings held in almost every state in the Union. Swayed solely by public sentiment the State of Massachusetts adopted a resolve calling upon Congress to pass a National law to wipe out the Sweating system.

It was at this stage, with the country alive to this great iniquity, with the Congressional Committee enthusiastically and earnestly at work digging its grave, with the State of Massachusetts, through its representatives, applauding and urging them on, with pulpit, platform and press ringing with its nameless horrors, with the cries of the nation reechoing from hill and dale the joyful words: "The Sweating System must go! The Libby Prison of our industrial system must fall! The Prisoners of Poverty must be freed! There must be a return to civilized and clean methods of manufacture!"—amid these joyful signs of work well and successfully done, with the goal almost in sight,—that the League rested for a time from its labors in this direction and turned its attention to other methods of undermining the entire system of reeking tenements, in the absence of



REV. EMORY J. HAYNES, D. D.



which, the tenement house Sweating System would be minus its fountain head of filth. To forward this object no time was lost in bringing into existence the People's Building Association. The first move in this direction was made June 7, 1892, but it was not until last spring that all arrangements were perfected enabling the Society to go ahead with some prospect of success. The League spared neither time nor money to bring to the front this great movement. Before the charter was amended rendering the work feasible, the Rev. Dr. Miner had succeeded the Rev. Dr. Haynes.

We therefore, at this stage, append the final Annual Report of President Haynes, thus enabling us to give uninterruptedly as full a history of the People's Building Association as our limited space permits. We may later refer to other important moves made against the Sweating System during the presidency of Dr. Haynes.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT.

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BOSTON, Nov. 14th, 1893.

My resignation is hereby respectfully offered to the League. I am about to remove to the city of New York and by the terms of the charter your president must be a resident of this state.

In closing my official relations with the League, at the same time that the League itself becomes a corporate body, I wish to record my satisfaction with the co-operation that I have had from other voluntary officers of the organization. Hon. John Q. A. Brackett, its treasurer, has with no small labor taken faithful charge of these sacred contributions, the gift of compassionate men and women offered for the love of their kind. Hon. George E. McNeill has always been ready to serve on the executive committee with an expense of time that has never been small and a wisdom that I have always found reliable. Dr. A. A. Miner, that Nestor among philanthropists in Boston, has equal claim on my gratitude. The Rev. Mr. Bliss and others have been my close associates in council.

Mr. John Crowley has always been faithful in performing his share of the League's work. I believe in the sincerity of his purpose to do good through this channel to the victims of the sweating system because I have never seen him unwilling to expend his strength and time in their behalf; because, notwithstanding the heat engendered by social controversy, I have never heard him speak venom or seen him manifest an unworthy spirit; because he certainly is the most intelligent, as regards the evils of underpaid work and unwholesome conditions of living, of all persons of my acquaintance. He has been in fact, in many respects, the very life and soul of the League.

The press of Boston and many generous patrons of this work deserve our unstinted gratitude.

We are much indebted to Governor Russell for his practical and earnest co-operation.

The officers of the Industrial Aid, have loaned us the reflexion of their own historic good name and it is impossible to overstate our sense of obligation to such men as Mr. Wm. P. Fowler, Mr. Robert Treat Paine, father and son, Mr. Ginn, and Dr. Durgin of the Board of Health.

The effort of the League to arouse public attention to a great evil has not been fruitless. Congress has yielded to our importunities and appointed investigating committees who have held long and searching sessions in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and other great cities. The legislation resulting is not too much to claim as fruit of our work.

The legislatures of three great states, New York, Massachusetts and Illinois have moved under the impulse which we started to enact wholesome laws.

Our League has been directly or indirectly represented at more than a hundred legislative committee hearings.

We have secured newspaper observation of this wrong in every part of the civilized world.

We have been and are now in correspondence with social reformers in the interest of sanitary conditions for laborers, especially women and children, in England, France, Austria, and in every state of our own country.

We must be permitted to claim our share of the credit for securing recognition of this case in the platforms of several great political parties, though ourselves of all parties are in no other

respect willing to ally the League with any party. We disclaim any and all *argumentum ad hominum*.

It is evident that no reform will work itself. Constant watchfulness and energy are necessary.

It has been the belief of the students of social hardship among us that prevention was better than cure. For this reason many of us began early an effort to totally remove the unhappily domiciled from the meaner quarters of the town to desirable suburbs. Out of this effort has grown at length the incorporation of the Peoples' Building Association.

The credit of a virtuous deed is not a matter of moment to an earnest man. It is not wholly to the credit of this League, nor the Industrial Aid Society, nor any other organization that this benovolent plan has at last advanced as far as it has.

Many voices from many quarters have contributed to this result. It certainly is a matter, however, in which the League has always been foremost. The depressed condition of the financial world has retarded the practical steps proposed to be taken. But there can be little doubt that at an early day the community will be called upon to contribute both work and funds. The popular interest in the experiment of providing clean, cheap homes near the city, has been and continues to be very great. Hundreds of inquiries are on file and constantly are accumulating. A board of directors has been chosen, Mr. Robert Treat Paine, Jr., being president. It is my earnest hope that the League will continue to recognize in this effort as substantial if not the most enduring, result of many months of labor as in any other one thing achieved.

In the future our earnest body of workers will exist in an entirely different legal form, as a result of the League being incorporated under the laws of Massachusetts. This is, if you please, not the death, but the emergence as from a crysalis into a newer and larger life.

It is with regret, men and women, that I part company with you. You will always have my heartiest sympathy and most cordial respect.

I am, very truly yours,

EMORY J. HAYNES.



## WORK OF THE LEAGUE — Continued.

### ORGANIZATION OF THE PEOPLE'S BUILDING ASSOCIATION.— ITS ORIGIN.

The aim of the Anti-Tenement House League being to preserve and protect the home, the responsibility was assumed to seek and apply remedies, not only for the abolition of the Sweating System, but the eradication of the slums.

“ 'Tis man's bold task the generous strife to try,  
But in the hand of God is victory.”

People become accustomed to regard the slums as inevitable. Students have been taught “that that which was always and everywhere found, was therefore true in philosophy.” Such logic does not apply to the slums, which, we assert after careful thought and study, are not necessarily a factor accompanying “the lowest margin of social culture.”

Recent investigations of the League, some of which are printed in this report, show that the good name and health of Boston hinge at least upon an attempt being made to remove conditions that should find no place in a Christian land, or an enlightened age.

To know how great is the slum area of Boston, and the vast number of human beings submerged beneath its filthy waves, to know that clothing is made in these quarters, to know that hundreds of these people work in the numerous sweat shops scattered throughout Boston, to know that human beings are huddled together like cattle, are herded like beasts of the field, is to know why Zymotic or filth diseases are so prevalent in Boston, and why the death rate is proportionately higher than in London.

Bruised and crushed are the souls finest instincts; little children robbed of all that makes childhood worth the having, and growing up a vast swarm of illiterates to curse the next generation. The presentation of these facts should give rise to immediate remedial action on the part of all Christians.

In the slums are to be found the class that will ultimately bring sorrow and destruction to our civilization unless something is done. Here dwell the material out of which bloody revolutionists are made, with only a miserable life to lose and everything to gain by rising and instituting a reign of pillage and murder. To avert these threatening dangers, the forces of good must gather together into a compact organized body and hurl its united





ROBERT TREAT PAINE, JR.



power against their overthrow. Isolated action cannot avail, nor can the indiscriminate bestowal of charity do more than intensify the evil.

It was the intense realization of these truths that gave The People's Building Association its birth, and gathered around it a band of men whose sympathies may always be counted upon when the interests of humanity are at stake.

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## ORIGIN OF THE PEOPLE'S BUILDING ASSOCIATION.

One of the most active and generous members of the Anti-Tenement House League, H. K. Hannah, a man of practical experience in matters relating to real estate, laid the plan before the League in the following communication :—

BOSTON, MASS., June 1, 1892.

John Crowley, Secretary Anti-Tenement House League :

DEAR SIR :—

I have followed with great interest the agitation which your society has been conducting, looking to the better housing of the poor. To the student of social reform, your Anti-Tenement House agitation strikes at the root of many widespread evils that can be traced directly to tenement-house life.

I want to submit a plan that seems to me worthy of your consideration, which, if put into practical operation, would prove a strong factor in the solution of this problem, and lead to the results for which you are working.

Sell to a poor family, upon the simple payment of \$2.25 per week, a house and lot in the suburbs—this house to be one of four or five rooms, occupied by one family—located upon a lot of 3000 square feet of land; close to transportation to and from Boston. It could be substantially but plainly built and sold for about \$700; the interest placed at 5 per cent., making it possible for such a family to own their own home in 10 years and pay taxes, water rates, insurance and repairs out of this weekly payment of \$2.25.

This plan may not be new in its general outline, but would be new in its application to the needs of the very poor.

I know nothing of the success or failure of model tenements in Boston, and only through others know of them in New York or London. Those claiming to know say that in the latter cities they are both financial and moral failures. They neither pay, nor do they work any great change in the occupants. We hear that it is with great difficulty that the poor can be induced to move into them, even though the cost of a tenement be no more than one in the "rookery," that when they do make a change they do not feel at home until the model tenement is transformed into a semblance of the "rookery."

This state of affairs seems only natural, and to be expected, because a family raised in dirt and filth is not reached by an appeal to its aesthetic tastes. Cleanliness for mere cleanliness' sake has no charms for them.

The plan which I have outlined—of selling a home in the suburbs—aside from the world of helpful influence that follows in its train, from sunshine, pure air and healthful surroundings, does this signal thing; it appeals to the instincts that are fundamental in human nature—that lie deeper than aesthetics—the home and the selfish instinct. The first of these may not always remain, but the latter may always be counted on.

The family moving into the model tenement has but one thing which appeals to it—cleanliness and its attendant benefits. The family moving into our four-room cottage in the suburbs has this incentive, together with others. They move into what can only be rightly called a home, a house occupied by it alone.

But most influential of all for this class is the sense of ownership that must come with the payment of the very first dollar. Every subsequent dollar paid gives them a fuller sense, and time works the complete ownership. They no longer pay rent; they buy the thing for which they pay money. They have the incentive to keep the house clean, not for mere cleanliness' sake, but because they own it. They take care of it because it pays them to do so. They pay for it because they can do so with the same money that they have been paying in rent for a tenement in the city.

This plan may not reach the lowest of our tenement population, but in reaching the better element it does indirectly a great good to those lower in the scale.

A movement of any magnitude would lessen the number of tenement families—giving more space for those who must remain—lessen the demand for tenement property, with a resulting lower rent and better buildings.

These miserable tenement houses of Boston only remain because they pay. When they begin to be unprofitable the owners will hasten to improve and make them worthy of occupancy.

The temptation presents itself to picture the transformation that must result from such a movement as I have outlined, and for which your society is working. Time and space forbid this, as well as any detailed account of the practical workings of such a plan.

The question must arise as to the possibility of carrying out such a plan and making it profitable enough to interest capital. There are difficulties to be met—principle among them transportation and its cost. The question of whether the plan will pay can be answered in the affirmative, and the transportation question in Boston does not present any very formidable difficulties.

Hoping that your agitation on this question will continue until Boston is rid of her slums, I am,

Yours, etc.,

HENRY K. HANNAH.

The action taken by the League was to enlist the co-operation of the Industrial Aid Society and the Workingmen's Building Association, and these societies held a joint meeting with the League in Charity Hall, June 7, 1892.

Among those present were Rev. A. A. Miner, Robert Treat Paine, Rev. E. E. Hale, Rev. Emory J. Haynes, President of the League; John Crowley, Secretary; William P. Fowler, Rev. Philip S. Moxom, George H. Cavanagh, S. D. Hannah and others.

Rev. Edward Everett Hale called the meeting to order, and stated that the meeting was held to consider plans for building houses or villages in the suburbs, to be purchased at low rates by men and women whose daily work is in Boston. He spoke of his deep desire to see uprooted the whole system of overcrowding and filth existing in tenement houses.

The plan suggested by Mr. Hannah was presented, and after discussion of the subject in its various bearings, it was voted to appoint a committee of five to examine thoroughly into the merits

of the plan, or other plans, and report at an adjourned meeting. The committee appointed were as follows: Edwin Ginn, Josiah Quincy, Robert Treat Paine, Jr., William P. Fowler and Dr. Durgin of the Board of Health.

This committee met Oct. 24, 1892, at Mr. Ginn's office on Tremont Place, inviting to the conference a number of those deeply interested in the subject. There were present in response to the invitation, Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D. D.; Rev. Emory J. Haynes, D. D.; Robert Treat Paine, Jr.; Marie E. Zakrzewska, M. D.; John Crowley, Rev. W. D. P. Bliss, Hon. G. E. McNeill and others.

The needs of putting the plan into effect were discussed, all present considering it practicable, and needed to meet the evils and dangers of overcrowding.

Dr. Durgin warmly indorsed the plan, but thought that many of the cottages, when built, would be wanted by a higher grade of people than those for whom they were intended. Still, however, this would have a beneficial effect on all, inasmuch as it would thin out tenement-house population and give those who dwelt in them more room, as well as lessen the cost of living in them, by the healthy competition of large numbers of suburban cottages. Dr. Durgin continued: "We owe our large mortality to the overcrowded tenement-house regions. Many of the degraded creatures, for you can call them little else, who live in them, actually prefer the dirt and crowding of the tenements." Dr. Durgin believed that the plan would certainly induce many, even of the lowest, to take advantage of its generous conditions; and the changed environments would certainly produce upon them a most beneficial effect.

Dr. Hale was hopeful. He thought the plan a good one, and said that as the railroads would profit by this work of building villages in the suburbs, they should be asked to participate in the work with both time and money. An appeal to Archbishop Williams to co-operate in this good work should also be made.

Rev. E. J. Haynes said that this was a "suburban" age, and that we must put ourselves in connection with its trend. He believed that the merits of the plan were such that it would be universally adopted, and would prove the greatest factor in counteracting the evils of slum-life that had ever been adopted.

Robert Treat Paine, Jr., and Wm. P. Fowler heartily indorsed the work.

A week later the Anti-Tenement House League, Industrial Aid Society and Stockholders of the Workingmen's Building Association came together at Charity Hall on Chardon Street, to hear the committee's report. Aside from the committee, there were present Rev. A. A. Miner, D. D.; Robert Treat Paine, Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D. D.; Rev. Emory J. Haynes, D. D.; William Weld, Marie E. Zakrzewska, M. D.; John Crowley, Arthur B. Ellis, and other prominent men and women. Letters were read from Gov. Russell and Lieut.-Gov. Haile, regretting that they were unable to be present. Rev. Dr. Haynes, President of the Anti-Tenement House League presided, and called on Mr. Ginn, chairman of the committee, to report. Mr. Ginn said that the committee had not thus far been able to agree upon a final and written report, but that he would present the views of the committee as he believed them to exist. Personally he believed that the organization should not restrict its labors to the suburbs, but should buy up land in the city, now occupied by miserable tenements, tear down the present buildings and erect good ones in their places. He had personally inspected a certain section of the South End, where the poorer people dwell, and had found that many of the houses, poor, ramshackle wooden affairs, poorly lighted and ventilated, were so crowded and rented at such high figures (averaging \$9 a month) that the property was paying from 75 to 100 per cent. Not far from here he saw the Lawrence Houses, where everything is nearly perfect, but even there all the requirements are not met, inasmuch as the size of the families is restricted to four. Mr. Ginn hoped that at least someone would call upon the owners of the miserable hovels above referred to, and ask them to rebuild on better plans and be content with a six or ten per cent income. Many owners he felt sure knew but little of the condition of their property, it being handled by agents, and if the matter was brought to their attention they would in the majority of cases, no doubt, remedy the evil. He believed in the suburban plan of Mr. Hannah, but thought it should form but a portion of the work of the society. Only a small portion of the poor of the city could be induced to leave the city, but the few who would go would make more room for those who remained.

Some other gentlemen present thought that two societies should be formed, one to work in the city, and one in the suburbs.

Discussion followed and Dr. M. E. Zakrzewska drew the feel-



ing to a climax by pointing out in actual case after case the reality of the danger. Some things related by her from a professional point of view we cannot properly present, but she told of servant girls going from these slums to the homes of wealth with small pox in their clothing and germs of disease in their dresses. She told of one wealthy family desolated by death after death from small pox, brought there by a servant girl. She showed how vermin went from the poor to the rich. She explained how clothing could carry the germs of disease remaining long inoperative till, for some reason, the fated subject became reduced in strength and then the germs would rise into malignant fever, strike in and kill.

It was voted to refer the plan back to the committee on the question as to whether one organization should do the whole work, or two —one for the city and one for the country.

The meeting then adjourned with manifest interest and confidence that something would really be done to save Boston from some of the disgraceful conditions under which many of these tenements exist. On Dec. 14, 1892, in the same hall and under the same auspices, the final report of the committee was made.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. William P. Fowler, and Col. Thomas Doane of Charlestown was elected chairman. The committee reported in general in favor of a plan for cheap suburban homes presented by Mr. H. K. Hannah, but suggested that perhaps three grades of houses might be built, of \$900, \$1200 and \$1500 values. They should be built on gravelly soil, with good cellar and plumbing, and have five or six large rooms. The size of the lots might vary from 30x60 feet to 18x35 feet.

The committee suggested weekly payments ranging from \$2.35 to \$3.50, which would take from 15 to 21 years to make the full payment. The house, however, could be sold under the agreement of giving a deed as soon as 40 or 20 per cent of the price had been paid, company to take a mortgage for remaining 60 or 80 per cent.

The committee recommended commencing with those buildings which would be of such a size and cost as to be certain of success. Some having thought that it would be well to attempt building cheap houses in the city as well as in the suburbs, the committee reported approving concentrating all efforts on the one





WILLIAM P. FOWLER.



plan of suburban homes. The report was accepted and the following resolutions unanimously adopted :—

*Resolved*, That the committee urges immediate action on the general lines of Mr. Hannah's scheme, and propose the incorporation of a company to undertake the erection of cheap homes in the suburbs.

*Resolved*, That the committee feels that the suburban home movement cannot deal completely with the difficult question of the proper housing of the poor, and in view of the fact that existing corporations have confined themselves to the more expensive class of tenement buildings, believe that another corporation should be formed to erect houses in the city for the poorest of the population.

EDWIN GINN,  
ROBERT TREAT PAINE, JR.  
DR. SAMUEL H. DURGIN,  
WILLIAM P. FOWLER,  
Committee.

It was voted to proceed immediately in procuring incorporating papers. The following gentlemen were chosen to be incorporators; William P. Fowler, R. T. Paine, E. Ginn, T. M. Clark, J. H. Storer, A. B. Ellis, G. W. Pope, Rev. E. J. Haynes, Rev. W. D. P. Bliss, J. Crowley, Thomas Doane, R. T. Paine, Jr.

In promoting this plan, the League held two mass meetings in the People's Church, and President Haynes, with other members of the League, and officers of the Industrial Aid appeared repeatedly before Legislative Committees, until The People's Building Association was incorporated by a special act of the Legislature of Massachusetts, and received the Governor's approval May 3, 1893.

The Association then organized with the following officers :—

ROBERT T. PAINE, JR.	PRESIDENT
WILLIAM P. FOWLER, 28 State St.,	TREASURER
JOHN CROWLEY, P. O. Box 2881,	SECRETARY

VICE-PRESIDENTS :

EDWIN GINN.	EMORY J. HAYNES.
ALBERT A. POPE.	

OTHER DIRECTORS :

ARTHUR B. ELLIS.	LAWRENCE MINOT.
THEODORE M. CLARK.	GEORGE W. POPE.
ROBERT TREAT PAINE.	CHAS. J. PAGE.
JOHN H. STORER.	

The terms of the charter were not such as to induce the Society to start building operations, and it was decided that before doing so, they would appear before the next Legislature and endeavor to get some of the restrictions removed, so that business people would come forward with subscriptions. The required amendments were adopted in 1894.

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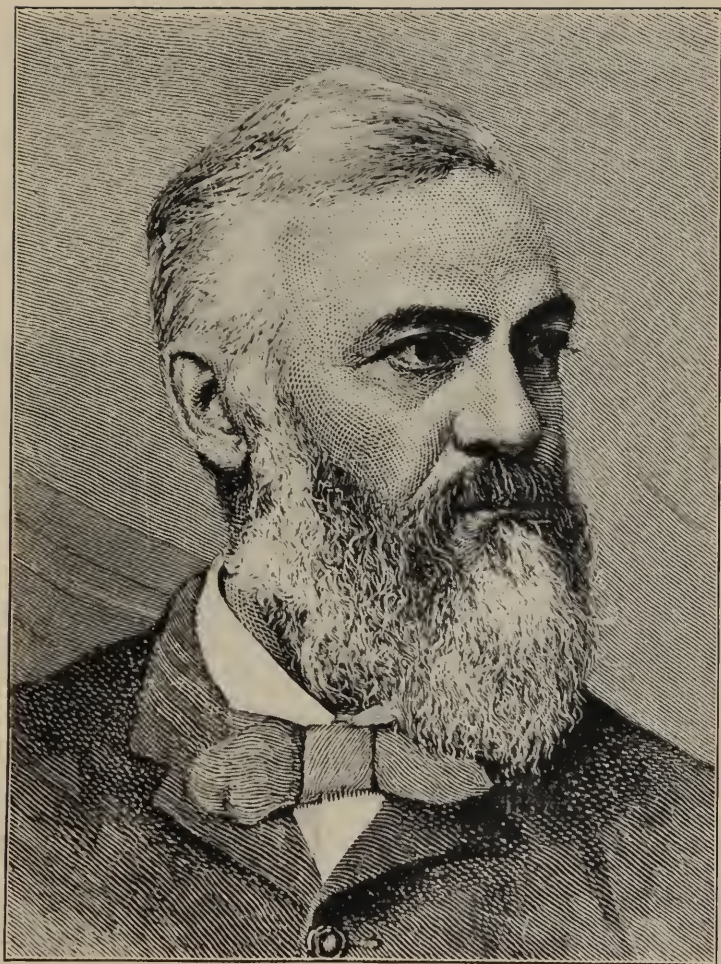
## PEOPLE'S BUILDING ASSOCIATION.

ACT OF INCORPORATION, AS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS IN 1893, AND AMENDED IN 1894.

SECTION 1. Edwin Ginn, William P. Fowler, Robert Treat Paine, Emory J. Haynes, Laurence Minot, Arthur B. Ellis, Thomas Doane, John H. Storer, Theodore M. Clark, William D. P. Bliss, John Crowley, Charles J. Page, George W. Pope, Robert Treat Paine, Jr., their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation for the period of thirty years from the date of the passage of chapter two hundred and ninety-nine of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-three, by the name of People's Building Association, to hold and improve real estate in the city of Boston, or anywhere within ten miles of the city of Boston, for the purpose of erecting, maintaining, leasing, selling, and improving houses for working people, and others of moderate means, and of promoting the adoption of improved modes of building, and the enforcement of sanitary regulations calculated to secure the comfortable and healthful conditions of structures so occupied, subject to the provisions of chapters one hundred and five and one hundred and six of the Public Statutes, and to all general laws which now are or may hereafter be in force relating to such corporations, and shall have the powers and be subject to the liabilities and restrictions prescribed therein.

SEC. 2. Said corporation shall have power to buy, hold, sell, mortgage, and lease real estate for the purposes aforesaid, with a regular place of business in the city of Boston.

SEC. 3. The capital of said company shall not exceed two hundred thousand dollars, to be divided into shares, each of the



EDWIN GINN.



par value of twenty-five dollars ; and the dividends on said shares shall not exceed six per cent per annum on the value thereof.

SEC. 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

The amendments extended the corporation's term of existence from ten to thirty years, and removed other grave impediments to successful work. With the charter in its amended form, it was voted at the second annual meeting held April 1894, to take steps to begin operations. It is easy to see, and needs no further explanation, what an important bearing upon the problem of slum life the work of this society, properly conducted, will have.

The names of its directors remove all doubt that the work is not in reliable and capable hands. Appended is the full list elected at the second annual meeting.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

THEODORE M. CLARK.

THOMAS DOANE.

WILLIAM P. FOWLER.

EDWIN GINN.

JOHN C. HAYNES.

JOHN F. MOORS.

ALBERT A. POPE.

FRANCIS B. SEARS.

JOHN H. STORER.

JOHN CROWLEY.

ARTHUR B. ELLIS.

JOHN D. W. FRENCH.

JAMES G. HAYNES.

ARTHUR LYMAN.

ROBERT T. PAINE, JR.

GEORGE W. POPE.

FREDERIC STONE.

ROBERT S. STURGIS.



## WORK OF THE LEAGUE.—Continued.

INCORPORATION OF THE LEAGUE.—ELECTION OF OFFICERS.—  
AFFIDAVIT CONCERNING SWEAT SHOPS IN BOSTON AND  
VICINITY.—BOSTON'S SLUMS AND SWEAT SHOPS.

September 28, 1893, a meeting was held at the office of Hon. John Q. A. Brackett, 48 Congress Street, Boston.

It was voted to proceed to organize a corporation according to agreement read and placed on file, under chapter 115 of the Public Statutes, and the acts in amendment thereof and in addition thereto.

It was voted that the name of the corporation be The Anti-Tenement House League.

It was voted that the purposes of the corporation be the same as specified in the articles of agreement, and its principal office, or place of business be in Boston, Massachusetts.

It was voted that the certificate be filed in accordance with the law.

By-laws were adopted and officers elected: Rev. A. A. Miner, D. D., LL. D., President; Rev. Philip S. Moxom, D. D., Vice-President; John Crowley, Secretary; Hon. John Q. A. Brackett, Treasurer, with a Board of seven Directors, all of whom were re-elected, at the annual meeting held January 25, 1894, at the residence of Rev. Dr. A. A. Miner. The By-laws were carefully drawn up and revised by the Rev. Dr. Moxom and Ex-Gov. Brackett, before adoption.

Dr. Miner has been a member of the League since its organization and a Director since 1892. Upon his election as President he inaugurated a campaign of facts, the results of which are given in appended reports. These reports have been verified by officers and members of the League:

Extract from records, October 27, 1893:

“The meeting was called to order by the Rev. A. A. Miner. The secretary reported that tenement-house sweat shops existed, in violation of the law, at 36 Kirkland Street, Boston, and at 2 Eldridge Place, Chelsea, Mass. The conditions surrounding them were filthy, the facts in this connection being set forth in an affidavit. In South Boston, at 259 Third Street was a sweat shop where disease-breeding conditions existed, owned by a





HON. JOHN Q. A. BRACKETT.



clergyman named Corcoran. This clergyman is said to own dozens of houses which are as ill-kept as any in the worst parts of South Boston. The affidavit procured by the secretary, read :

BOSTON, October 27, 1893.

We, the undersigned, on oath declare and depose, that while on a tour of inspection of tenement houses, we found one Mr. Jacobs, with two employees, in his living apartments of two rooms, at 36 Kirkland Street, Boston, Mass., making boys' ulsters in their entirety, for the firm of Goldberg & Co., of 46 Summer Street, in said Boston; that we also found a shop in the rear of some buildings in a crowded section of an alley, at 259 Third Street, in that part of Boston known as South Boston, in which an indescribable collection of filth and rubbish is giving forth an appalling stench, and where one Boronech, with eight male help and one woman with a child in her arms, makes coats for Isaac Fenno & Co., of said Boston; that we also found at 2 Eldridge Place, in Chelsea, Mass., a tenement house sweat shop situated in the basement cellar—a dreary and low-studded den, where one Kerstein manufactures clothing for Miner, Beal & Co., and J. Peavy, wholesale clothiers of Boston.

(Signed)

F. W. JACQUES.  
JOHN CONNOLLY.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Then personally appeared the above named and made oath that the foregoing deposition by them subscribed is true. Before me,  
(Signed) CHARLES E. JENNINGS,  
*Notary Public.*"

The secretary was instructed to give the matter to the press, which was done. The result was that the state officers in looking up these places unearthed other tenement house sweat shops, which they suppressed, or, perhaps displaced, would be more exact.

The statistics collected since the incorporation of the league are so voluminous that our space will permit us to give but a few. The following reports were made by the league's agents as a result of their investigations, August 6 and 8, 1894; afterwards verified by officers of the league.

Oliver Place (between Essex and Beach Streets), littered with rubbish and filth of various kinds. Uncovered barrels of swill

and ashes stood before entrances to the houses. The tenants were mainly Portuguese and Irish.

At 15 Oliver Place, in a dark, damp and dirty cellar lives John McD. and his family. They were very poor, out of work and needing assistance. Dirty children swarmed in the neighborhood. At the time of our visit a fight among the Portuguese made it impossible to further investigate.

At 28 Kneeland Street, found two crowded sweat shops. The stairs leading to the sweat shop on the top floor was covered with dust nearly an inch thick, while the filthy walls were covered with rude pencil drawings of the most indecent character, supplemented with lewd and immoral writing. Decency forbids details and we can only hint at its nature. During meal hours swarms of girls and women sitting on the stairs and standing in the entries are confronted with it day in and day out.

At 294 Harrison Avenue (second floor) we found a dirty and crowded sweat shop.

At 286 Harrison Avenue, another sweat shop in a neglected condition.

At 5 Motte Street, are sweat shops on third and fourth floor. The entries and stairs were extremely filthy, and immoral drawings and writing covered the walls, similar to that seen at 28 Kneeland Street. The proprietor of one of these sweat shops is the Hon. Isaac Rosnosky, who has maintained the shop for years, making clothing for A. Shuman & Co. These shops were crowded with men and women.

In Dorchester, near the track of the N. Y. & N. E. R. R., are three blocks of dilapidated tenement houses, often noticed and commented upon by those who travel by. One of these blocks is called Oakes Street. It is occupied by Italians and Irish, possessing very large families of children. The people were in need of the barest necessities of life, and begged for work.

One poor woman at No. 2, a Mrs. C. and another at No. 4, a Mrs. P. as well as her sister-in-law wanted sewing, washing or any kind of work to do. The houses were extremely filthy and the plaster had fallen off in all directions. Destitution and human misery reached its height at Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 9, among the Italian element.

To the left of Oakes Street, on Clapp Street, is another row of trembling rookeries, which in the past has paid the penalty of its vile environment by being scourged with disease.

The third block is known as Willow Court. The Court, at the time of our visit (Monday, August 6, 1894), was almost surrounded by water: the tide in front and a sheet of stagnant water behind, which, exuding a deathly odor, attracted swarms of flies. At one end of the rear of Willow Court the accumulated manure from a stable intensified the nuisance, moistened and soddened as it was by the overflowing tide.

Some years ago diphtheria and scarlet fever visited these places, knocking at the door of nearly every house; as many as five in one family being stricken down. After this the city put in a sewer to keep the high tides from surrounding the houses and filling the cellars. The sewer, however, does not serve its purpose when the tide is unusually high, as was the case at the time of our visit.

In some of these houses, notably at 1 Willow Court, indescribable conditions of filth and decay prevailed. One of the tenants of this tenement house is Mrs. W., with six in family. She wanted work. She said that some time ago four of her family were stricken with diphtheria.

In another house a kitchen bar room flourished. The people on this Court were mainly Irish and in many cases given to drink, as evidenced by a beer team busily engaged taking liquor into almost every house, and by numerous other signs too convincing and disgusting to be doubted. Among the worst cases that begged for work were Mrs. M., of No. 2, Mrs. H., No. 3 and Mrs. D. and Mrs. B., No. 9. The rear of this Court, with the stagnant water, runs along Massachusetts Avenue where it is crossed by the tracks of the N. Y. & N. E. R. R.

Cove Place is a collection of rookeries, apparently ready to fall of their own decaying weight. There is no sidewalk and the roadway is littered with rubbish. Surprising numbers of unclean children sprawl around, wallowing in the mire. The people are all Irish with the exception of some Arabian families. Numbers of dangerous looking men, young and old, hung around. The inevitable beer team joined with bloated faces and reeking breaths in proclaiming the sway of intemperance.

At 25 Cove Place we found a Mrs. F. She had two children. Not a morsel of food was in the bare room, but she said that she expected her sister or the neighbors to bring some in before night. Her husband was a shiftless fellow with an aversion for work only equalled by his love for drink. The bed was almost destitute

of clothes, as was the woman. One of the children lay sick with cholera morbus.

On the second floor of the same house was Mrs. S., a washer-woman. Her place was filthy. Ashes and swill were scattered on the landing, and the disturbed condition of things gave evidence of a row having taken place. A can of beer and a loaf of bread was on the table.

No. 17 Cove Place is a filthy old rookery. Up one flight lives A. G., an Arabian, four children and mother. They all live, eat and sleep in one dark, dirty room. The children, filthy from head to foot, were lying in heaps of old rags on the floor. An old mattress was tied up in the entry. The room was scantily furnished and the children looked sick and hungry. The parents were out peddling small wares. The rest of the house was occupied by Arabians, but they were all out peddling.

At 4 Cove Place, Mr. C., widower, with five children, lived in two rooms. Back yard and entries filthy.

At 5 Cove Place, in three small rooms, lives Mrs. N., with two grown up sons and one daughter, her son's wife and four grandchildren — eight in all.

Most of the houses on Cove Place and Street, with the exception of six owned by a Mrs. Falvey, and a few by other parties, are owned by the Old Colony Co. There were scenes in this house which would appal the stoutest heart. Filth unmentionable bearing sickening stench, held full sway. (We cannot even hint at other conditions existing.) At the time of our visit the aged grandmother was just going out to pawn a pair of blankets that she had taken off her sick daughter's bed and washed. Desperately were they in need of everything — clothes, food, medicine and work.

No. 110 Cove Street. In two bare and filthy rooms, lives Mrs. E. C——, three children and husband. The latter had been idle for eight months. They were in great need of even the barest necessities of life. On the same floor in two rooms, lives Mr. S——, a widower, with four children, ages ranging from two to seven years. His wife died there two weeks ago of consumption. His two small rooms were, from a sanitary standpoint, unfit for human habitation. The kitchen floor was strewn with pots, pans and broken crockery, while reeking swill and rubbish carpeted the floor, forming a soft yet noxious and noisome tapestry. In one corner near the stove, a jug of molasses



was upset and ran over the floor for about four feet, swarming with flies. The family all slept on an old worn out mattress, the bed covering being old articles of clothes.

At 112 Cove Street, lives M. C——, age eighty-six years, in a dark, damp and dismal cellar. Here in this gloomy underground recess she eats, cooks and sleeps. When we entered she was lying on a bed of rags asleep and covered with flies. In her helpless and destitute age she is being supported by the neighbors and some aid from the Chardon Street Home.

No. 120 Cove Street. The poorest dweller in this rookery appears to be Mrs. W——, a widow with five small children. All were ragged, dirty and looked half starved. The filth permeating the house with sickening odor, reached its height in her two miserable rooms.

No. 122 Cove Street represented the average house on this street, with its filth, squalor, broken plaster and rickety stairs. On the second floor in two rooms, lived Mrs. M——, three children, and husband out of work. The family was in dire want, the children needing shoes and clothing badly to enable them to go back to school. One child had a very distressing cough, the result of going barefooted early last spring. Her husband had just came out of the hospital where he had lain for six months.

No. 66 Cove Street, double house, sunk in centre, and in tottering condition. The house is divided into two room tenements, the rent ranging from \$1.75 to \$3.00 per tenement, weekly. Here, on the second floor, in two dark, damp and wrecked rooms lived a Mrs. W——, shaking with age, sickness and accumulated woe. She had buried her last two grandchildren two weeks ago, and her husband within a week. Unable to pay her rent, which was \$2.00 per week, she had just received notice to quit in twenty-four hours. The house is owned by a Mrs. Haggerty of Mattapan. Mrs. W—— wanted work.

In same house lives Mrs. M. P——, with father, husband, child, brother, and two sisters—six in all, occupying two rooms. She begged hard for work, saying that none of the family were working, and that her furniture, bought on the instalment plan, would be taken from them unless employment came. Besides, she said, they were in need of the barest necessities of life.

On the same floor, in three rooms, lived a family named M——, numbering eight in all. The rent was \$3.00 per week.

They were very poor and wanted work, and medical attendance for a baby of a year which had the whooping cough. This house is overshadowed on one side by a large building and on the other by a stable.

No. 343 Federal Street is an old four story rookery, half of which is condemned. The entrance to this tenement house are ladder-like steps, extending from the narrow rear alley to the second floor. These steps are broken, rickety and dangerous to walk on. Reaching the tenement to which they lead and opening the door, we encounter stench arising from accumulated filth within. On this floor lives Mr. F—— and wife. The husband was sick and confined to the house. The wife works in a restaurant. Their five children were recently taken away and placed in the Harrison Avenue Home. The man cried while telling the story and seemed disconsolate. The rooms in which they lived were dark, damp and delapidated. It was evidently many a year since the plaster began to fall, as evidenced by the wear and tear of the smoked lathes. Almost every pane of glass in the window was smashed. There is no water supply, except that furnished by neighbors. This may partly account for the fact that in this place the acme of filth was well nigh reached. In the tenement above, five small children, very dirty and shabby, were locked in a kitchen while the mother was away. The first floor was occupied by a store, the top floor by a barber shop. The water closet, located in the rear of the alley, was in a filthy and foul smelling condition. Garbage and rotten vegetation made walking slippery.

Narrow alley, rear 137 Beach Street, contained several uncovered barrels containing fetid swill and ashes. It is mainly occupied by Arabian hordes. The women and children peddle small wares, including fans, sleeve holders, rosary beads, combs, crucifixes, pens, etc. The men invariably stay at home gambling and drinking, the supply of liquor being furnished by one of their number maintaining a den well stocked with wet goods.

In the second house from the street, up one flight, live a family of ten which includes four boarders. A greasy looking man was making unleavened bread and baking it in very large thin cakes on top of a dirty stove. These cakes lay in piles on the filthy floor, resembling small barrels. Cockroaches swarmed, covering unleavened bread, ceiling and walls. In the crevices they crawled and clustered. Despite the hot night and still



hotter stove we grew cold amid our unnatural surroundings. They sit on the floor and eat, using neither chairs, tables or dishes. Their beverage is whiskey and water, used by both sexes, young and old. Their beds are on the floor, and we were informed that in these beds, ranged side by side, sleep fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers and boarders, indiscriminately.

The following is an extract of a report of several days' investigation made in August and September, 1894 :

Parker Place, off Salem Street, is a narrow street covered with dirt, cans, paper, etc. The houses are rookeries in decaying condition. The place overrun with neglected children. Others were locked in, the mothers being away plying their vocation of peddling. The residents were Jews.

At No. 1, Mr. C—— and family of five live in one room in the basement. Said they were out of work and in need.

Wiget Street, narrow, and in filthy neglected condition. At No. 8 lived Mrs. M——, a widow with six children, in two small rooms on fourth floor. Said they were in very straightened circumstances. Entries and stairs dirty and pervaded with foul odors.

On same floor lives Mrs. G——, husband in Africa. She goes peddling, leaving her five children in charge of the oldest, a girl of eight or nine years. One week ago her baby, nearly two years old, while locked in the room, climbed on to a table to the window, through which it fell into the street. It was instantly killed. Her place was poorly furnished and in filthy condition. The children said they were hungry, and looked as if their hunger was of long standing.

At No 11 lived Mrs. L——, with three children, in two dark, damp, filthy rooms in basement. Needed work or assistance. Rent \$2.00 per week.

At No. 13 lived Mrs. S——, similarly situated in dark basement, paying \$2.25 per week for rent. The children were sick. One had very sore eyes. In front of the door were broken overloaded swill and ash barrels, the contents of which were scattered around with wood and rubbish, attracting swarms of flies. As we were leaving this den a brick covered with mortar was hurled at us from above.

No. 22 Morton Street, second and third floors, occupied by Poles, comprising four rooms. The plaster was gone from the

walls, stairs broken and rickety, bad stench. They kept boarders. Rent \$4.00 per week.

At 20 Morton Street lived Mr. H——, wife and children, seven in all. They live in three small rooms for which they pay \$2.50 per week. House shaky and dilapidated; broken plaster. Walls covered with filth and grease. Kitchen strewn with wood, cinders and old rags. A little girl of eight was doing the housework while her mother lay sick. The little girl's attempt at washing clothes in a tub on the floor was pathetic. The father said he was out of work and had been ordered to move out.

No. 16½ Morton Street, on first floor, in one dark and very filthy room, lives Mrs. C——, widow, with four children. Her husband had just died of sunstroke. Room contained a bed with filthy covering on which lay a baby eighteen months old, sick with cholera morbus. Two boys and a girl of seven years were sitting on the bed. The mother was out begging. The room contained neither stove, chairs, dishes, clothes or food. The children said they were hungry. We bought them some food which they eat ravenously. These people live entirely on charity. The children were almost naked and famished looking.

No. 16 Morton Street, first floor, destitute woman, sick, with nude baby wrapped in soiled blanket.

At 1 Collamore Place, off Salem Street, Mrs. B——, a deformed woman lives. She sat on the steps crying, with her two-week-old baby sick in her arms. She told us that her eldest girl (16 years) had overturned a lighted oil stove a few days ago and was nearly burned to death. She supported herself and six children by peddling, and paid \$2.50 per week for the three small rooms in which they lived.

At 91 Salem Street, Mrs. M—— and her husband live, eat, sleep and make clothing in the same room; bed, stove, sewing-machine and work, all together. Among the other poor residents of this filthy house was Mrs. R——, in destitute condition and wanting work. On second floor is a tenement house workshop, where clothing is made, altered and repaired. One of the workmen gave his name, but from the boss, who entered, we could get no information. The work was done in a dirty kitchen. A woman was preparing a meal. The men were eating bread and drinking beer on the same table with their work.

On the same floor, Mrs. G—— lives with her family of three

children, in one dark, dirty room. Rent \$1.50 per week. She supports her family by crocheting. Said they needed aid.

At 4 Collamore Place, Mr. S. Glass lives with his family, and maintains a tenement house work-shop, making clothing. At the time of our visit they were cooking a meal of fish.

No. 97 Salem Street, rear, is enclosed by houses and fences. The narrow entrance is crowded with barrels of ashes and garbage which gave forth a very sickening stench, Among the poor tenants who asked for work was Maurice Bowen, living on second floor with wife and child.

Noyes Place is a filthy, narrow street, off Salem, piled up with rubbish, ash barrels and swill. It swarmed with children.

At 61 Prince Street, in two rooms on first floor, lives Mrs. S—— and family of ten. Her husband is sick with consumption and hasn't worked for years. The woman supported the family by peddling fish and vegetables with a hand-cart. Of late, the woman claimed, the police have sent her home. She had a daughter aged sixteen and a son fourteen, who find it impossible to get work on account of their ragged clothes. The place was in a filthy and crowded condition. The woman said that on warm nights part of the family had to sleep in the yard, and at other times on the kitchen floor.

No. 65 Prince Street. The funeral of an unfortunate woman who committed suicide the day before was taking place.

No. 65 Prince Street, Mrs. D—— made clothing for a Boston firm. She lived, eat, slept, with husband and one child, in one room for which she pays \$6.25 per month.

No. 61 Prince Street, Mrs. B—— lived in two rooms with a family of five, for which she pays \$2.00 a week. In the kitchen pants, coats and vests were piled up near the stove, from the floor nearly to the ceiling. She supported her family by selling them on the wharves to the sailors and longshoremen. She said she couldn't make a living at it and would like work of some kind.

No. 68 Prince Street. Mrs. F——, with seven children, lives on the third floor in two rooms. The rooms were in a filthy, decaying condition. The stairs were broken and rickety and the plaster had fallen from the walls in all directions. Her rooms were almost destitute of furniture and swarmed with famished looking half nude children. One child, a boy of seven years, was entirely naked. His mother explained that he had been sick and when he recovered, one of his brothers had worn

his clothes out, so that he had not a single stitch to put on. She supported herself and family by working for the man on the floor below, who had a family of three small children, his wife being in an insane asylum; driven there, our informant stated, by her husband's cruelty. We visited the floor below and found the premises of the woman's employer as filthy and as poorly furnished as her own.

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### EXTRACT FROM SECRETARY'S REPORT.

We have frequently reported cases of violation of the factory laws and have personally conducted the two special officers in company with Rev. Dr. Bliss and S. D. Hannah, to places on Prince, Fleet, Lowell, Bellerica and Endicott Streets, where clothing was being finished in foul tenements without a license. Upon another occasion took them to the factory of Fox Bros., 13 Kingston Street, H. Levi, 15 Marshall Street, and So Blackstone Street, where the people were working on Sunday. All that the inspectors did about it was to see the firms who employed the sweaters.

The following places were reported where filthy and inhuman conditions existed; Wasserman's shop, 125 Merrimac Street; there were no arrangements whatever for escape in case of fire, except by the miserable steps, and were one to attempt a hurried exit, as would naturally occur in case of fire, the result would be a broken neck to the first and disaster to those who followed.

Mr. Weiseman has a trousers factory at 86 Chardon Street, and a young girl acting as boss and general interpreter, and she has doubtless received explicit orders to be careful of all visitors. There was but one toilet apartment, and that was a temporary affair in one corner of the close, dirty room in which they work and eat.

At 68 Pitt Street similar conditions prevailed. It would take a long time to give all the sickening details, or to name all the places visited.

I cannot, however, forbear to mention two more places. Mr. Ornelick was visited at 137 Fulton Street. This building, together with 139 Fulton Street, is the property of a Mr. Loud.

At the time of our visit the property bore out the suggestion the owner's name offers. Although a loud piece of property it had never been heard of by any inspector. The building 137 Fulton Street surpassed in filth anything I ever saw in Boston. Here men and women engaged in the manufacture of clothing seemed no better than dogs. The only toilet convenience for all the men and women was a miserable room which stood exposed at the head of the flight of stairs, except for a large bureau draw placed upon a wooden horse. Not even as much as a partition protected the place from passers by, and the fumes arising from this state of affairs was sickening. There were no fire escapes, at least not for the clothing workers. When Mr. Cornelick was asked if there were any fire escapes, he said "yes," and pointed to the stove. That most of the fire had escaped was noticeable. Through our efforts this sweatshop was abolished.

Another sweatshop of similar character in South Boston, owned by Rev. Fr. Corcoran of St. Vincent's Church, has been recently discovered together with two tenement-house sweatshops. An affidavit referring to these places, procured by your secretary, states that the indescribable collection of filth and rubbish surrounding the South Boston sweatshop gave forth an appalling stench. After publishing these facts, these places were thoroughly cleaned up.

In company with a Herald reporter and two members of the league, I visited the Portuguese Colony in Cambridge on March the 8th. What we saw was described in the Herald, in a two and a half column article, illustrated.

The attention of Governor Russell and the Cambridge Board of Health was called to the matter, and for some days after the city of Cambridge was engaged in carting away the filth and swill that covered the area bounded by First and Third Streets, between Cambridge and Vine Streets.

In the article referred to, the Herald said, "That it would be abuse to house a dog in these hovels," and again, in describing what we saw, the same paper said: "The main points in this story from Cambridge are: First, that a large number of people are living in tenements in that city under conditions that would disgrace a stable or a kennel; second, that clothing sold in Boston is being made in Cambridge rookeries amid the most filthy and

dangerous surroundings; and third, that a grave menace to the health of both Cambridge and Boston exists in consequence of the first two facts.

If both cities escape an outbreak of cholera or some other infectious disease during the coming summer, it will not be for lack of a first-class plague germinator right on the outskirts of the two communities.

If anyone is desirous of testing these statements by his own personal observation, let him take a car bound for East Cambridge, and when he has arrived at Craigie's bridge let him look out at the crowd of pedestrians crossing over from this city. In the throng he will not fail to notice at any time of the day from half a dozen to a dozen shabbily dressed women and girls making their way along with large bundles under their arms.

He is at once on the track of discovering for himself the truth of the three assertions above made. Let him leave the car and follow on where the women lead. He will not have far to go for at the corner of First Street in East Cambridge he will notice the women disappearing from the main thoroughfare down the side and intersecting streets towards Charles river. One of them, perhaps, will enter boldly from Cambridge Street itself into the house numbered 86. Let him go in after her. He will find it a three-story frame building in an advanced state of decomposition and divided into eight tenements of three and four rooms each. He will be fortunate if in going up stairs his foot doesn't break through steps, which are worn to splinter thickness.

Entering one of the tenements, he will find a Portuguese woman stitching a pair of pantaloons, a half dozen other pairs thrown on a chair near by. The room is low, hot and gloomy; the walls and ceiling begrimed with soot and grease, and the floor broken and uneven where the house has settled into the soil. Evidences not only of pinched circumstances, but of careless and dirty housekeeping are apparent everywhere. Squalid children are running around the floor, and the atmosphere is so thick that an escape into the outer air is imperative at once. If he gets out by way of the yard, however, he will wade through a mess of filth and garbage that lies all over the place. It would seem that the tenants take the shortest way of disposing of their refuse, by opening their windows and dumping it wherever it chances to fall. There is no sign of an ash or garbage



barrel anywhere. What the conditions prevailing in this house might under warmer temperature develop for the inmates and for those who buy the clothing made by them is not pleasant to contemplate, and still 86 Cambridge Street is a Beacon Street mansion in comparison with other tenements in the same district.

Let our observer pursue his search further. He will find in the area bounded by First and Third Streets, between Cambridge and Vine Streets, scores of human dwellings in which it would be an abuse to house a dog. Tumbledown old barracks, whose usefulness for anything but kindling wood has long been a thing of the past, are split up into small tenements of three or four rooms in which families numbering from five to eight people are herded. The dirt in many of them is simply appalling in this community at a time when the public alarm against possible epidemic is so keen and precautions against the breaking out of a contagious disease are supposed to be vigilantly enforced.

If the acme of filth and of the miserable conditions under which the people are living be desired, let the seeker go at once to the tenement block of C. W. Munroe, numbered from 30 to 38 Spring Street. This is a three-story wooden building of seven houses of three tenements each, and a worse rookery from top to bottom, interiorly and exteriorly, is not to be found anywhere. The odor which greets the visitor in any of the houses is fetid from the crowded state of the rooms; the entries are damp and dirty, the plaster has fallen from the walls, and in the basement the brick dividing wall between houses is in many of them falling apart, permitting one to look from one basement to the other. The cellars in all of the houses are wet. In some of them the water from the street passes in unhindered, and lies in pools all over the cellar floor, making dampness in the tenements inevitable. In several of the cellars refuse and old bedding are thrown to rot and breed disease.

The aspect of the yards of these houses surpasses in filth anything in the district. No attempt is made at collecting the offal in a receptacle. It is simply thrown at haphazard into the yards and on a large dump in the rear of them, to lie there until the summer warmth extracts from its outspread rottenness whatever sickness it pleases.



And in this block of twenty-one reeking tenements, pantaloons are sewed and finished by the dozen every week for Boston manufacturers.

In the tenement numbered 32 Spring Street lives Minnie Silva, a finisher for a Boston firm, and her husband, mother and four children. Her home comprises three rooms, one of which is used as parlor, kitchen, dining-room, bedroom and sewing room. The picture of dirt it presents may be taken as the summit reached by the conditions under which all the tenants live in this block.

Lowland Avenue is another thoroughfare lined by the wretched homes of the Portuguese residents of the district. Its surface presented yesterday a variegated appearance of swill, slush and ash heaps, which was more than matched by the condition of the back yards adjoining the houses. In one of the latter dwell a woman and her seven children in four small rooms. The eldest child, a girl of 14 years, is a finisher of pantaloons for a Boston sweater. In nearly every house in the district this work is done, and it required only a few inquiries to prove that it is being done in direct violation of even the little law which exists on the subject.

One of the preliminaries to the right to sew clothing intended for sale in a tenement house is the procuring of a license granting that privilege. In this Cambridge Portuguese colony are many who are sewing without any license whatever. Again, the license calls for absolute cleanliness of the apartment and the surroundings where clothing is sewed. Absolute cleanliness or anything approaching it cannot possibly be found in these overcrowded, dingy rookeries, whose conditions and surroundings have been touched upon above.

Another condition of the license is that no room used as a sleeping apartment shall be used as a sewing room, nor shall any such article of clothing remain in such an apartment. A tour of these tenement sewing places will show not only that clothing is sewn in sleeping rooms, but that the family bed is often the place where the bundles of clothing are placed during and after the finishing of them.

Licenses are supposed to be issued after inspection of the premises by the inspectors appointed for the purpose, but many of the women will admit that not only has the inspector never come to their rooms, but that they received their licenses from

their employers and not from the chief of police at all. The law on the subject is little more than a farce in its operation, so far as an examination of the Portuguese colony of Cambridge can show it. It cannot be otherwise, so long as there are only two inspectors for the whole State, with an estimated number of 150,000 places where clothing is made to be looked after, and the immense importations from other States also to be examined.

Meanwhile the danger to health continues, and instances where sickness and death have been directly traced to the purchase of clothing in well-known clothing stores in Boston are in the possession of those who are endeavoring to throw as many safeguards as possible around the making of clothing in tenement houses.

From a tour of these Cambridge tenements it is evident that the sweater has only his own profit at heart, and so long as he can have pantaloons made at a price ranging from 8 to 13 cents per pair he is not going to inquire particularly into the condition of the places where they are made, nor what kind of germs they may bring back to his shop from the wretched home of the finisher.

Another fact clearly to be learned from a visit to these tenements is the great necessity for better homes for the poorest classes. Most of these flimsily constructed, ramshackle, disease-breeding hovels cost their occupants from \$6 to \$10 per month, and even then offer them neither opportunity nor inducement to cleanliness. In not a single one of these East Cambridge shells is there a water closet in the house. The old-fashioned dug-out vaults in the yard are all the tenants have, and in most instances they are in an indescribable condition.

The movement to put up small houses for these people in the suburbs of Boston at a price not exceeding the average rental per week paid at present by the tenant is a step to eliminate the misery at present encountered by these tenants, with the added prospect to them of owning their own home, and the opportunity to beautify it, and raise their families amid cleanliness and better surroundings."

During the summer I visited a number of tenement houses where clothing was being made and finished, and wherever I entered I was met with the question, "Where is your authority?" often spoken in broken English, and very often the only English that the questioner knew. Who taught them this?

This brings me to the remedies that I would recommend that the league appoint a committee to draw up and present to the Legislature, a bill holding the owner of property responsible for filthy, overcrowded and dangerous conditions existing on his property.

Secondly, that the league endeavor to secure the amendment of the present Massachusetts law, to prevent the sale of clothing made in unhealthy places, by having the word "knowingly" struck out of section four, as this word emasculates the law and renders it worthless.

Thirdly, that the league press upon Congress the need of such legislation upon the sweating system, as will enable the purchaser to know where and how the clothes he buys are made, and that we call upon the national legislation against the sweating system, to use the national powers to regulate interstate commerce and protect the public health.

The incorporation of the league, which was recommended by Ex-Governor Brackett, was carried out October 13th, 1893.

I have in this report touched but briefly on what has been done in the past year: in a word, I can say that I left no stone unturned to carry out the objects of the league.

No words of mine can fittingly express my appreciation for the earnest co-operation that I have received in carrying on the active part of the league's work from the Rev. A. A. Miner, Rev. Emory J. Haynes, Ex-Governor John Q. A. Brackett, Governor William E. Russell, Rev. Phillip S. Moxom, Mr. William P. Fowler, Rev. Edward Everett Hale, Mr. Edwin Ginn, Rev. George C. Lorimer, Robert Treat Paine, Jr., and H. K. Hannah.

It is through the co-operation of such men that the league has been enabled to make its mark upon the times, and be as it stands to day, a power for good.

I am truly yours,

November 14, '93.

JOHN CROWLEY, *Secretary.*

A visit in June, 1894, to the Cambridge quarters revealed a revival of the above conditions. The Secretary's report read:

No. 86 Cambridge Street is an old three-story wooden shanty. The steps are extremely worn and rickety. On the second



JOHN CROWLEY.



floor M. P. and Mrs. T. finish pants in the kitchen. Unfinished pants were piled by the side of the stove, which was very dirty. In the front room a Mrs. R. was finishing pants, for which she received ten cents per pair. There was an old dirty mattress behind the door. Many dirty children woke the echoes of this dirty house.

No. 40 First Street, Mrs. T. finished pants under similar conditions. She had her five children all gathered about her.

No. 42 First Street, M. S. finished pants in a small dark rear room, opening into a dirty yard. She couldn't speak English, and hadn't any license. She averaged about \$2.50 per week. Her husband was dead, and she had one child, which was with her in the room. The windows and doors were closed and old rags kept out the sun. The house was extremely rickety and foul smelling.

At 52 First Street, another trembling rookery; the stench was overpowering. The first floor is used as a store room for old junk. On the second floor we found a woman seated on the stairs with an eight months old baby, apparently dying. Its face was deadly pale, and covered with mattery sores. The mother said she thought it was sick with chicken pox. She said that she buried two of her children from the same house within six months, one dying of diphtheria, the other of scarlet fever. She said that she finishes pants for a living, but was out of work. She begged piteously for work, protesting that it would save her child's life, the only one left. Her name was Mrs. N., a widow.

On the same floor lives Mr. D., a ropemaker, who said he could not get work enough to keep the wolf from the door. He is a pale, thin man, and told his story briefly but feelingly. He pointed to his three famished looking children and said they were starving, then turned away to hide his tears. The man looked just as hungry as the children, seemed quite unnerved, and spoke in a faltering trembling tone. The room was bare and dirty.

On the third floor of this den lives E. H. Her place was extremely dirty. The water was shut off. In the kitchen was a stove and two chairs. In the next room a torn and dirty mattress without bedclothes served as a bed.

Nos. 86-88 First Street. Two filthy tenements swarming with neglected looking children. The women living therein begged for work claiming to be experienced clothing finishers.

No. 88 First Street, Mrs. M. a widow with six children, claiming to be an all round tailoress sat finishing pants for a Boston firm in her squalid kitchen. She asked for aid saying that by working day and night she could only earn two or three dollars a week upon which sum, seven people depended for support in addition to paying the rent.

No. 90 First Street is in the same category.

No. 15 Second Street chaos reigned. The plaster was gone and the laths laid bare while dirt and grease held full sway. Women residing there were clothing finishers and asked for work. Looked as though they needed it.

Nos. 13-11-9-7 Second Street conditions about the same.

No. 66 Second Street Mrs. D. finished pants in the kitchen. She is a widow with two children, one a blind boy. By working day and night her pay averaged \$2.50 per work. She is a weak delicate little woman. Her place was clean but the house a rookery.

No. 25 Second Street, Mrs. F. three women and a girl of fourteen were finishing pants in the kitchen for A Shuman & Co. It was very warm and cooking was going on.

No. 28 Spring Street, Mary G. finishing pants in the kitchen where cooking and washing was going on. On the third floor Amelia C. finished pants for Dean & Co., Devonshire Street, at nine cents per pair making six to eight pairs a day and working from 6 A. M. to 9 P. M.

Nos. 32-34-36 were all filthy from cellar to roof, teeming with neglected children, some of them having sore eyes. The women clamored for work at finishing clothing at which they claimed to be experienced.

No. 38 Spring Street, (filthy). On the first floor Mary T. finishes pants. She had just left to go to Boston with finished work and to receive more, leaving her two children in a dirty room with the windows and doors locked. The youngest a mere baby had sore eyes, the oldest about three years made a number of faces at us which were astonishing in their variety.

A bad case was that of Mrs. J. F. of 50 Spring Street. The old woman was filthy from head to foot. She lives in a cellar, damp and dark. Spoke very little English. Husband at sea.



Nephew lived with her but out of work. She said she didn't know who she worked for as she hadn't any clothes to go out in. Pants were sent from Boston by express and she received only six cents per pair for finishing, completing about three pairs a day. Said she couldn't work in the evenings on account of her eyes and couldn't afford glasses. She begged for light work of some kind but could not do heavy work on account of having a sore side.

No. 40 Spring Street, J. S. was finishing clothing on the second floor in the front room which was poorly furnished with an old mattress for a bed. Pants were piled up in the dirty kitchen near the stove. She received nine cents per pair for finishing.

No. 42 Spring Street, was exceptionally filthy. Here lived Mrs. D. her husband, and five children. She was a most repulsive looking sight, — filthy from head to foot, and with very sore eyes. She was in her bare feet as were all her children having just returned from the dump bringing with them rags, junk, wood and cinders which they scattered on the kitchen floor. They had not a morsel of food in the house and no prospect of any. In telling her troubles the woman wept frantically, stating that her husband had travelled far and wide but couldn't find work on account of his shabby appearances. Said she had applied to charitable institutions in Boston for work and aid but couldn't receive any on account of being a non-resident.

No. 3 Lowland Avenue, an old rickety house, foul smelling entries and filthy throughout. On the second floor was a girl dying of consumption. Mother was a finisher and begged for work saying that the sick girl would do light sewing.

No. 14 Lowland Avenue, Mrs. D. finished clothing in the kitchen. Stairs and entries dirty and foul smelling.

Nos. 10-9-7 Lowland Avenue, rickety places in a wretched condition. Many of the women were clothing finishers and wanted work.

The entire Avenue is a collection of filth and decayed rookeries.

No. 367 Vine Street, B. and T. C. finishing pants in dirty surroundings. Asked for more work as they received poor pay and not enough of work.

No. 57 Vine Street, Mrs. R. finishing pants in filthy surroundings.

No. 263 Vine Street, Mrs. H. Roderick finishing pants in kitchen.

No. 63 Charles Street, Mrs. J. and F. S. finishing pants in the kitchen; cooking going on.

No. 102 Fourth Street, F. T. and P. P. finishing pants in the kitchen.

The following places in Boston were visited this week. (Last week in June, 1894.)

No. 5 Merrimac Street, two sweatshops on second and third floors. Entries and stairs leading to shops dark and covered with dirt and rubbish. On the door of the sweatshop on the second floor was a sign "No Admittance" and the door kept locked. In answer to our knock the door was unlocked and opened, revealing a crowded and very dirty shop in which were working several very young looking girls apparently less than fourteen years of age. The air was bad. The shop above this was equally filthy but not so crowded.

No. 28 Causeway Street, sweatshops on second and third floors. Entries and stairs dirty and very foul smell from closets on landings. Both shops crowded and exceedingly filthy. The sweatshop on the third floor was like a loft, with low slanting roof, poor ventilation, very dirty, hot and foul smelling.

No. 34 Battery Street, an old building with filthy stairs and landings and foul smelling closets. Eight sweatshops in full blast and crowded. Old and young women carrying work from these sweatshops to the homes in the neighborhood. (No fire escapes).

No. 11 Haverhill Street, two sweatshops. Stairs and entries dark, rickety and filthy, terrible stench from closets. The shop on third floor crowded, hot, almost stifling and very dirty. The sweatshop above this was equally filthy but not so crowded. The people employed here upon the upper floors of this old ramshackle tinder box building, are, in case of fire, without any means of escape beyond the narrow dark stairway crossing an elevator shaft at each landing and are practically at the mercy of both fire and disease.

No. 66 Pitts Street, two sweatshops on the second and third floors, stairs dark, dirty, littered with rubbish and foul smelling. Shop on second floor crowded, dirty and poorly ventilated. The shop above this if anything was worse; numbers of women were standing around to take work home to finish. A faint

young girl of about sixteen sat with her work on the stairs "trying to get a breeze," as she said.

We found another filthy crowded sweatshop on Fulton Street.

The average number employed in each of the above shops was between forty and fifty not counting the great number of finishers who take the work home. More than two-thirds were men, principally Hebrews and Italians.

At 34 Battery Street, a sick looking man (deathly pale) lay exhausted on a pile of clothing in a sweatshop on the second floor.

We found clothing being finished in tenement houses :

No. 11 Hanover Avenue, Mrs. M. S. finishing pants for Applebrown. Second floor M. S. finishing pants in a dirty kitchen for Oak Hall. Third floor Rose Melia finishing letter-carriers pants for Oak Hall.

No. 7 Powers Court, third floor, Mary A. Rogers finishing pants in dirty kitchen for Sharp, Pearl Street.

No. 12 Powers Court, fourth floor, finishing pants in kitchen.

No. 12 Powers Court, second floor, exceedingly filthy rookery but out of work.

No. 19 Harris Street, A. S. finishing pants in dirty kitchen, for two firms at 273 Commercial Street and 228 State Street. Same house, second floor, Isabella Silva does likewise.

No. 442 Commercial Street, woman finishing pants in a filthy room with three unkept children. Stairs and entries rickety and dirty.

No. 452 Commercial Street, dark, dirty, rickety stairs. On the third floor a man, woman and a boy of about twelve years were working on pants in a bare kitchen.

No. 14 Revere Place off Charter Street, Portuguese woman on first floor finishing pants in a very dark dirty kitchen. Appearance of eating, cooking, sleeping and working there.

No. 28 Battery Street, finishing done in kitchens on first, second and third floors.

No. 26 Battery Street, finishing done in kitchens on first, second and third floors.

At 28 Battery Street, Mrs. F. and Mrs. M. were finishing pants for Continental Clothing House.

The following is a list of places visited in South Boston and Dorchester :

(Cor. Broadway and Dorchester Avenue.) Attracted to an alley at the rear of 110 Dorchester Avenue. In this alley were two rickety houses surrounded with rubbish and filth. Glancing up saw some women sitting by a window, sewing (window of 110 Dorchester Avenue.) Went into 110 Dorchester Avenue, up one short, dirty, nearly dark flight of stairs and entered a shop where sixteen people were employed, five or six were women and they looked pale and haggard. People were foreigners. Windows were dirty and raised only at the bottom. Shop equally filthy.

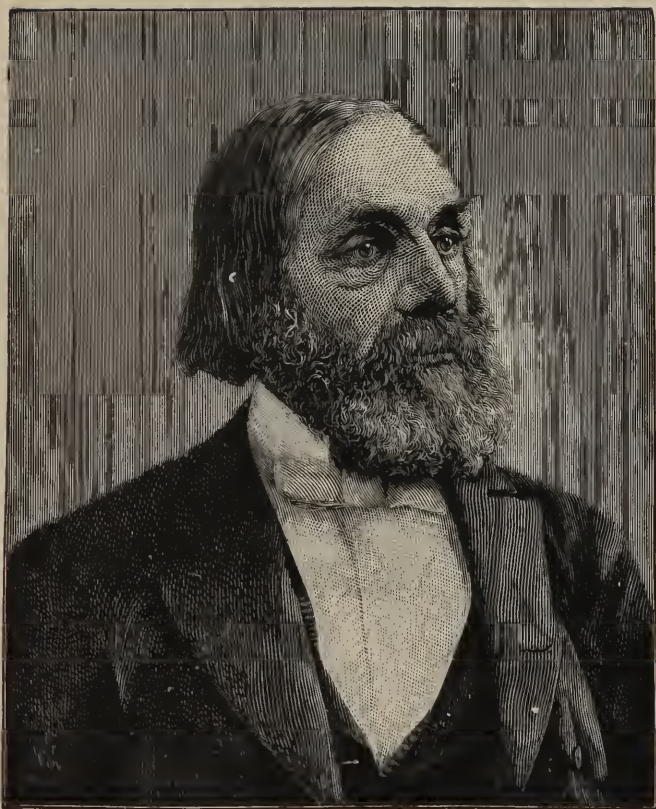
A Street, near Broadway, saw some dirty shakey houses of three tenements in each occupied, besides the cellars which were also occupied. The cellars were down four steps from the street and were dark and decidedly dirty. In one cellar we found two women one under the influence of liquor with a can of beer on the table beside her. Saw considerable beer and cans in other tenements in the immediate vicinity. Swarms of dirty children played in the gutters and back yards while their elders were carrying wood, coal and cinders from the adjacent dumps and wharves. The people were evidently in want of everything that goes to make life worth living.

Athens Street, recently scourged for its filth by small pox, swarmed with neglected looking children playing in filthy gutters.

No. 19 West First Street is a large tenement house with a diphtheria card on the door. The street and vicinity was muddy and littered with rubbish. Children swarmed, some playing in gutters while others were bringing home gathered wood.

At 132 A Street, a white card told of membranous croup within. The sanitary conditions of the crowded neighborhood are menacing.

Between E and F Streets, off Third Street, is a dismal alley known as Third Street Court, which derives no little of its income of accumulated filth from a sweatshop located therein. In this shop were seven or eight women sewing and looking very tired and pale. We noticed one in particular, a very young girl whose eyes were sunken, and who looked completely exhausted.



Always yours  
Edw. E. Hale.  
~





## THE BURNING QUESTION.

“Can such things be  
And overcome us like a summer's cloud,  
Without our special wonder?”

A meeting of the Directors of the Anti-Tenement House League was held in ex-Gov. Brackett's office, December 20, 1893. At this meeting the evils of the sweating system was considered in two lights; first, “in its relation to the suffering of the people crushed beneath its yoke.” Second, “the danger of these people breeding and spreading disease to those who are not in the system.”

The first is called the “sentimental” view, the second constitutes “the burning question.”

A suggestion made at a previous meeting by the Rev. Dr. E. E. Hale, that leaflets or tracts be published and distributed setting forth the facts, was considered by Rev. Dr. Miner, ex-Gov. Brackett and others in attendance, worthy of trial. It was accordingly voted to put Dr. Hale's suggestion into effect, and among other tracts drawn up was the following thoroughly reliable statement of

## STERN FACTS.

The Sweating System is a national evil that robs the cradle, fills the grave, poisons our civilization and disgraces our nation.

In its mighty wake are innumerable homes for fallen women, inebriate asylums, societies for the prevention of cruelty to children, soup kitchens, associated charities, hospitals, poor-houses and prisons.

The prevailing impression that the evils and dangers of the sweating system are confined exclusively to the slum localities where it is practised, and to the people who are employed in making the clothing under filthy and inhuman conditions is a most dangerous fallacy. Many people are possessed with this idea who would not for a moment be deluded into believing that infected rags shipped from one port to another are safe to handle.

The operations of the sweating system are such that people in Texas or in any other part of the country may be wearing the bedding of some victim who died far away in a New York or Boston tenement house from some infectious disease such as diphtheria, small pox, typhoid or typhus fever, scarlet fever, etc.



For evidence of this danger, see report of Congressional Committee on the Sweating System, page 172, where the manager of a Boston firm having branch clothing stores all over North America, admitted that a pair of their trousers was found in a Boston tenement house, utilized by the people employed by this firm as a pillow for their little girl down with diphtheria. All clothing ordered of this firm in any of their stores is made in Boston. It is as likely as not that the trousers referred to, found tucked under the head of the little girl, was ordered in Texas or in some other place equally remote.

The *Boston Herald* said editorially: "The death of the late William F. Weld is a warning of the danger of infection from that dread disease diphtheria. Mr. Weld's family have but one way out of accounting for his taking this disease, which he had in its most malignant form."

"He had ordered a suit of clothes to be made in New York. It was delayed in reaching him, and when it was received at last word came with it that it would have been sent earlier had there not been sickness among those employed in completing it."

"Mr. Weld then made the remark that he hoped there had not been diphtheria or scarlet fever among them, though he had no serious anticipation of the clothing being affected in this way."

"This is pretty direct evidence against the sweat-shops, is it not?" asked the *Record*.

One of the special officers appointed to investigate factories and houses in this State testified before the Congressional Investigating Committee that, on returning home, after visiting Boston's crowded tenements where clothing was being finished and where diphtheria raged, one of his children was taken down with the disease. See page 178, Congressional Committee's Report, and on page 148 the following account of conditions found in Boston:

MEMORANDUM OF INSPECTION OF "SWEATING SHOPS" AT  
BOSTON, BY SUB-COMMITTEE OF HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON MANUFACTURES.

Chairman John De Witt Warner, with Messrs. E. B. Taylor and Sherman Hoar, Inspector Griffin, and Agent John Crowley, of the Anti-tenement House League, drove to several places where Mr. Griffin expected to find "sweating shops" where Hebrew workmen and workwomen were employed, he stating

that we would still find them in crowded and undesirable conditions, though they had been made better of late, and in many cases such establishments had been thoroughly renovated. We found, however, that to-day being the Jewish Passover, all such shops were closed, and that therefore the greater part of the employés working under the "sweating system," Polish and Russian Jews, were not at work to-day. On the suggestion of Inspector Griffin, who stated that the Italians were about the only other ones worth looking into in this regard, we visited a number of places mainly those of Italians.

At the first place we found a man and his wife and eight children living in two rooms, each 12 x 12, where they ate, slept, cooked, and worked at making children's pants, the new materials cut and sorted for which were found piled up on the bed in the inside room. The two rooms, while they showed every sign of poverty and crowding, were not particularly unclean, the inspector noting that they were better than a few days since, when he had warned them. There were no convenience for closets, etc., except those in common with others, in the same alley, filthy, and nauseating beyond description and showing no regard to decency, let alone comfort or cleanliness.

Right across the alley there was visited the second place, which the inspector now discovered for the first time. In two rooms about the same width, but each a little longer than those just visited, was found a man and his wife and four children with several boarders or guests—the latter lying about in a way to indicate that they were decidedly at home. Here clothing was being manufactured, and upon the three beds were piled the goods, cut ready to be made up. The stench and filth of these rooms were such as to make it impossible for members of the committee to remain in them, while the closet arrangements outside were simply a mass of filth.

On the next visit there were found on the second floor a husband, wife, and two children and a boarder, living in two rooms, one about 10 x 18 and another about 10 x 7; and here also, clothing was being made up and stacked upon the beds. This place was decidedly filthy, but not so repulsive as the one just left.

The next visit was to a place where a man and wife, three children, a girl cousin, and two employès lived, ate and slept, in a place 18 by 20 feet, divided into three irregular rooms.

Here cooking, eating, sleeping, and working were being carried on in the same room, and the materials and finished goods were piled upon the beds and the tables where the food lay. Here filth was such as to be nauseating, and the committee could hardly complete its inspection.

The next visit was to a little apartment of two rooms, which the inspector informed us had been cleaned up by their occupants by his order, and where they were, however, still permitted to continue the making up of clothing in their eating and sleeping rooms. Upon going to the tenement, on one of the upper floors of which this apartment was situated, we found it posted with a red scarlet-fever bill, and were informed that the fever patients were sick in the room on the same floor, immediately opposite the apartments where clothing was being made, and which we came to investigate. On inquiry, we were told that the inspector had no powers in such a case, so long as the fever patient was not actually in the identical apartment with the clothing.

We next visited two rooms on the third floor of 28 Battery Street, where we found two little girls, say five and eight years old, left alone in a dirty and disordered apartment of two rooms, while their mother and sister were at work in a local concern making up pants. The machine in the room and the general situation of the furniture, etc., showed that the business had been carried on there and upon the same tables where the family ate. Upon inquiry, the elder of the little girls said that her mamma and sister each brought home pantaloons to work upon at night. The premises here were very dirty, and the beds and cooking arrangements repulsively so; but a most agreeable contrast in order and cleanliness to the worst of those before visited."

Amelia Silva, living in a wretched attic in Powers Court, off 380 North Street, Boston, was found making clothing for a Boston firm while suffering from a nameless infectious disease. Her face was frightfully disfigured from it and her case incurable.

C. H. Grandgent, who lives at 19 Wendall Street, Cambridge, a director of modern languages in our public school, made the following statement to the League :

"On Wednesday, February 1st, Edmund Cushing Grandgent, aged four, son of Charles Hall Grandgent, of Cambridge, tried on several suits of ready made clothes in S——— clothing store in Boston. On February 9th, the Thursday of the following week, he was taken ill with scarlet fever, and died, in spite of



HON. GEORGE E. McNEILL.



the best medical care, on February 15th. So far as his parents can ascertain, he was not exposed to the disease at any other time nor in any other way."

(Signed) C. H. GRANDGENT,

FEBRUARY 27, 1893.

19 Wendall St., Cambridge.

A glance at the conditions in New York, where the bulk of the children's clothing sold in Boston is made, will show how well grounded were Mr. Grandgent's suspicions.

Dr. A. S. Daniels, outdoor visiting physician for the New York Infirmary for Women and Children, for the past eleven years, testified before the Congressional Committee :

"Contagious diseases — in the sweating region — are very prevalent, especially scarlet fever, measles, and diphtheria. The proportion of contagious diseases to all of the sickness in the locality is very large. In the crowded and almost promiscuous conditions under which they live, contagious diseases are always prevalent and practically continuing epidemics. Typhus fever patients were carried away from the people who are making clothing, but the trade goes right on with no interference whatsoever by the Board of Health, in all cases of scarlet fever and measles."

Questioned by Committee : "Is this a question of scores or rather of hundreds of cases?" Answer : "Hundreds of them, practically all."

This little tract can only give the bare outlines of the dangers of wearing clothing made under the sweating system.

Volumes could be written upon the one feature herein briefly treated.

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## "THE SONG OF THE SHIRT."

CONVICT SHIRT-MAKING.—LETTER FROM GOV. GREENHALGE.  
—SUBSEQUENT LEGISLATION.

"I would I were dead and low laid in my grave."

One of the first moves of the League after its incorporation was to agitate the question of convict shirt-making. The state had contracted with a New York firm to manufacture colored

fancy shirts and also to laundry these articles. About 350 convicts at the state prison in Charlestown were employed at this new trade.

This plan of employing convicts is authorized by Chapter 22 of the Acts of 1888, which permits prisoners to work on the piece price plan. That is, the material is turned over by the contractors to the warden of the prison who manages the work. Then the manufactured product is returned to the contractor, who pays the state by the piece.

This plan differs from contract labor in the more common sense, for in the latter case the contractor enters the prison, manages the work and pays the state so much per man by the day.

In brief, the Contract Labor law is evaded, in spirit if not in letter, by making the prison authorities themselves contractors, thus nullifying the power of a law that was enacted to protect free labor from competition with convict labor.

Let it be remembered that the price now paid in this industry averages about 36 to 40 cents per dozen upon the class of goods the state proposes to handle, not sufficient to more than barely sustain existence, and the consequence of this new competition entering the field can be imagined.

Could Thomas Hood witness the sufferings of the sweated victims of the shirt-making industry of to-day, his great heart would burst the bonds of death. To dwell on the miseries of these and other victims of the sweating system, is to dwell on his deathless song :

“With fingers weary and worn,  
 With eyelids heavy and red,  
 A woman sat in unwomanly rags  
 Plying her needle and thread—  
 Stitch! Stitch! Stitch!  
 In poverty, hunger, and dirt,  
 And still with a voice of dolorous pitch  
 She sang the “Song of the Shirt.”

“Work! Work! Work!  
 While the cock is crowing aloof!  
 And work-work-work.  
 Till the stars shine through the roof!  
 Its, Oh! to be a slave  
 Along with the barbarous Turk,  
 Where woman has never a soul to save,  
 If this is Christian work!”



“Work—Work—Work!  
 Till the brain begins to swim!  
 Work—work—work  
 Till the eyes are heavy and dim!  
 Stitch—stitch—stitch,  
 In poverty, hunger, and dirt—  
 Sewing at once, with a double thread,  
 A shroud as well as a shirt!”

“But why do I talk of death,  
 That phantom of grisly bone?  
 I hardly fear his terrible shape,  
 It seems so like my own—  
 It seems so like my own  
 Because of the fast I keep:  
 O God! that bread should be so dear,  
 And flesh and blood so cheap!”

“Work—Work—Work!  
 My labor never flags;  
 And what are its wages? A bed of straw,  
 A crust of bread—and rags,  
 That shattered roof—and this naked floor—  
 A table—a broken chair—  
 And a wall so blank my shadow I thank  
 For sometimes falling there!”

“Work—Work—Work  
 From weary chime to chime!  
 Work—work—work  
 As prisoners work for crime!”

“Oh! but to breathe the breath  
 Of the cowslip and primrose sweet  
 With the sky above my head,  
 And the grass beneath my feet!  
 For only one short hour  
 To feel as I used to feel,  
 Before I knew the woes of want,  
 And the walk that costs a meal!”

“Oh, but for one short hour—  
 A respite, however brief!  
 No blessed leisure for love or hope  
 But only time for grief!  
 A little weeping would ease my heart;  
 But in their briny bed  
 My tears must stop, for every drop  
 Hinders needle and thread!”

"With fingers weary and worn,  
 With eyelids heavy and red,  
 A woman sat, in unwomanly rags,  
 Plying her needle and thread—  
 Stitch! Stitch! Stitch!  
 In poverty, hunger, and dirt;  
 And still with a voice of dolorous pitch,—  
 Would that its voice could reach the rich!—  
 She sang this "Song of the Shirt."

The League in the interests of these poor women took up the fight, stirring the matter up in the press and otherwise. The attention of Gov. Greenhalge was called to the matter by the League who in response said that the subject was important and would in some form or other obtain due consideration.

But despite the greatest pressure that could be brought towards abolishing this new form of Contract Labor the legislation obtained was valueless; so worthless indeed that we cannot afford to insert it here. The League will however bring the matter up again and doubt not that success will crown its efforts. Meanwhile much suffering from such competition exists.

Deplorable indeed is the sight of hundreds of Massachusetts convicts astride of the shirt making industry; bearing the same relation to free toilers—dispairing stunted men, gaunt women and starving children—as the old man of the sea bore to Sinbad.

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## WORK OF THE LEAGUE.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION AGAIN SOUGHT.—STUDENTS AND OTHERS SUPPLIED WITH FACTS.—REPORT OF LEAGUE'S LECTURER.—DEMONSTRATION IN CHICAGO.

At the close of the 52d Congress, Senator Hoar's bill still remained in the hands of the Committee of Education and Labor to whom it had been referred. Pending the report of the House Committee appointed to investigate the Sweating System no action was taken thereon. This Committee in presenting the mass of testimony in Congress at the conclusion of the investigation, said: "In view of the ground necessary to be covered by this investigation, and especially of the necessity of waiting until we could note the operation of recent State and local legislation, it has

not been possible earlier to present our conclusions. It is only by further careful consideration of the details of any legislation proposed that a bill can be intelligently drafted to meet its requirements. We have, therefore—in view especially of the early expiry of this Congress—not waited to do this, but close this, our report with the recommendation that such legislation be had by Congress as, with least interference with the business of the citizen, and least exercise of Federal jurisdiction will effectually prevent interstate commerce in articles of clothing or personal wear made under unhealthy conditions of manufacture.”

After waiting patiently for some action to be taken by the 53d Congress, the League dispatched Secretary Crowley to Washington in April, 1894, with instructions to confer with Senator Hoar on the matter of presenting another bill.

Senator Hoar said, that the best place for the League to get in its work in seeking national legislation was with the Committee on Education and Labor to whom the bill he had presented in behalf of the League had been referred. The Senator likened these committees to legislative bodies and said their power was great in matters resting with them. He directed Secretary Crowley to visit Senator Kyle, Chairman of the Committee, and tell him that he sent him.

The result of the interview with Senator Kyle was the drafting of another bill which Senator Kyle presented in the Senate, April 5, 1894 when it was referred to the Committee of which he is Chairman. In reporting to the League upon this matter Secretary Crowley said in part: “Before proceeding to draw the bill up, I thought it wise and proper to consult with the House Committee who had investigated the Sweating System and submitted an elaborate report thereon to Congress with their opinions as to what legislation was best. Accordingly, I saw Hon. John De Witt Warner, who was Chairman of the Investigating Committee. During a long conference with him he said, that the investigation had borne out the League’s charges in relation to the Sweating System overwhelmingly, and that the only reason he had not drafted a bill was on account of the Committee’s desire to watch the effect of State legislation. He was, however, after close observation satisfied that State legislation could not cope with National evils like the Sweating System. In discussing the best form of bill to be drafted we differed in one detail, namely, he wanted each garment marked so that only the

officers of the law could trace garments through the books of the firm ; I wanted each garment tagged so anyone could know where it was made, thus enabling the law to be practically self working and capable of enforcement without the assistance of or the reliance upon officials who might or might not be derelict in their duty. Upon this point Mr. Warner and your Secretary failed to agree but Congressmen Draper and McEtrick and in fact every member of the Massachusetts delegation to whom I spoke, including Senators Hoar and Kyle were thoroughly agreed in its favor."

Accordingly I prepared a bill containing all the provisions of our old one, which Senator Hoar presented during the 52d Congress, with the exception that Section 3 is changed so as to give a concise definition of "unhealthful conditions" that can be easily followed. The following extract of a letter from Senator Kyle shows how the bill now stands. "The matter is now before the Committee ; has been discussed some, but we are not through with it yet. I find considerable opposition from Southern Senators on the ground of constitutionality. This I hope to be able to overcome."

Before the expiry of the 53d Congress the League will lose no opportunity to secure the passage of this bill or some other equally effective. The action of the League in taking up the matter of national legislation has increased the public interest in this great question. College students in this and other States have had the matter incorporated into their studies as evidenced by requests for facts pouring in to the League from universities as far distant as Illinois, while students from Harvard, Wellesley and other local colleges have not only been afforded the information sought but in many instances were taken by agents of the League to the slums and sweatshops of Boston.

The principles of the League have been disseminated at regular and special meetings, at mass meetings, and through the agency of a special lecturer, an extract of whose report is appended :

TO THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTORS OF THE ANTI-TENEMENT HOUSE LEAGUE :

Since January 1894, I have addressed meetings twice in the following named places ; Hartford, Somerville, Waltham and three times in Lynn ; also in Taunton, Cambridge, Chestnut Hill, Winchester, Chelsea, Revere. I have conferred and corre-



REV. PHILIP S. MOXOM, D. D.



sponded with men and women and practically arranged for meetings in the following named places some of which are returns to places where meetings have already been held:—Revere, Lynn, Taunton, Newton, Fall River, Newton Lower Falls, Danvers, South Framingham, Natick, Whitman, Stoughton, Haverhill, Arlington, Everett, Malden, Cambridge, Somerville, Waltham, Hyde Park, Dedham, Providence, North Easton; 22 in all. It is probable that I can also reach the Cape Towns.

Respectfully,

A. A. CARLTON.

During the Winter of 1893 by invitation of the Trade and Labor Assembly of Chicago the League was represented by its Secretary at a demonstration against the Sweating System which resulted at his suggestion in the formation of a League which since its birth has followed closely in the footsteps of the Anti-Tenement House League, bringing about a state investigation and the passage of laws bearing upon evils that cloud and destroy the home. The Rev. O. P. Gifford presided at this meeting, over 3000 people being present. The Worcester meeting, already referred to, resembled this meeting in point of numbers, enthusiasm and origin. Both were called by Labor Assemblies.

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## FINANCES OF THE LEAGUE.

The first contribution to the League was made by the Hon. Wm. E. Russell while Governor, who donated \$20. The next to contribute was Senator Hoar who gave \$25 towards the work. With these and other donations amounting in all to less than \$500, the League carried on an agitation for fifteen months that attracted the attention of the country and it may be said of Europe, particularly of Great Britain and France. But in May, 1892, the League was brought to a realization of the stern fact that without funds the society would be sadly handicapped in coping with the evils it had organized to abolish. This fact brought the promoters of the work together in conference at a meeting held in the Peoples Church, April 30, 1892. In attendance were the Rev. Dr. Miner, Rev. Dr. E. E. Hale,



Rev. Dr. Philip S. Moxom, Rev. Dr. Haynes, and others prominent in reform circles. A suggestion by the Rev. Dr. Moxom was adopted, to the effect that the League issue an appeal, calling for one hundred contributions of \$15 each to carry on the work of the League. The appeal was accordingly issued, signed by the Hon. Josiah Quincy, Rev. Dr. A. A. Miner, Rev. Dr. Moxom and Rev. Dr. Haynes.

Appended is a list of those who responded to this appeal and contributed the sum called for :

A Friend (W. II.) . . . . \$200	Doane, Thomas . . . . \$15
A Friend . . . . . 15	Draper, William F. . . . 15
Alley, John R. . . . . 15	Durrell, O. H. . . . . 15
Anonymous . . . . . 15	Eaton, William S. . . . . 15
Appleton, Mrs. William . . 15	Evans, A. H. . . . . 15
Apsley, L. D. . . . . 15	Fillebrown, C. B. . . . . 15
Atkins, Mrs. Elisha . . . . 15	Fitz, Henrietta G. . . . . 15
Bartol, Rev. Cyrus A. . . . 15	Fogg, George O. . . . . 15
Bartlett, N. S. . . . . 15	Foote, Arthur . . . . . 15
Barron, C. W. . . . . 15	Fowler, Wm. P. . . . . 15
Bigelow, W. S., M. D. . . . 15	Galvin, Owen A. . . . . 15
Borden, Spenser . . . . . 15	Glover, Joseph B. . . . . 1
Brimmer, Martin . . . . . 15	Ginn, Edwin . . . . . 15
Butler, Wm. S. . . . . 15	Grew, Henry S. . . . . 15
Brooks, Rt. Rev. Phillips . . 15	Grover, W. O. . . . . 15
Brooks, S. . . . . 15	Hart, Thomas N. . . . . 15
Byam, E. G. . . . . 15	Hecht, Jacob H. . . . . 15
Capen, Samuel P. . . . . 15	Hemenway, A. . . . . 15
Carter, John W. . . . . 15	Hemenway, Mrs. C. P. . . . 15
Carter, Rice & Co. . . . . 15	Holmes, Oliver Wendall . . 15
Chase, William L. . . . . 15	Hooper, Robert C. . . . . 15
Codman, Ogden . . . . . 15	Hooper, Mrs. Robert C. . . 15
Collins, P. A. . . . . 5	Houghton, Mifflin & Co. . . 15
Corcoran, John W. . . . . 15	Humphreys, R. C. . . . . 5
Covel, A. S. . . . . 15	James, Mrs. John W. . . . . 30
Crapo, W. W. . . . . 15	Kohl, John A. . . . . 15
Cross, H. B., M. D. . . . . 15	Lamson & Hubbard . . . . 15
Crosby, John C. . . . . 15	Lasters Protective Union . . 15
Crowley, John . . . . . 15	Lodge, Henry Cabot . . . . 15
Cunningham, Mrs. F. . . . . 15	Loring, W. G. . . . . 10
Day, Mrs. F. . . . . 15	
Dennison, Mrs. E. W. . . . . 15	
Ditson, Mrs. Oliver . . . . . 15	

Marcy, Henry S. . . . .	\$15	Russell, Wm. E. . . . .	\$15
Mason, Miss Ida . . . . .	15	Saltonstall, Henry . . . . .	15
Mason, Miss E. F. . . . .	15	Schlesinger, B. . . . .	15
Matthews, Nathan Jr. . . . .	15	Scott, L. W. & Co. . . . .	15
McCall, Samuel, W. . . . .	30	Sears, David . . . . .	15
McNeill, Geo. E. . . . .	15	Sprague, F. P. . . . .	15
Metcalf, Albert . . . . .	15	Storrow, J. J. . . . .	15
Millis, Henry L. . . . .	15	Talbot, Mrs. Thomas . . . . .	15
Miner, Rev. A. A. . . . .	15	Thayer, John E. . . . .	15
Moody, Charles E. . . . .	15	Treworgy, W. H. . . . .	15
Morse, Elijah A. . . . .	15		
Moxom, Rev. Philip S. . . . .	15		
Naphen, Henry F. . . . .	15	Walker, Francis A. . . . .	15
		Walworth, J. J. . . . .	15
Paine, Robert Treat . . . . .	35	Warren, Albert C. . . . .	15
Paine, Robert Treat, Jr. . . . .	15	Warren, Miss Cornelia . . . . .	15
Parkman, Henry . . . . .	15	Ware, Mrs. Charles E. . . . .	15
Parker, Charles W. . . . .	15	Weld, A. Davis . . . . .	15
Pickman, Mrs. Caroline . . . . .	15	Whitney, S. W. . . . .	15
Pierce, Wallace L. . . . .	15	Whitney, Edward . . . . .	15
Pope, Albert A. . . . .	15	Wigglesworth, Edward . . . . .	15
Potter, W. N. . . . .	15	Williams, Rt. Rev. John J. . . . .	15
Prince, Charles A. . . . .	15	Williams, John D. . . . .	15
		Wolcott, Roger . . . . .	15
Quincy, Edmund . . . . .	15	Wood, Henry . . . . .	15
Quincy, Josiah . . . . .	15	Woods, Henry . . . . .	15
Rice, Alexander H. . . . .	15	Van Nostrand, William T. . . . .	15
Rice, Henry A. . . . .	15		

During the winter of 1893-'94 a similar appeal was issued, signed by Rev. Dr. A. A. Miner, Rev. Dr. E. E. Hale, Rev. Dr. Philip S. Moxom, Rev. Dr. George C. Lorimer, Robert Treat Paine, Jr., Wm. P. Fowler and Edwin Ginn.

The list of contributors to this appeal is appended :

A Friend (W. H.) . . . . .	\$500	Bangs, M. Louisa . . . . .	\$15
Allen, George . . . . .	15	Barrow, C. W. . . . .	15
Ames, Mrs. F. L. . . . .	30	Bartlett, Nelson S. . . . .	15
Anonymous (P. C.) . . . . .	15	Bartol, Rev. Cyrus A. . . . .	15
Anonymous (D. P. K.) . . . . .	15	Beebe, Mrs. J. Arthur . . . . .	25
Anonymous (L. C. K.) . . . . .	15	Beebe, Franklin H. . . . .	15
Anonymous (E. R. C.) . . . . .	15	Bell, Wm. G. . . . .	15
Appleton, Mrs. William . . . . .	15	Bigelow, Miss Mary . . . . .	15
Apsley, L. D. . . . .	15	Bigelow, W. S. . . . .	15
Atkins, Mrs. Elisha . . . . .	15	Bradlee, Josiah . . . . .	15

Brimmer, Martin . . . . .	\$15	Hodgdon, John E. . . . .	\$15
Brooks, P. C. . . . .	15	Hooper, Robert C. . . . .	15
Bryant, E. B. . . . .	30	Houghton, Mifflin & Co. . . . .	15
Burnham, Mrs. J. A. Jr. . . . .	15	Humphreys, R. C. . . . .	5
Byam, E. G. . . . .	15	Hunnewell, H. H. . . . .	15
		Hutchins, Mrs. Constantine F. . . . .	15
Carter, Rice & Co., . . . . .	15		
Carter, Charles M. . . . .	15	Jackson, Mrs. Emily J. . . . .	15
Chase, Caleb . . . . .	15	James, Mrs. John W. . . . .	15
Clark, J. W. . . . .	15	Jones, Charles H. . . . .	15
Coolidge, Archibald C. . . . .	15	Jones, Mrs. Charles H. . . . .	15
Coolidge, J. T. Jr. . . . .	15		
Cochrane, Mrs. Alexander . . . . .	15	Kingsley, C. W. . . . .	15
Crapo, William W. . . . .	15		
Cross, A. B., M. D. . . . .	5	Lamb, Mrs. H. A. . . . .	15
Crowley, John . . . . .	15	Lamb, Miss Rose . . . . .	15
Cunningham, Mrs. F. . . . .	15	Lodge, Mrs. Ellerton . . . . .	15
Curtis, Mrs. James F. . . . .	15	Lowell, Mrs. John . . . . .	15
Ditson, Mrs. Oliver . . . . .	10	Mason, Miss E. F. . . . .	15
Dennison, Mrs. E. W. . . . .	15	Mason, Miss Ida . . . . .	15
Dorr, George B. . . . .	15	Marcy, Henry S. . . . .	15
Draper, Wm. F. . . . .	15	Means, William G. . . . .	15
		Matthews, Nathan, Jr. . . . .	15
Eaton, William S. . . . .	15	Metcalf, Albert . . . . .	15
Eaton, Mrs. Wm. S. . . . .	15	Meyer, Mrs. G. A. . . . .	30
Emmanuel Church . . . . .	25	Miner, Rev. A. A. . . . .	15
Esterbrook, A. F. . . . .	30	Motley, Edward . . . . .	15
		Munro, Martha H. . . . .	15
Fay, Joseph S. . . . .	15		
Fay, Mrs. D. B. . . . .	15	Naphen, Henry F. . . . .	15
Fay, F. S. . . . .	15	Nevins, Mrs. Henry C. . . . .	15
Fiske, Mrs. Charlotte . . . . .	15	Nickerson, Ellen F. F. . . . .	15
Flint, A. J. Baker . . . . .	15		
Fitz, Mrs. W. S. . . . .	15	Osgood, John Felt . . . . .	15
Forbes, W. H. . . . .	15		
Fowler, William P. . . . .	15	Paine, Robert Treat Jr. . . . .	15
French, Jonathan . . . . .	20	Palfrey, Mrs. F. W. . . . .	15
Frothingham, Edward . . . . .	15	Peabody, M. C. . . . .	15
		Peabody, Mrs. Anna P. . . . .	15
Ginn, Edwin . . . . .	15	Pickman, Caroline . . . . .	15
Glover, Joseph B. . . . .	15	Pickman, Mrs. Dudley L. . . . .	15
Greenhalge, Mrs. F. T. . . . .	15	Phillips, Mrs. John C. . . . .	25
		Putnam, Mrs. J. P. . . . .	15
Hallett, Albert . . . . .	5		
Haynes, Rev. Emory J. . . . .	15	Quincy, Mary . . . . .	15
Hayden, Mrs. Isaac . . . . .	15		
Hecht, Mrs. Jacob . . . . .	15	Rae, V. H. . . . .	15
Hemenway, Harriet L. . . . .	25	Read, Lucy R. . . . .	20



HON. HENRY F. NAPHEN.



Read, Sarah E. . . . .	\$20	Thayer, Mrs. Nathaniel . . . . .	\$100
Redfern, Mrs. B. F. . . . .	15	Upham, Miss Susan . . . . .	30
Ropes, Mrs. Joseph A. . . . .	15	Wainwright, R. P. . . . .	15
Rotch, Miss Edith . . . . .	15	Wales, George W. . . . .	15
Russell, John E. . . . .	25	Ware, Mrs. Charles E. . . . .	15
Saltonstall, L. . . . .	15	Warren, Miss Cornelia . . . . .	15
Sargent, Mrs. Winthrop . . . . .	15	Webster, Mrs. John G. . . . .	15
Sawyer, J. H. . . . .	5	Weld, George W. . . . .	30
Scott, L. W. & Co. . . . .	15	Weld, Otis F. . . . .	15
Schlesinger, B. . . . .	15	Wheelright, Josiah . . . . .	20
Sears, T. B. . . . .	15	Whitman, Sarah W. . . . .	15
Shaw, G. H. . . . .	15	Whitney, Edward . . . . .	15
Shaw, Pauline A. . . . .	15	Whitney, Miss Sarah W. . . . .	15
Shepherd, Emily E. . . . .	30	Whittier, Mrs. A. R. . . . .	15
Stearns, A. T. . . . .	25	Wilbur, George B. . . . .	30
Stearns, William S. . . . .	15	Wigglesworth, Edward, M. D. . . . .	15
Stone, Mrs. Frederic . . . . .	15	Williams, John D. . . . .	20
Sprague, Charles F. . . . .	15	Williams, Louise . . . . .	15
Sprague, F. P. . . . .	15	Williams, Mrs. J. D. W. . . . .	15
Storrow, Jas J. . . . .	15	Winthrop, Robert C. . . . .	15
Swift, E. C. . . . .	15	Wood, Wm. T. & Co. . . . .	15
Sweetser, I. Homer . . . . .	15		

## DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

THE AIMS OF THE LEAGUE.—HOME VS. SWEATING SYSTEM.

—SEED PLOTS OF DISEASE: SPAWN BEDS OF DEATH.

—WHAT THE LEAGUE DEMANDS.

The aim of the Anti-Tenement House League is to preserve and to protect the home.

Having organized to preserve and improve the home, the League's first effort was directed at destroying the monster that has made the homes in our large cities a veritable hell—the sweating system.

Charles Kingsley saw its evil; every man and woman must see it who comes within its pale and has heart to feel for sorrowing humanity.

The sweating system takes the lowest form of the poorest paid industry in the land and carries its deadly poison right into the very sanctuary of the home.

We know of no other one evil in this land, not even intemperance itself, that is the monstrous parent of so many monstrous ills. Intemperance has more victims, but any man who will can escape its evil.

The sweating system feeds upon girls, mothers, little children, who are forced to succumb to its hideous power or to die. Intemperance itself is often due to the sweating system. Poverty, Pauperism, Unchastity, Prostitution, the Death of Childhood, the Destroying of Love, the Decay of Character, these are other offsprings of this fatal brood.

What is the Sweating System? It is the vestibule of hell. To communities it bears the same relation as the old man of the sea bore to Sinbad, plus infectious disease. Crushed beneath its yoke, thousands of children and grown persons live as slaves to enrich the Sweater, and die victims to their overcrowded and disgraceful conditions. The wrongs perpetrated upon them reach us all. Dying, they leave behind a legacy of punishment on those who, by their patronage, encourage this infamous system.

The sweating system is the Libby Prison of our industrial system. The jailors are the sweaters and clothing firms, whose masters are the bargain hunting public.

The heartless cupidity of employers would hardly be enough to create this iniquitous system, were it not for the bargain hunters, before whose almighty persuasion civilized methods recede. And the frowning tenement factory, breathing contagion, appears to cast its black shadow over sighing prisoners. Confronted by the bargain hunter, the reputable dealer recoils in dismay, leaving the field to those with thicker cuticle and thinner conscience.

The favorite lair of the Sweating System is in musty, foul-smelling rooms and tenements, whose greasy walls and creaking stairways seem upheld alone by the sticky filth that covers them—habitations where we find Poverty arm in arm with Vice, Filth leaning upon Disease, Ignorance asleep with Drunkenness, Death contemplating Starvation.

Out of the muckheap of the lower strata arises a golden fly which flies into the home of the wealthy and well-to-do classes,



there to punish with its sting of poison those who, by their indifference, permit such conditions to exist.

A great moral question is herein involved, and one that must, sooner or later, burn its way into the conscience of every Christian community.

The League stands for the principle that the right to buy cheap is not a right to buy the lives of the working people for wages below the cost of production; that the right to sell dear is not a right to sell at price of honest goods, wearing apparel adulterated with dirt, disease and the degradation of the people; that the right to charge rent for room to live in is not the right to charge for tenements that are packing holes for their occupants; and that the right of officials to draw salaries is not a right to be paid for failing to enforce the laws concerning fire-escapes, safe plumbing, the control of contagion and overcrowding.

With the ghastly facts before us who can doubt that the constant and mysterious outbreaks of diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, the spread of consumption, and other infectious diseases in the perfectly appointed homes of the well-to-do, and in the pure air of country towns and villages, is in a large number of cases the direct result of contagion disseminated from the fever nests of the cities to which manufactures send clothing to be made or finished to save themselves the expense of renting workshops, and to take advantage of the low wages which can be dictated to the helplessness of workers scattered, disorganized, and so needy that they have to sell every hope of the future to keep themselves alive for the present.

We regard it as a retribution of fate that the brotherhood of man professed in creed but denied in deed by the fortunate few of our civilization, reasserts its omnipotence by creeping through the sewers to carry to the boulevards the poisons of the back streets, and travels with every kind of wearing apparel to clothe the well-to-do in the cast off scarlet fever skins of the poor.

The plea that the vast consolidations of capital and power which characterize our times arise from improved processes of production, and are for the public vantage because they give better service at cheaper prices, is a self confessed imposture in the clothing trade, in view of the open facts that great manufacturers keep productions decentratized by scattering the work, piece by piece, among the living rooms and dying rooms of the

poorest of our population, deny them the modern resources of steam power and electricity and refuse to reorganize their industry on the lines of factory superintendence and concentration.

Who will gainsay that our model merchants, captains of industry, are industrial representatives, whom we have the same right to call to account as our political representatives.

Their riches and leadership have their duties as well as their privileges.

We ask not as a favor but as a right that the principal men in Boston making clothing take immediate and efficient measures to abolish this menace to the health, wealth and morals of society, that they reverse competition and make theirs a rivalry to see who shall best serve producers and consumers, and that they bring their industry up to at least the level of the factory, which God knows is low enough.

It is not true that the public demand their so-called cheapness, which is simply the bait merchants use to fish away each others customers. The public having permitted them to become administrators of the markets have as yet no recourse but to choose among the prices they make, following the line of the greatest attraction. But the public are learning rapidly that the hooks of cheapness with which they are fished for are baited with the bodies and souls of poorer brethren; and are beginning to feel the sting of the hook in the plagues that ravage their own person and homes, recognizing that what is most loudly advertised as cheapness may be the dearest form of dearness.

We believe that while the individual has a sacred right to work, that we have a more sacred right to save him from working harm to himself and the community.

We believe that the maintenance of the present system of manufacturing clothing in any room where labor can be found cheap, regardless of all other considerations, amounts to the propagation of perpetual plague, and must be abolished.

Toward this end we demand legislation by the State to condemn and to destroy all tenements unfit for human habitation, and to authorize the recovery of damages by tenants injured in health therein.

We demand the passage of a strict statute forbidding the residence of more than a severely limited number above a given space of ground. As the Rev. Dr. Hale said: "The United

States has now, I believe, 70 acres for each inhabitant. It cannot be necessary to crowd them more closely than the space allowed in emigrant ships."

We demand the passage of laws holding the owner of property responsible and subject to heavy penalties for filthy, overcrowded and dangerous conditions existing on his property.

We demand amendments to the present Massachusetts law to prevent the sale of clothing made in unhealthy places by having the word "knowingly" struck out of Section 4, as well as the words "intended for sale" from Section 1, which permitted the escape recently of guilty sweaters;—Judge Adams, before whom the cases were tried saying before discharging the prisoners: "The law leaves us in doubt. We have no means of knowing that the goods are "intended for sale."

Of course we all know that clothing firms do not make clothing for pastime,—but then, law is law.

In the interests of an endangered public; we demand weekly inspection, and Proof of its performance, of every room where the manufacture of wearing apparel is carried on, and the passage of a law that will enable purchasers to know what they are buying, and where and how it was made, and that Massachusetts may no longer serve as a dumping ground for the infected clothing made in the slums of New York,—having enough of its own—we call upon the National Legislature to use against the Sweating System the national powers to regulate interstate commerce and protect the public health.

Last, but not least comes the questions of rapid transit and immigration. The solution of these problems will have much to do with the abolition of the sweating system and its train of evils.

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## INVESTIGATIONS OF THE LEAGUE VERIFIED.

The President of the League, Rev. Dr. Miner, the Secretary, as well as Agents of the League and two doctors visited some of the dwellings in West and North Ends. One visit was made August 17, 1894 by Agents of the League, another was made September 19, 1894, by Rev. Dr. Miner, John Crowley and Dr. S. C. Morrill, a well known physician of Concord, N. H., and a third, October 27, 1894 by an Agent of the League and Wm. E. Chenery, M. D.

In describing these places we leave much to the imagination, because the conditions can only be properly appreciated and realized when seen. The doors in some of the houses were six feet or less in height and at the top not more than 18 inches wide. It is doubtful if any of these places had been white-washed for twenty years. The walls in places visited were absolutely black—the remnants of paper hanging in forlorn ribbons, and bare lathes more in evidence than plaster.

Rear 33 Anderson Street, third flight in three small, low studded, dirty rooms in a decaying condition, lives Mrs. S. H. (colored) with her four children. She was in very straightened circumstances and asked for work of some kind. The rooms were foul smelling and poorly furnished. Doors remarkably narrow and ceiling very low, greasy walls, broken plaster, rickety stairs. \$2.00 per week rent.

Same house, first floor, L. T. (colored) five in family in need of work and aid. Rooms in about same condition as above and pay \$2.00 rent per week.

No. 44 Phillips Street, Mrs. M. C. W. (colored) a poor woman being confined to bed for eight months wanted light sewing to do. Her family consisted of husband, child, boarder and herself and all lived on a pension. She paid \$2.50 for three small, dark, decaying rooms. The smell from other parts of the house which is unused (being a wreck) was bad.

No. 44 Phillips Street, (rear) Mrs. N. J. (colored) wanted washing, she is a very poor woman and lives in three small rooms, one a kitchen down stairs and the other two rooms on next floor for which she pays \$2.50 per week rent. She had a sick child and husband which she supported by doing washing.

No. 44 Phillips Street, (rear) opposite Mrs. J. lives A. S. a German (white) and a veteran of the late war. The poor old man has just buried his wife and daughter and lives alone in three filthy rooms for which he pays \$2.50 per week rent. The pension on which he lives, being unable to work (having received seven bullets in his body during the war and being lame, deaf and almost blind), is only twelve dollars a month and he pays eight dollars per month for rent of the old rookery.

No. 1, off 14 Anderson Street, lives Mrs. G. (colored) third floor. She is a poor woman and had recently been ill. She occupies one dirty room, for which she pays \$1.00 per week rent. Her room was filled with rubbish. A fire in the stove in which she

was baking bread made the room almost unbearable. The low dirty ceiling reflected the heat and it was almost suffocating. She supported herself by taking care of two children who were orphans and stayed with her during the day. She was in need of aid and work. The house was a rookery and the narrow stairs creaked and bent under us. The cellar of the house was in a filthy condition.

No. 3, (next door), third floor, Mrs. E. B. (colored) lives with sick husband in one dark, dirty attic about 7 x 9, ceiling about 7 feet high, for which she pays \$1.25 per week rent. Her husband an old man of seventy years is an invalid and in a bad condition. The woman supported the family by doing washing but she could not get enough of that to do. She worked, she said, for her husband's sake, as he wanted to die in the house with her, and she added, she was willing to go hungry in order to pay the rent and keep the miserable room for him. She said they lived on fish heads and chicken feet, and was thankful to have enough of them.

No. 14 Anderson Street, (rear) No. 3, same floor, opposite, E. D. lives in two filthy, neglected rooms filled with rubbish, old wood, etc. She pays \$2.50 a week rent for the rooms and is obliged to go out washing to support her family, husband and child of two years who were both sick. The child was almost naked and famished looking. He is unable to walk having some trouble with his legs and sits on the floor all day alone, with his legs bent under him. The mother said, she has to leave him alone so much that he may have injured himself. She was much in need of work where she could bring the baby with her.

The cellar of this house was in a very bad condition and was used as a lodging place for tramps and other unfortunates.

No. 13 Anderson Street, (rear) E. D. lives in two dirty rooms for which she pays \$1.75 per week. She has a family of three and at time of visit four men boarders (colored) and two white women were eating supper of fish, bread and beer. The women were very poor and in need of work. The rooms were low studded, very close, bad smelling and crowded.

Second floor, same house, Mrs. A. F. a poor woman (and brother) live in two foul smelling rooms for which she pays \$1.50 per week rent. She was much in need of work.

Same floor, opposite, in two dirty rooms, (same rent) lives Mrs. R. Wanted work. Husband sick. House a rookery with rickety stairs and broken plaster.

The following statements from the Rev. Dr. Miner, President of the League, and affidavit from Wm. E. Chenery M. D., an active member, refer to this quarter and other places visited.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1894.

"In company with Dr. S. C. Morrill of Concord, N. H., and Mr. John Crowley, Secretary of the Anti-Tenement House League; I visited various tenement houses off Anderson Street and also some off Salem and Prince Streets. Many of these tenements were altogether unsuitable for occupancy, still less as places for the manufacturing of clothing. At the same time the rents paid were often such as should command sanitary quarters.

A. A. MINER, President.  
Anti-Tenement House League".

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## DR. CHENERY'S AFFIDAVIT.

"This is to certify that I, Wm. E. Chenery, on October 26th, 1894, between ten and twelve o'clock visited with a friend, certain tenements located in Boston, with the following results:—

At No. 6 Globe Alley, second floor, we found an Italian woman finishing pants for a Boston firm for which she said she received only seven and a half cents per pair; working hard all day she could finish seven or eight pairs. The tenement consisted of a kitchen and small bed room. The work was carried on entirely in the kitchen which was the living room of the family. This room was low studded with leaking ceiling. Filth was very noticable. There was no fire in the stove the woman affirming she had no money to buy fuel with. The rent was One Dollar and Seventy-five cents per week.

At No. 8 Greenough Lane on the second floor, was a family of eight, father, mother and six children huddled into two dark, damp rooms for which they paid \$2.25 per week. The room was heated by a lamp. The mother said, all the children had recently had the whooping cough and at the time of our visit the baby was ill with it, and bronchitis. They were employed in finishing pants and other garments for a Boston firm.

At No. 347 North Street, was an old decaying tenement house. For which Ten Dollars per month was paid for two rooms.

In a narrow allew off 322 North Street in one miserable, dirty, dark room lived an Italian beggar woman and her four children. The room was filthy in the extreme, decaying vegetable matter and mouldy bread together with a few broken household utensils left little room for visitors.





WILLIAM E. CHENERY, M. D.





At No. 331 North Street was an old tenement house in which until recently the occupants were engaged in making clothing. The building is now leased by an Italian woman who subrents the tenements. On the upper floor was a tenement letting for \$12 per month in which a family of eight live. In the basement of this building we found one exceedingly dark, damp and filthy room. The room was not more than six feet high and was lighted by two half windows. The odor was very offensive. There were two beds in this room, one of which the occupant said, she rented to a boarder. For this apartment she paid one dollar per week.

On October 27th, 1894 we visited tenements off Anderson Street. They were mere rookeries and were much overcrowded.

As the result of these and other investigations, it is my opinion that there are many old tenements existing in our midst which are in a most unwholesome and health destroying condition. In one or two damp and filthy rooms for which a high price is paid are crowded large families where ventilation is unknown and the sanitary conditions primitive and ill cared for. Such places can not help being the lurking places of contagious diseases such as diphtheria, scarlet fever, etc. In many such places are finished a considerable amount of clothing for the trade.

The danger of infection from clothing impregnated with the air and filth of such places must be considerable to those who wear it.

WM. E. CHENERY, M. D.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

SUFFOLK, ss.

BOSTON, October 30, 1894.

Then personally appeared the above named and made oath that the foregoing deposition by him subscribed is true, before me.

ALBERT L. WYMAN,  
*Notary Public.*"

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## ABOLITION THE REMEDY.

We cannot too often repeat that the system of making clothing in tenements is fraught with dangers that cannot possibly be regulated. The only excuse offered by those who profit by its existence — (the clothing merchants) — is that its abolition would take away the bread from the tenement house toilers. This is as far from the truth as the North Pole is from the South. It is equivalent to saying that clothing would be dispensed with unless people are allowed to make it amid dangers from contagion that cannot possibly be controlled. Just think of firms that employ these tenement house toilers at starvation

wages making the plea; "Don't take her bread away!" A little thought will show that this plea for their victims is born of the knowledge that they need no outside help and are quite competent to do all the "taking"; leaving the sewing woman just enough to enable her to serve their ends.

Would suffering ensue if the tenement house sweating system was abolished? A thousand times no!

The next question that we ask ourselves is the favorite one of firms who profit by this iniquity; namely: "How could a woman leave her children and go to a shop to work?"

The answer to this question is that she could and would, if demanded by an enlightened public sentiment, leave her children in a sort of kindergarten maintained at the cost of the firm by whom she was employed.

This plan is inexpensive and practical.

Many of the principal clothing houses in Boston do a business of over a million dollars annually and it would be small matter to them but a great one to an endangered public and the immediate victims of the tenement house sweating system, to hire a large building where their finishing could be done: maintaining in the basement accommodations and care-takers for the children of the mothers in their employ.

We are in possession of overwhelming evidence, proving that the tenement house sweating system cannot be regulated and is a source of peril to the public health. Volumes would be required to give all the facts that prove this assertion but we will let the following suffice. The law on this subject is little more than a farce in its operation. Said the *Boston Herald*, "It cannot be otherwise, so long as there are only two inspectors for the whole State, with an estimated number of 150,000 places where clothing is made to be looked after, and the immense importations from other States also to be examined." A task for a regiment is set before these two officers, and it is no wonder that instead of vanquishing the diseases that haunt our lethel tenement factories the diseases vanquish them. The *Boston Globe*, October 30, 1894 contained the following article:

"TOOK DIPHTHERIA INTO HIS HOME.

John H. Plunkett, state inspector of tenement house workshops wherein clothing is made is confined to his home, 441 Dudley Street, by diphtheria. Mr. Plunkett caught the disease

while in the discharge of his duties, which forced him to visit the filthy tenements of the West and North ends. About three weeks ago Mr. Plunkett took the germs of the disease to his home. Shortly after his five-year-old son, John, was taken sick. The boy was nursed until his death last Thursday by his father. Friday afternoon Mr. Plunkett reported for duty. His throat troubled him then, and Mr. Griffin found unmistakable evidences of diphtheria. Since that time he has been confined to his home."

The other inspector, Mr. Griffin, has had similar experience. Under oath he told the following story to the Congressional Committee in reply to their question.

QUESTION. "Have you ever seen anything in your experience to show that disease was carried from tenement houses in clothing?"

ANSWER. "I will relate one circumstance and you can use your own judgment whether it was brought from a tenement house or not. I, as I stated before, sometimes enter and leave all the way from ten to twenty tenement houses where there is scarlet fever and diphtheria in the course of one day, enter into those houses, into the places where the disease is, to see if there is any clothing there, and if there is clothing there to find out who it belongs to and take the necessary steps to have it taken care of. This day I had been in houses where there were a great many cases of diphtheria, and more especially one where I think the disease was a little more severe than in other places. It was the last place I visited, and it was too late then to go back to the office—the office closes at 5—and I went home. I think myself that there is nothing greater than air as a disinfectant, and I rode on the outside of a horse car about a mile and a half to my home. I have a family of six children myself, and it was on a summer's evening and they were out watching for me to come home. They saw me coming, and they all raced to see who would get there first. This little girl I picked up in my arms, carried her into the house and fondled with her a little while and happened to think of being round with so much diphtheria and I put her down, and I told my wife, I says, "Here, I am very sorry I took little Rena on account of going into these places, but after riding on the outside of the car it is all right."

But, however, to make more secure—I generally keep a bottle of Hubbell's disinfectant in the house—I saturated my clothing very thoroughly with it and hung them up. However, in the

course of time that child was taken with a case of diphtheria.”

Even with the co-operation of clothing houses who resort to the tenement house sweating system but who desire to protect their patrons from disease, the law is a failure. Let us illustrate a typical case. Last summer our agents saw a young woman carrying a bundle of work from 18 Summer Street to 80 Middle Street, (corner of Dorchester Avenue), a collection of rickety tenements. She appeared to be very tired and it took her over an hour to walk home. A few minutes after she entered the house our agents followed and upon inquiring whether clothing was finished there, the woman answered, that it had been until recently when their card, granted by the firm for whom she worked, was taken away by the factory inspectors. In answer to questions she said it was taken away upon the discovery that a child in the house had been sick with scarlet fever. She seemed much grieved and brindling up asked in indignant tones; “Now why didn’t they take our license away when the child was sick with the fever and not wait until ten days after when the child had nearly recovered?” She denounced the people who lived on the floor below saying, that the authorities would never have found out but for them that clothing was finished in the building. It is a notorious fact that these poor people maintain the utmost secrecy in similar cases of disease.

Our agents wanting to find out more about the bundle they saw her carrying home asked her if she had not carried work home that night. She said, “Yes” but it was for “one of her friends” who worked in the same shop with her at 18 Summer Street. She then showed the agents the bundle they had seen her carrying home, which consisted of three pair of pants; saying that the price paid by the firm for finishing was nine and a half and ten cents per pair. At these prices she could make by working in the shop two dollars per week and by taking the work home and working very long and hard she could make one dollar more weekly. After she had stated that clothing was made while scarlet fever was in the house for over a week, she said in reply to further questioning that she worked in the shop on Summer Street while the fever was in the house, without question or interference. She said she worked for Mr. Moore; who in turn told the League’s agents that he worked for A. Shuman & Co. Asked whether he had the work finished outside in tenements, he said, “Yes, considerable.” He was then asked if he had

any Portuguese finishers at 80 Middle Street, to which he replied, "Yes" but that the inspectors had taken their card away and told him not to give them any more work at home, but he still employed the woman in the shop. This was the one who furnished us with the foregoing facts. He was then asked why the card had been taken away by the inspector. He said that he did not know. The following certificate from Doctor Ferguson removes any doubt that the case was scarlet fever :

" October 30, 1894.

This certifies that I was called to attend Mr. G's child, residing at 80 Middle Street, near Dorchester Avenue, during the month of July, 1894.

The child was suffering from scarlet fever.

CHAS. J. FERGUSON, M. D."

If among the better element of houses—who, while adopting the Sweating System of manufacture, maintain the utmost vigilance—such conditions exist, how must it be with the rank and file who lay no claim to superiority and sink all considerations in producing cheap clothing, for which they have sufficient self respect not to ask more for than adulterated clothing is worth nor confound it with that made under clean and civilized conditions?

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## CONCLUSION.

One of the most hopeful and significant effects of the League's work has been an awakening of the public to a sense of their responsible duty as consumers ; and to the spirit breathing through the words :—

"Sweaters we rail at, sad and serious  
But hunt the trail of Cheapness with the rest  
For look, how far the East is from the West  
So far has Consequence been set from us."

Clothing dealers are also awakening as evidenced by claims of rival firms that they do not resort to the Sweating System, that their garments are all made on the premises, or in their own workshops, or near by, etc. The amount of feeling that exists upon this subject as a result of the League's agitation is measureless,

and we mark our progress more by such satisfactory signs than by any legislation that we have been instrumental in securing.

The panacea for the abolition of the Sweating System and eradication of the slums inheres, not in legislative enactment, but in an aroused public sentiment.

The first President of the League, Rev. O. P. Gifford used to say, "There is moral power enough in the Christian conscience of America to destroy the tenement house and sweep away the Sweating System within a year if it were aroused."

The reader must not imagine that our account of the slums and of places where clothing is manufactured touch more than a mere outline of the area covered by the "Dead Sea of our City life." Nor have we in our reports presented the worst cases. In those described much has been withheld in behalf of decency, and much left to the imagination. But duty impels us to let the public know at least enough to avert the impending danger.

The epidemic of diphtheria at present prevailing is a natural sequel to the facts herein outlined.

This is a matter that requires the entire strength of the organized conscience of the community to grapple with successfully.

*The Herald* of Nov. 1, '94, says editorially :

#### DIPHThERIA.

"The prevalence of diphtheria in certain sections of the city, notably in the South Boston, Dorchester and Charlestown districts, is such as to call for prompt and thorough work to withstand the contagion. It is gratifying to see that our health authorities are alive to this peril, and that extraordinary measures have been taken to meet the demands of the situation. Were there a small fraction of as many cases of smallpox in the city as there now are of diphtheria there would be public alarm, and people would be taking every precaution against the disease. And yet diphtheria is a more dangerous affliction than smallpox, is almost equally contagious, and claims more victims every year. What seems to be called for is an awakening among the people as to the danger to be apprehended from diphtheria, and the prompt isolation of it. This will be the task of the large corps of physicians who will begin work this morning under the direction of the Board of Health."



The Anti-Tenement House League believes that prevention is better than cure, and that the essence of truth is contained in the statement that it is a purer and cleaner, rather than a greater Boston that is needed.

The tenement house and sweating system are by the wayside between us and the "City whose builder and maker is God, which city we seek".

Whether we will or no, outraged, wronged, degraded men, women and children by the thousand are all about us.

If the needs of the millions of Africa and India appeals to the conscience of the Church, much more ought the degradation of thousands beneath the shadow of her spires in America quicken her to indignation and action.

The field is as wide as the world and as near as your neighbor.

Dives was lost because he neglected the man on his own doorstep.

Go in and out of the dark alleys, the darker rooms; breathe the foul air, touch the dirty walls, look into the faces of your brothers and sisters, faces you will have to meet at the judgment; hear the story you must hear sometime, somewhere; hear it before it is too late to act. When their burden becomes your burden and your strength becomes their strength, you will find ways of deliverance.

Model tenement houses will be built by men who are more for God's image in man than for Cæsar's face on coin. Five per cent and heaven is better than 20 per cent and hell. "If ye have not the spirit of Christ ye are none of his."

Go study the Sweating System and see how fortunes are built on the bodies and souls of living men and women; how the poor are crushed out of all semblance to humanity; listen to the bitter groans that come from under the heavy foundation stones.

See the plate glass windows and massive walls of the great warehouse where the goods are sold, and then the foul, filthy rooms where they are made, and remember that the disease of the squalid room is contagious; that men and women and children are the price paid by some, that others may wear cheap clothing, and fortunes may be accumulated; that your children may be caught and destroyed by the machinery whose bloody wheels now grind up those who but a little while ago were as tenderly loved as your children are now.

"They enslave their children's children  
who make compromise with sin."

THE ANTI-TENEMENT HOUSE LEAGUE.

INSTITUTED 1891. INCORPORATED 1893.

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FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeth to the ANTI-TENEMENT HOUSE LEAGUE  
the sum of .....dollars.

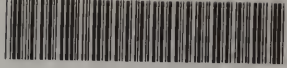






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