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The Sadler Report Analysis

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The Sadler Report Analysis

The Sadler report was written by Michael Sadler, a UK Parliamentary committee chairman who introduced a Bill meant to consider limitation of the number of hours children worked in textile factories and mills. Between the passages of the 1832 Reform Act, there was a committee hearing carried out through the Commons and Parliament's successive cessation (Browne, 2020). This is where Sadler had obtained testimony from concerned medical experts, bystanders and factory workers on bad working conditions children went through together with excessive hours at work. Thus, highlighting the endangerment to tired children and the savagery they may be going through.

Sadler had the intention of exposing the substandard working conditions in which children were being put through in the mills and textile factories. Similarly, women also faced the same cruelty as children. Through addressing this issue, Sadler had the intention of improving the working conditions to limit the level of tiredness children were facing. Evidence from the testimonies recorded lead Michael Sadler to prepare the necessary recommendations as to how factories should go about their productions without necessarily putting children's lives at risk (Browne, 2020).

March 16th, 1832, was the first time Sadler proposed a Second Reading of the Bill which was to limit the working hours of children. Even though it was considered too urgent and no committee was necessary for gathering evidence with regards to the bill, later at the Second Reading, Michael Sadler agreed to such a committee later becoming the chairman. The committee had its first meeting on 12th April 1832 and took evidence from eighty-nine witnesses in forty-three meetings (Levene & Webb, 2019). He attempted to progress the Bill on 31st July 1832 without waiting for the committee's report and got objected to. On 8th August minutes

carrying evidence got released once print-outs were ordered. Little after a week, parliament was dissolved. Fortunately, in early 1833, the committee report contents started appearing in national and local newspapers.

Sadler Report had numerous findings that involved child labor. First, most children underwent excessive hours of labor. Excessive working hours made the children not to wake up on time the next day giving the supervisors a task. Secondly, brutality among the children who were either late or slow in doing their daily tasks was common among the supervisors. Thirdly, little or no sleep was experienced by the children as a result of the excess number of working hours (Levene & Webb, 2019). Last but not least, lack of food or limitation of food by the overlookers who either took the children's food and fed them to the pigs or were forced to take the food back home. There was no sufficient break for one to sit down and have a proper meal. Notably, some of the recommendations Sadler came up with were limitation to ten hours of workdays for children under the age of eighteen and banning labor for children under the age of 9. Also, he recommended banning of eight-hour day on Saturday and night working for children under the age of 21.

References

- Browne, C. L. (2020). The Leeds Mercury and the Leeds Intelligencer: Reporting on the 'Race of Factory Bills,' 1833. *Northern History*, 1-17.
- Levene, A., & Webb, J. (2019). Depictions of the " Ideal Child" in Nineteenth-Century British Literature and Legislature. *The Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth*, 12(1), 26-44.

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