

1866 Inquiry into Conditions in Liverpool

p52-53

The CHAIRMAN—Has any gentleman any other question to ask on this subject?

Mr. DOVER—Is there any record of this recommendation to the Health Committee of 1851?

Mr. NEWLANDS—Yes; it is in this book. (Referring to a printed report.)

The CHAIRMAN—Upon what subject?

Mr. DOVER—Upon the ventilation of sewers. It appears to me most singular, as the cost was so small, that the Committee of that day should have hesitated about it; it seems extraordinary.

Mr. NEWLANDS—The recommendation is contained at page 23 of the Report of 1851, as already quoted. But, although the expense of the connection was inconsiderable, it must be borne in mind that a fire would have had to be kept constantly burning.

Mr. DOVER—You know that our tables groan with reports. I would rather that the subject had been formally brought before the meeting of the Health Committee.

Mr. NEWLANDS—I, indeed, did so.

Mr. DOVER—It is a serious charge against the Committee of that day.

Mr. BOWRING—With regard to the main question. The sewers which we examined appeared to be perfectly ventilated; but this sewer along by Beacon's Gutter (pointing to plan) would be the very one to ventilate by some of the means suggested, if it could be adopted in any way.

Mr. NEWLANDS—The Archimedean screw ventilator could easily be applied along its course, if there were no furnace available.

Mr. BOWRING—There was a sluggish current in this sewer, and a slight indication of noxious gases, but that was the only one in which this was observed, and if a ventilator could be put there, I think it would be beneficial to that part of the town.

The CHAIRMAN—presume we have got as far as it is desirable to go with reference to these main sewers. I think the next point of inquiry is in reference to the subsidiary sewers of the houses.

Dr. TAYLOR—This sewer is rendered objectionable by the Abattoir ?

Mr. NEWLANDS—Yes, by the Abattoir, the chemical works, and the chemical and soapery waste through which it is carried.

Mr. SAMUELSON—Can the gases from that sewer in any way find their way into St. Paul's or Scotland Ward, and their evil effects be experienced there?

Mr. NEWLANDS—In Scotland Ward, but not in St. Paul's.

Mr. ROBINSON—Or Vauxhall?

Mr. NEWLANDS—Partially, only in one street.

Dr. TAYLOR—No portion of St. Anne's Ward?

Mr. NEWLANDS—It goes through part of it.

Mr. ROBINSON—None of the tributary sewers are in any way connected with the canal?

Mr. NEWLANDS—Yes, the overflow from the canal goes down the Oil Street sewer.

Mr. ROBINSON—Is not the canal in certain states of the weather really a sewer of itself ?

Mr. NEWLANDS—The Basins that go up to Meyrick Bankes & Co.'s, and the Manure Wharves; in fact, all the Basins which have dead ends, so to speak, are very offensive at times. But the last time Dr. Trench and I went to try the condition of the water there, it was really in a very good state.

Dr. TRENCH—I have not seen it in an offensive state.

Mr. DOVER—Do not the boatmen in the coal traffic foul the water?

Mr. NEWLANDS—No; not in the way to render it noxious.

Dr. TRENCH—Coal purifies it.

Mr. DOVER—It appears to me that the canal is a very great benefit to us.

Dr. TRENCH—I do not think so.

Mr. NEWLANDS—It is a great benefit to the sewers when properly used as a flasher at low water, but serious damage has been occasioned by the canal being let off at high water.

Mr. BOWRING—From the whole of this to the termination of the plan, (pointing to two places on the plan,) no doubt, sir, the whole water is stagnant. I do not observe there is any drainage into it.

Dr. TRENCH—It is frequently emptied twice a week.

The CHAIRMAN—It occurs to me, from one question you have raised, that a great deal of evil arises from the foul water drainage of the Abattoir which flows into the sewer. Do you suppose other sewers are much affected through the town from this cause?

Mr. NEWLANDS—Our new sewers are not affected at all. The old sewer, into which the Abattoir drained originally, went through Islington and Dale Street, and discharged into the George's Basin. Now, a new...

p244-257

SATURDAY, 12TH MAY, 1866.

PRESENT:

JAMES WHITTY, Esq., CHAIRMAN. (editor and proprietor of the Daily Post)

C. T. BOWRING (ship owner), JOSEPH ROBINSON, THOMAS DOVER, EDWARD SAMUELSON (Mayor 1872-73).

Mr. WORSNOP resumed his evidence on the wages question. He said :-Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I commence to-day with the House and Ship Painters:--Their payment is 6d. per hour, and they work 56 hours, making an average of 28s. per week in summer, and 20s. in winter. Apprentices, from 3s. 6d. to 12s. Grainers, from 30s. to 32s. Plumbers - both ship and house plumbers-30s. The painters, grainers, and plumbers work from '7 o'clock on Monday morning to 5.30 p.m.; every other day, excepting Saturday, from 6.0 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.; and on Saturday from 6.0 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Masons.--In summer, 33s. per. week; in winter, 30s. The masons work the same hours, but they have given notice to their employers that they will commence at 7 o'clock a.m. all the week round in future. In the winter they will work from light to dark.

The CHAIRMAN - Do you give the average wages, winter and summer?

Mr. WORSNOP - Yes.

The CHAIRMAN - A great many of them are thrown out of work, by frost, in the winter?

Mr. WORSNOP - A great many of them work overtime in summer, and under these circumstances the average is taken. Tanneries.--Skilled men, 21s.; labourers, 18s. to 20s.; carters, 24s. to 26s., according to the number of horses they are driving. Omnibus Men.-Drivers are paid 22s. 6d., 25s., and 27s. 6d. a-week, in addition to which, they have a commission averaging about 2s. 6d. a-week. Conductors get 15s., 17s. 6d., and 20s. Their hours are from 7.30 a.m. to 9 o'clock p.m., and from 9.0 a.m. to 10.30 p.m. Stable-men, 18s. Their hours are from 6.0 a.m. to 6.0 p.m. There are relays of these men who commence later in the morning and work the same number of hours, so as to take charge of the horses which come in later in the evening. Coal-heavers.- Unloading boats, average eight boats per week, 3s. 8d. each man, four men in a gang, 29s. a-week. This is under the mark. In addition, for every boat they unload, they have 1s. allowance. Some of the employers pay them the shilling, and they appropriate it as they feel disposed, for drink or otherwise; but the rule is to give them an order for 1s. worth of beer per boat. Porters, for filling carts and jobbing in the yards, get 18s. Yardmen get 19s. a-week, and have gas, coal, and water found them. Carters, 20s. a-week. The perquisites average 4s. a-week.

Mr. SAMUELSON-How do these perquisites arise ?

Mr. WORSNOP - In the delivery of coals at the residences of people, they usually get 6d. or so.

Mr. SAMUELSON - For putting them in.

Mr. WORSNOP - Not putting them in. A person generally goes with them who does that, but the carter generally gets his drink as they call it - 6d. and in some instances 1s. I went through the books of some of the principal offices, and the allowance received in this way amounted, in some instances, to 8s. a week, and taking the average, 4s. would be under the mark.

Mr. SAMUELSON - Do they account to their employers for it?

Mr. WORSNOP - Yes; to show what they are receiving. The wages paid to those carters are lower than those paid to other carters throughout the town, and these perquisites are an inducement to men to accept the employment.

The CHAIRMAN - But I presume when an employer comes to a knowledge of their average income from perquisites, he is very likely to reduce their wages?

Mr. WORSNOP - I think not.

The CHAIRMAN - I suppose they are very much in the position of servants in hotels?

Mr. WORSNOP - Very much. They have 20s. a-week, and what they can make above that.

Mr. SAMUELSON - Are we to infer from that, that a house having a good family connection would be likely to obtain carters for less money in consequence of the perquisites they would get?

Mr. WORSNOP - I should say not, because the perquisites these men are expected to get are so general. Night-men receive 20s. per week, If they have over six loads per night they receive 6d. per man. They have candle money 6d. per week per man.

The CHAIRMAN—Are you aware that they have been getting an advance of wages?

Mr. WORSNOP—Yes; the average of 20s. is for eighteen years past. Carters in connection with the night-men get 18s. per week. Men loading boats with night-soil, in gangs of three, have 12s. per boat piece work. The average number of boats loaded per week is six, and the average earnings of the men are, therefore, 24s. a-week. That is a little under the mark. Team Drivers.—Drivers of one horse 20s. Drivers of teams from 22s. to 26s., according to the number .of horses. Shipwrights.—Carpenters in constant work at yards 35s. to 42s. per week. Ditto working at ships in graving docks from 25s. to 30s. Apprentices from 7s. to 8s. The difference in wages between men working in the yards and those working in the graving docks, arises in consequence of the latter having to play sometimes three or four days, and the gangs employed in that way lose more or less time. Tailors.—The average wage the year round is 25s. a-week. The new log, as they call it, is that they are paid 5d. per hour for every garment, and the number of hours to be allowed for making each garment is fixed by the club.

Mr. DOVER—What are their hours?

Mr. WORSNOP—For a pair of trousers eleven hours, for a coat three days. A man will make a pair of trousers in from seven to eight hours, if expert, and a coat in two days or a little more. It is all piece-work.

Mr. SAMUELSON - Do I understand they are not allowed to work at a quicker rate than eleven hours to a pair of trousers?

Mr. WORSNOP—No; the club limits eleven hours to the master for every pair of trousers made; the result is, that if the men get the trousers made in much less time than that it is so much gained to them. I have taken five different establishments, where a large number of men are employed, and the average wages throughout are 25s. a-week. There are a great number of these men who are at present, and have been for four months back, making from 35s. a-week on the board in the shop. There is no concealment about it; I have seen the books and have run over them, and I can assure you some of them are making £3. These are steady men. Others are not making more than 15s. The result is the average comes to 25s.

Mr. SAMUELSON.—Is there not a good deal of female labour employed ?

Mr. WORSNOP—I am coming to that. Men who have the work at their own homes and frequently are helped by wife and daughter, or by a man, make from 50s. to 60s. a-week. Women and girls, waistcoat hands, who work at home, make 15s. per week.

Mr. DOVER—Each?

Mr. WORSNOP—Each.

Mr. DOVER—That is, supposing a woman has two daughters, they would make three times that - 45s. And can they get employment?

Mr. WORSNOP—They can. There is a dearth of hands to meet the trade at the present moment. A great many of them are making 25s. per week now. I saw one little girl this week, who to all appearance did not seem to be more than 16, though she said she was 18, who earned 35s. Women and girls, machine hands, who work on the premises, 15s. Women and girls who work at home on light clothing 16s. They take the general work, such as the sailor's clothing, all woollen. Slop Work.—Women and girls, machine hands on the premises, making shirts, drawers, jackets and trousers, average 9s. 6d. per week. Little girls attending to ditto average from 3s. to 4s. per week. Women and girls who work at home on the above articles average from 7s. to 9s. per week. Married women who take home shirts, drawers, jackets, &c., and employ one girl to help, average from 20s. to 25s. per week. It frequently happens that the girl they employ to help is their own daughter.

Mr. DOVER—Then what becomes of the "distressed needlewomen," of whom we have heard so much?

Mr. WORSNOP—Women who take home clothing from warehouses for export, from 15s. to 20s.

Mr. DOVER—Are those rates recently fixed?

Mr. WORSNOP—No Sir.

Mr. DOVER—Because we have heard a great deal about the distress of needlewomen.

Mr. WORSNOP—I suppose the distress among needlewomen will generally arise from the class known chiefly as dressmakers or milliners, or those who are more in the fancy work. Dressmakers work from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Working out, their board is found, and their wages average 68. per week. I have a note respecting this. Cotton Pickers.—Women and girls, constant hands, average 7s. per week. It might be more if they were steady. There is more drunkenness amongst this class than any other class of workwomen in Liverpool.

Mr. SAMUELSON—They are on strike at present?

Mr. WORSNOP—They have got their demand, I believe.

The CHAIRMAN—That very much agrees with the statement made by the Rev. Mr. Nugent.

Mr. WORSNOP—Those casually employed make an average of 5s. per week. It so happens .that the casually employed are those who would not be fully employed. They would prefer having no work at all. They prefer going to work for a day and receiving the money, and then going to a public-house and spending it.

Mr. SAMUELSON—What is their nationality?

Mr. WORSNOP—They are of the very lowest grades of mixed classes in Liverpool. I cannot say that the nationality is exclusively Irish, because I have found a large amount of Scotch amongst them, and the lowest of English and Welsh also. Chiefly they are Irish, but I found the whole of the United Kingdom very fairly represented. Tobacco and Cigar Factories.--All piece-work. Journeymen make from 30s. to 40s. per week. Journeywomen, from 14s. to 15s. Apprentice girls, from 15 to 21 years of age, from 6s. to 10s. Little girls, strippers, etc., from 2s. to 6s., according to their ability. I have taken what I consider the best average I can get upon this. I have seen the wages books. They pay them so much per hundred for making cigars, and there are a great many of these apprentices who will make as much as from 16s. to 18s. a-week. Gas Works.—Hours from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Smiths and joiners, 28s. a-week; occasionally overtime. Bricklayers, 30s. Fitters, 32s. Stokers, who work from five in the morning till one in the day —8 hours, 29s. per week. Cellarmen, 25s. Purifiers, 21s. Foremen purifiers, 25s. Gatemen, and others in trust—there are about a dozen in

each of the works--24s. Labourers, 18s. Lads, 10s. I may state that it is usual now in the gas works throughout the town to allow the stokers every third Sunday. They divide them into three relays. They would have to work 7 days a-week in all cases, if it were not for this. The result is—their average wages come down to 29s. 4d. per week. Every third Sunday they are off work.

Mr. DOVER—Are there many of those?

Mr. WORSNOP—Yes, sir.

Mr. DOVER—How many will there be in round numbers?

Mr. WORSNOP—I should think there will be nearly 500 of them engaged in the town at the whole of the works.

Mr. DOVER—These men, with the exception of one day in three weeks, work seven days then?

Mr. WORSNOP—They do.

Mr. DOVER—And are their hours long when they are at work?

Mr. WORSNOP—Eight hours out of every twenty-four. From five in the morning till one at noon.

Mr. DOVER—What is the state of the health of these men?

Mr. WORSNOP—I could not hear of a single case of fever amongst them. Generally, they are very steady, but I have notes here relative to them. House and Ship Painters, and Plumbers.--The average of these men are steady, and will bear comparison with most of the other trades in town as regards economy and respectability. Tanners.—From the regularity of their work, and the necessity of attending to their duty, these men on the whole are steady; otherwise they would be discharged, and their places filled by those who could be depended upon. Omnibus Men--Drivers.—I cannot report these men steady as a body. There are exceptions, but, unfortunately, the majority are given to tipping, and, possibly from the long hours they are kept at work, have not that desire for home comforts which they should have. This often keeps them out after leaving work, when they spend a large percentage of their earnings. Whilst amongst this class I found a special case where one man had died of fever in a cellar in Cranmer Street. The parish medical officer was called in, who at once ordered him to the hospital. The man refused to go, and the consequence was the whole family, numbering attended to, in all probability the other members of this family might have escaped infection. This man usually spent one-half his earnings in drink. Conductors, as a rule, are steadier than drivers. Stable-men— The average of these men are unsteady, and spend most of their time and money in drink. One singular feature amongst them is their dirty appearance. Though it is a part of their duty to wash and keep clean the horses and stabling, they rarely carry any portion of the water to their own faces. I found one yard where the manager has been for years weeding out the unsteady men, and now has a very steady set. These men are encouraged in this by payment of a small premium quarterly, as a reward for good conduct. These stables may be considered a pattern of cleanliness, and for the past two years there has not been a sick horse in them. Yet, with all these results of cleanliness, the men do not seem to appreciate the value of it.

Mr. DOVER—That would be, I suppose, a large stable?

Mr. WORSNOP—It is. The stable is white-washed every six weeks; it is disinfected at least twice a week, with unslacked lime and sulphuric acid, and is thoroughly washed out every day. But all this attention to cleanliness does not seem to have any effect on the men, for they seem to make it a religious duty not to wash their faces more than once a week, frequently not more than once a month. Coal-heavers are a very improvident class of men, and a very large majority of them seldom have a change of clothes for themselves or families. To give an instance of one who may be considered a decent fellow of the general run. He lives in a cellar at a rental of 2s. 3d. per week. He has a wife and four children. They are all clad in rags which are often filthy. The children are so small as to be unable to help themselves, and frequently are left for a day together without food or fire, and if it were not for the kindness of some of the neighbours who are far worse off in the matter of income, these poor children would be found almost starving, whilst both parents are off drinking. Another instance. A man with a wife and five children occupy a cellar, rent 2s. 3d. per week. The woman is decent, sober, and steady, and makes it a duty to keep her rags and her cellar

also clean. The sufferings of this poor woman and children are ,very great from the drunken habits of her husband. Tailors .—There is no reason why these men, as a body, should not be as respectable, and do as well as any other trade in the town. They have every opportunity, of making a very comfortable livelihood, provided they will give the same time to their work as other trades do. It cannot be concealed that a very large majority are very improvident, and lose much time in drinking, and thus bring misery and poverty on their families.

The CHAIRMAN—Did you ever enter any of the shops?

Mr. WORSNOP—I have.

The CHAIRMAN—In what condition did you find them as regards ventilation?

Mr. WORSNOP—I have generally found them very close; and in the majority of cases, I have found the men a poor ragged lot as a rule —men who did not seem to value the principle of cleanliness at all and I am sorry to say that I never met with a class of workmen so miserable in their residences as tailors are. Night-men are very improvident. Gas-men.—These men, as a rule, are steady, and reside in the best class of cottages. There are several of them living in cottages at a rental of 5s, a-week, and upwards.

Mr. DOVER—Do I understand that their work is finished by one o'clock in the day?

Mr. WORSNOP—Only the stokers.

Mr. DOVER—Their work is finished, and they have the rest of the day to themselves?

Mr. WORSNOP—Yes.

Mr. DOVER—And, of course, they must go to bed early, as they rise early?

Mr. WORSNOP—Certainly. The stokers are men who work in a comparatively naked condition, and lose a large amount of perspiration, and it is certified, generally, that these men could not bear a longer period than eight hours, to do the work effectually. They are subjected to a great amount of heat. The remainder of the men work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and frequently the mechanics in connection with gas-works have to work over-time.

Mr. DOVER—You say that stokers as a rule are healthy men—that there are few cases of fever amongst them?

Mr. WORSNOP—As a rule. I will take Athol Street Works for instance. There were a great many cases of fever all round the houses in which these men live, but there was not a single case of fever amongst them, as far as I could learn. Shipwrights.—This class may be said to be very improvident, extravagant, and given to drink. There are many exceptions, but by far the larger number are addicted to drink, and bring misery and poverty upon their families. Dressmakers.—These are girls and young women who are just out of their apprenticeship, or from an improver, and who go out to various houses to work. Slop Shops.—Women who work machines have, as a rule, to be attentive to the time required of them, and usually are so. Their chief work is making drawers, shirts, duck jackets, and trousers, &c. There is another class amongst these who go to the warehouses or shops for work, and take it home, where they employ girls and women. Of this class I will give one instance—that of a woman who frequently has six or eight girls or more working for her in her house. She had a good week, and drew nearly £7 from her employers. Her own proportion of this was over £2. She took out again a large stock of work, but the temptation of so large a sum in her pocket induced her to treat a friend or two. This led to a spree, and all her employers' material was pawned for drink. At last she sobered down, raised means to release a portion of the material, got to work again, received payment for it, released the remainder of the material, finished it, and took it in. In a week or two after getting straight, she repeated the same thing. This woman employs girls and women, whose wages, when at work, range from 2s. 6d. to 7s. per week. When she goes off drinking, they are out of employment, or have little to do; and, if my information is correct, this often leads young, unthinking, and sometimes almost starving girls to fall into the trap ever open for them, and thus promote the social evil.

Mr. SAMUELSON—It is not only the mischief she does to herself which is to be complained of, but also to those she employs, in consequence of their being thrown out of work.

Mr. WORSNOP—Exactly so. This woman especially; she has done it for years. She invariably releases the whole of the materials afterwards, and gives them to her employer, and he has faith that she will do so. She is on the spree at the present moment. Her earnings last week were £6. Her own share was £2.

The CHAIRMAN—Have you any reason to suppose that is an isolated case?

Mr. WORSNOP—No; I am afraid it is a very fair sample of the class generally, from all I can learn. *Cotton Pickers*.—There is great improvidence amongst this class. They are much given to drink, and it is introduced into the warehouses by the employers themselves in many cases. I am told it is a deplorable sight to see a decent girl, who some times gets work amongst them, baited by her fellow workpeople until, she falls into their ways, or is driven out of the place altogether. It cannot be concealed that the habits of these people are the reverse of virtuous. Several of the employers concur in saying that there is more drunkenness amongst these women and girls than perhaps in any other trade in the town.

Mr. SAMUELSON—Would the nature of their business—very dusty work—naturally lead them to require more drink to allay thirst?

Mr. WORSNOP—I should say not. If so, they might take something not quite so strong as beer.

Mr. DOVER—Can you give us any information with regard to those girls who retail oranges. I think Mr. Nugent gave us some. You have, perhaps, not paid much attention to that class?

Mr. WORSNOP—I have, sir, but I have no reliable evidence, and, under the circumstances, I did not feel it desirable to speak of them. I went into that block where they chiefly locate themselves, bounded by Great Crosshall Street or Dale Street, Milton Street, and Fontenoy Street My object in going there, was to ascertain, if possible, the income of orange-girls, fish-girls, those who go out with green-stuff and chip-girls; but there seems to be a very strong desire to conceal anything like an approximate rate of earnings, and I believe their reason for wishing to conceal it, is, that either they or some portion of their families are receiving Parish relief. I will give you one house as a sample of what the houses are in these streets. The occupant, a man, pays 5s. a-week. There is one room, what he calls a living-room, occupied by his wife, himself, two sons, and two daughters. This man's average rate of wages has been 25s per week for some time past. The two boys have been earning for the last three years, 10s. a-week. His wife buys old fruit boxes and breaks them up into chips, and the two girls go out with them to sell. As near as I could get from a neighbour—I could get nothing from the wife or daughters—these girls must make something like from 5s. to 7s. a-week. This man lets off his middle room. In this room there are three women and four children. Two of these women are receiving Parish relief. In the garret, or top room, there are three men and their wives, and not a vestige of anything for them to lie upon. They had been there a month. I can give you the particulars of another house in the same neighbourhood; and I am told by those who know the locality well—the people resident in the neighbourhood—that these two samples, I am now giving you, are very fair. A widow-woman and her daughter occupy the living-room. They let off the cellar to two women who deal in marine stores. One of these women is receiving Parish relief. In the room above, or middle room, they have a man, his wife, a son of 22 years of age, and a daughter, 20; and in the room above that, a woman and three children. Now, the rental of the first house is 5s., and the man gets 4s. 6d. by sub-letting.

Mr. BOWRING—What part of the house does the person who rents the house occupy?

Mr. WORSNOP—What is commonly called the "living" room, on the ground floor. He lets off the cellar and upper rooms.

The CHAIRMAN—Does he sleep in that place?

Mr. WORSNOP—He does.

Mr. DOVER—Are these able-bodied women that you were speaking of?

Mr. WORSNOP—Yes.

Mr. DOVER—How is it they are receiving relief ?

Mr. WORSNOP—They represent themselves as widows with children.

Mr. DOVER—They have children?

Mr. WORSNOP —They have.

The CHAIRMAN—If she has young children, an able-bodied-woman receives relief because it is expected that she is partly occupied in the care of her children.

Mr. WORSNOP—One of the recipients of parish relief, the marine store dealer in the cellar is a very old woman.

Mr. SAMUELSON—Have you had any means of satisfying yourself as to the difference between the current rate of wages, we will say five years ago and the present rate.

Mr WORSNOP—The present rate is very much higher.

Mr. SAMUELSON —Could you give us any approximate idea?

Mr. WORSNOP —I could not, but the impression I have is formed upon an examination of the books, and conversation with employers at the various places to which I have gone.

Mr. BOWRING—Do you know the wages earned by the man who kept that house? I think you said he was a tinker.

Mr. WORSNOP—No; he is a labourer, and has been earning upon all, average nearly 25s. a-week for some considerable time past.

Mr. BOWRING— And he pays 5s. for the house I

Mr. WORSNOP—Yes.

Mr. BOWRING—And lets off the rooms for 4s. 6d.?

Mx. WORSNOP—Yes.

Mr. BOWRING—So that he lives for 6d. a-week rent.

Mr. SAMUELSON—His two sons for the last three years, you say, have been earning 10s. a-week.; is that each?

Mr. WORSNOP—No; between them.

Mr. SAMUELSON—And the two girls 7s. a-week?

Mr. WORSNOP—This is as far as I can learn from evidence obtained in the neighbourhood.

Mr. BOWRING—And do they all live in one room?

Mr. WORSNOP—They live and sleep in one room.

Mr. SAMUELSON—What were the habits of that man?

Mr. WORSNOP—Drunken.

The CHAIRMAN—That would show an income between himself and his family of something like £2 2s. a-week?

Mr. WORSNOP—Yes; I met a brewer, and I asked him his impression of the neighbourhood. Fontenoy Street, Milton Street, Henry Edward Street, Addlington Street, and Bispham Street. He said—"All I can tell you, though it is against myself, is, that drink is the curse of this neighbourhood." I said, "how do you account for it?" "Well, they give too much for the money." I asked "how is that ?" and he said, "in that house (pointing to a house close by) they sell fifteen barrels a week, and they give four away to sell it." He mentioned another house at the north end that was in a very fair neighbourhood for doing a business, and better adapted for business than this house was, and he told me that £20 a week more was obtained from the house I have been alluding to, than from the one at the north end. I said to him, how do you account for it?" and he replied, "I cannot account for it further than this—these people get their money every day, and then go and

spend it." "Have you ever a slack day?" I asked. "Yes, on Thursday." "From what cause?" "They are scraping up their money for Friday and Saturday to go hawking," he replied.

Mr. BOWRING—But that is an exceptional case. Their usual habits are not hawking?

Mr. WORSNOP—A great many of the women and girls hawk in some way or other or stand at the street corner.

Mr BOWRING —You say they save up their wages?

Mr. WORSNOP—The publicans only find a perceptible difference on Thursday, the day on which a great many of these people save up their money to purchase material to fill their baskets for Friday and Saturday. I asked him how they went on at the north-end, and he said—"Well, we do a good business on Saturday nights and up to Monday, and after that we are nearly shut up." At the north-end very nearly every one of the frequenters of the house are artisans, working in the locality in which this house is situated. Many of them work at engineering works and foundries, some work at the docks, and others on steam-boats, &c.

Mr. ROBINSON—They can only afford to drink three days a-week?

Mr. WORSNOP—They get their money weekly. I believe there is a arger amount of improvidence amongst the people who are receiving their money daily, or two or three times a-day, than amongst those who are receiving regular wages. I have found that to be the case in my experience amongst dock porters and coal-heavers, and all casually employed. There is a large number of men in the block I have been alluding to, between Fontenoy Street, Marybone, and Milton Street, &c. who would not work six days. They would leave a shop sooner than do that. They are men who will only just go to work as it suits their convenience and drink the rest of the time. They receive their money daily, and they go and spend it, and as soon as it is spent, and the fumes of the drink have gone off, they go again to work.

Mr. DOVER—Why do they not let their wages accumulate, and receive the money every week?

Mr. WORSNOP—The craving for drink will not allow them.

Mr. SAMUELSON—The money in their pocket burns, and they spend it as fast as they get it. The man who receives his money at the end of the week will let it go until he has spent as much as he can spare, had then he is obliged to work.

Mr. DOVER—Do you think these men would not work if the master refused to pay them oftener than once a-week ?

Mr. WORSNOP—Until they were driven to it by starvation.

Mr. ROBINSON—It would be a good thing if employers would, as a rule, only pay their men on Friday night.

Mr. BOWRING—Have you paid any attention to the question, whether the people receiving these fair wages, make any use of the Savings Banks?

Mr. WORSNOP—I have not paid any attention to that.

Mr. BOWRING—You do not know whether they are depositors in any of the Savings Banks?

Mr. WORSNOP—I do not.

Mr. SAMUELSON—I presume Mr. Worsnop does not mean to say that the whole labouring population of Liverpool is improvident?

Mr. WORSNOP—By no means. In my notes I specially exempt several classes, and, of course, there are no classes without exceptions.

Mr. ROBINSON—One feature that struck me very much in the evidence you gave last Saturday was, that all the artizans who have trade associations, and who go into the questions of increase of wages, and restricting the hours of labour—

The CHAIRMAN—Political economy.

Mr. BOWRING—Political economy, if you like that—that class appear to be the best class, more cleanly in their habits, and more sober. I think this inquiry has elicited this fact, that the men who are best able to look after their own interests, are, after all, the elite of the working classes.

Mr. WORSNOP—There is no doubt about it.

Mr. DOVER—From your observation, do you think drunkenness is upon the increase?

Mr. WORSNOP—It is. I am quite satisfied in my own mind that it is very largely on the increase.

Mr. BOWRING—To what do you attribute that increase?

Mr. WORSNOP—The better opportunities they have of getting money than they had some few years ago, and the increase of the desire for drink in a great measure.

Mr. BOWRING—What makes the increased desire for it? Is it the more depraved habits or the better facilities they have of obtaining drink

Mr. WORSNOP—I fancy the great number of the younger branches of the family rising up swells the increase. From the example and influence to which they are subject continually they become drunkards. Unfortunately, I could tell you of several cases in this neighbourhood where the father, mother, and children, the latter not more than 10 or 12 years of age, have all been tipsy together. I have no doubt that the parents had given the children the drink.

Mr. BOWRING—I have no doubt that example greatly influences children, but I am not, satisfied that this example has produced greater effect recently than it has before.

Mr. WORSNOP—I do not think that this example was prevalent formerly to the extent that it is in the present day.

Mr. BOWRING—What I want to satisfy my mind upon, is, why the habits of certain classes of society are worse than they were some years ago.

Mr. WORSNOP—I cannot answer the question further than by saying that my impression is that the facilities given for getting, and the advantage of getting something like a quart for the price of a pint, are inducements frequently for men to drink.

Mr. ROBINSON—They can get more drink with the same money?

Mr. WORSNOP—Nearly double the quantity.

Mr. SAMUELSON—Do you think the increased number of drinking houses has anything to do with it?

Mr. WORSNOP—I think that helps it.

Mr. SAUELSON—It offers a temptation or inducement?

Mr. WORSNOP—Yes.

The Committee adjourned to next Saturday.