

municipalities unless in connection therewith there is a civil service law under which all applicants for position, irrespective of politics, will be treated exactly alike and under which just and reasonable tests will be applied to public servants to ascertain their fitness to perform the work entailed upon them.

"The only other serious objection urged in Chicago was that the municipality had no money. There is no force whatever in the objection. The operation of these utilities, either by public or private persons, is a valuable privilege. We propose to raise all the money necessary to purchase an up-to-date street car system upon certificates which are special or limited promises to pay out of the income collected from the system.

"Under the law of the state of Illinois these certificates are termed street car certificates and are secured in three ways:

"First—By the pledge of all of the income of the municipal railway plant, this income being unlimited as to time.

"Second—These certificates are secured by a mortgage which conveys all of the tangible property in the transportation department of the city, both real, personal and mixed, and every kind of property used in the transportation department.

"Third—These certificates are secured by twenty-year franchise.

"This security, in my judgment, is much better security than the private companies in the past have been able to offer, either to their stock or bondholders. Private companies in the past have been able to sell stocks and bonds aggregating in value \$117,000,000 when their tangible property was worth less than \$27,000,000. If they could raise four times the value of the tangible property upon an expiring franchise, can any sensible man for a moment hesitate as to what amount of money the city of Chicago can raise upon the security hereinbefore mentioned?

"The operation of public utilities by municipalities is no untried theory. Wherever a municipality has taken over a public utility, as to this utility corruption and bribery cease. There is no motive for the corruption of an alderman in case of a utility operated by the public.

"If good results have been secured in the cities of Europe and Australia, why can not they be secured in the cities of New York and Chicago, and the other cities of America? The men or parties who charge the citizens of Chicago or of New York with being so inefficient, incapable or dishonest as to be unable to own and operate their own utilities, frame an indictment against the citizens of these communities which our people will answer at the polls with a verdict of 'Not guilty.'

"The movement in favor of municipal ownership of all public utilities has taken deep root among the intelligent people of this country. It is no passing sentiment. It is here to stay. Municipal ownership and operation of these utilities and governmental ownership of railways, telegraphs and express transportation is a practical question upon which the people must pass within a very short time, and the politicians and parties who ignore this sentiment must be prepared for a short-lived career before the people."

VILEST STATE ON EARTH

South Carolina Works Little Children to Death

The following article, written by Elbert Hubbard, gives a true picture of child labor in South Carolina. Passes and bribes has had the same effect in South Carolina as elsewhere, except that in that state legislators were willing for the little pieces of pasteboard and other considerations to murder thousands of her little children—willing that they should wear out their little lives that Yankee nabobs might ride in automobiles and their wives wear silks. If there is anything more devilish, more cruel and barbarous in darkest Africa than what goes on from day to day in South Carolina and four other states that have no laws against child labor, what is it? Read the following article and then blush for your country.

Next to Massachusetts, South Carolina manufactures more cotton cloth than any other state in the union. The cotton mills of South Carolina are mostly owned and operated by New England capital.

In many instances the machinery of the cotton mills has been moved entire from Massachusetts to South Carolina. The move was made for the ostensible purpose of being near the raw product; but the actual reason is that in South Carolina there is no law regulating child labor. Heartless cupidity has joined hands with brutal ignorance, and the result is child labor of so terrible a type that African

slavery was a paradise compared with it.

Many of the black slaves lived to a good old age, and they got a hearty enjoyment from life.

The infant factory slaves of South Carolina can never develop into men and women. There are no mortality statistics; the mill owners baffle all attempts of the outside public to get at the facts, but my opinion is that in many mills death sets the little prisoner free inside of four years. Beyond that he can not hope to live, and this opinion is derived from careful observation and interviews with several skilled and experienced physicians who practice in the vicinity of the mills.

Boys and girls from the age of six years and upwards are employed. They usually work from six o'clock in the morning until seven at night. For four months of the year they go to work before daylight and they work until after dark.

At noon I saw them squat on the floor and devour their food, which consisted mostly of cornbread and bacon. These weakened pigmies munched in silence, and then toppled over in sleep on the floor in all the abandon of babyhood. Very few wore shoes and stockings; dozens of little girls of, say, seven years of age wore only one garment, a linsey-woolsey dress. When it came time to go to work the foreman marched through the groups shaking the sleepers, shouting in their ears, lifting them to their feet, and in a few instances kicking the delinquents into wakefulness.

The long afternoon had begun—from a quarter to one until seven o'clock they worked without respite or rest.

These toddlers, I saw, for the most part did but one thing—they watched the flying spindles on a frame 20 feet long, and tied the broken threads. They could not sit at their tasks; back and forward they paced, watching, with inanimate, dull look, the flying spindles. The roar of the machinery drowned every other sound. Back and forth paced the baby toilers in their bare feet, and mended the broken threads. Two, three, or four threads would break before they could patrol the 20 feet—the threads were always breaking!

The noise and the constant looking at the flying wheels reduce nervous sensation in a few months to the minimum. The child does not think; he ceases to suffer—memory is as dead as hope. No more does he long for the green fields, the running streams, the freedom of the woods, and the companionship of all the wild, free things that run, climb, fly, swim or burrow.

He does his work like an automaton; he is a part of the roaring machinery; memory is seared, physical vitality is at such low ebb that he ceases to suffer. Nature puts a short limit on torture by sending insensibility. If you suffer, thank God!—it is a sure sign you are alive.

At a certain night school, where several good women were putting forth efforts to mitigate the condition of these baby slaves, one of the teachers told me that they did not try to teach the children to read—they simply put forth an effort to arouse the spirit through pictures and telling stories. In this school I saw the sad spectacle of half the class, of a dozen or more, sunk into sleep that more resembled a stupor. The teacher was a fine, competent woman, but worn out nature was too much for her—to teach, you must make your appeal to life.

The parents of the children sent them there so they could be taught to read, but I was told by one who knew that no child of, say, seven or eight years of age who had worked in the mill a year could ever learn to read. He is defective from that time on. A year in the mills and he loses the capacity to play; and the child that can not play can not learn.

We learn in moments of joy; play is education; pleasurable animation is necessary to growth; and when you have robbed the child of its play-spell, you have robbed it of its life.

The reason that thought flags and stupor takes possession of the child who works at one task for 11 hours a day, is through the fact that he does not express himself. We grow through expression, which is exercise, is necessary to life. The child in the mill never talks to any one—even if the rules did not forbid it, the roar of the machinery would make it impossible. All orders are carried out in pantomime, emphasized by pokes, punches, pinches, shakes and kicks. This wee slave loses all relationship with his fellows and the world about him.

I thought to lift one of the little toilers to ascertain his weight. Straightway through his 35 pounds of skin and bones there ran a tremor of fear, and he struggled forward to tie a broken thread. I attracted his attention by a touch, and offered him a silver dime.

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He looked at me dumbly, from a face that might have belonged to a man of 60, so furrowed, tightly drawn, and full of pain it was. He did not reach for the money—he did not know what it was. I tried to stroke his head and caress his cheek. My smile of friendship meant nothing to him—he shrank from my touch as though he expected punishment. A caress was unknown to this child, sympathy had never been his portion, and the love of a mother, who only a short time before held him in her arms, had all been forgotten in the whirl of wheels and the awful silence of a din that knows no respite.

There were dozens of just such children in this particular mill. A physician who was with me said that they would all be dead probably in two years, and their places filled with others—there were plenty more. Pneumonia carries off most of them. Their systems are ripe for disease, and when it comes there is no rebound—no response. Medicine simply does not act—nature is whipped, beaten, discouraged, and the child sinks into a stupor and dies.

GEORGE W. BERGE, Attorney
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

NOTICE.

Lucia A. Hale, Amos H. Hale, Edgar E. Hale, Claude Hale, Edith Decamp, and Stuart G. Hale and Sims L. Hale, minors, by their next friend and mother, Lucia A. Hale,

PLAINTIFFS,

vs.

Susan J. Hale Seaverns and William Seaverns, her husband, Laura Buel and Friend Buel, her husband, Mary Borg and Charles Borg, her husband, Union Central Life Insurance Company, and John Doe,

DEFENDANTS.

To Susan J. Hale Seaverns and William Seaverns, her husband, and Mary Borg and Charles Borg, her husband:

You will take notice that on the 10th day of March, 1905 the plaintiffs above named filed their petition in the District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska, against the defendants, the object and prayer of which is to partition the South half (S. 1/2) of the North-west quarter (N. W. 1/4) of section twenty-nine (29), township eight (8), range seven (7) East in Lancaster County, Nebraska; also lots seven and eight in block two in the village of Ross, Lancaster County, Nebraska.

Plaintiffs allege that Lucia A. Hale is the widow of James B. Hale, deceased, and that the other named plaintiffs are the only children of Lucia A. Hale and James B. Hale, deceased.

Plaintiffs allege in their petition that during the month of March, 1901, Mary J. Hale died intestate, seized of the above described real estate; that said Mary J. Hale, deceased, left surviving her six children, as follows: James B. Hale, Eliza Duntun, Susan S. Hale Seaverns, Laura Buel, Mary Borg and Emma E. Hale Rouse, and that each of said six above named children are entitled to an undivided one-sixth interest of the above described real estate; that one of said children, named James B. Hale, was the husband of Lucia A. Hale, and father of the other above named plaintiffs, and that Lucia A. Hale, widow, and her children, above named, are entitled to an undivided one-sixth interest in and to all of the above described real estate; that James B. Hale died intestate on the 4th day of January, 1902, leaving Lucia A. Hale and said named children as his only heirs at law; that each of said children are entitled to an undivided one-sixth interest of the share of said James B. Hale, their father, in and to said real estate, subject only to the life estate and homestead rights of said Lucia A. Hale, mother of said children, and widow of said James B. Hale, deceased; that both the estates of Mary J. Hale and James B. Hale have been administered upon, and that all debts and claims against said estates have been paid, and the administrators discharged in both of said estates.

Plaintiffs further allege in their petition that Eliza Duntun and Emma M. Hale Rouse, who were each entitled to an undivided one-sixth interest in the estate of Mary J. Hale, deceased, have sold, assigned and transferred all of their respective interests to Susan J. Hale Seaverns.

Plaintiffs pray for judgment confirming the share of the parties hereto, and for a partition of said real property according to the respective interest of the parties, and that plaintiffs be decreed to have a one-sixth interest in all of the above described real estate, or if said real estate cannot be divided in kind that the premises be sold and the proceeds divided in the proportion above indicated; that they be allowed all expense in connection with said partition, and for general equitable relief.

You are required to answer said petition on or before the 8th day of May 1905.

Lucia A. Hale,
Amos H. Hale,
Edgar E. Hale,
Claude Hale,
Edith Decamp,
Stuart G. Hale,
Sims L. Hale,
Plaintiffs

By **GEORGE W. BERGE,**
Their Attorney.



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