

TENEMENT HOUSE MANUFACTURE.

The following are the sections of the factory act which relate to tenement house manufacture in Illinois:

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:* That no room or rooms, apartment or apartments, in any tenement or dwelling house used for eating or sleeping purposes, shall be used for the manufacture, in whole or in part, of coats, vests, trousers, knee-pants, overalls, cloaks, shirts, ladies' waists, purses, feathers, artificial flowers or cigars, except by the immediate members of the family living therein. Every such workshop shall be kept in a cleanly state, and shall be subject to the provisions of this act; and each of said articles made, altered, repaired or finished in any such workshops shall be subject to inspection and examination, as hereinafter provided, for the purpose of ascertaining whether said articles, or any of them, or any part thereof, are in a cleanly condition and free from vermin and any matter of an infectious and contagious nature; and every person so occupying or having control of any workshop as aforesaid shall within fourteen days from the taking effect of this act, or from the time of beginning of work in any workshop as aforesaid, notify the board of health of the location of such workshop, the nature of the work there carried on, and the number of persons therein employed.

Sec. 2. If the board of health of any city or said State Inspector finds evidence of infectious or contagious diseases present in any workshop, or in goods manufactured or in process of manufacture therein, and if said board or inspector shall find said shop in an unhealthy condition, or the clothing and materials used therein to be unfit for use, said board or inspector shall issue such order or orders as the public health may require, and the board of health are hereby enjoined to condemn and destroy all such infectious and contagious articles.

Sec. 7. The words "manufacturing establishment," "factory" or "work shop," wherever used in this act, shall be construed to mean any place where goods or products are manufactured or repaired, cleaned or sorted, in whole or in part, for sale, or for wages. Whenever any house, room or place is used for the purpose of carrying on any process of making; altering, repairing or finishing for sale, or for wages, any coats, vests, trousers, knee-pants, overalls, cloaks, shirts, ladies' waists, purses, feathers, artificial flowers or cigars, or any wearing apparel of any kind whatsoever, intended for sale, it shall, within the meaning of this act, be deemed a workshop for the purpose of inspection. And it shall be the duty of every person, firm or corporation to keep a complete list of all such workshops in his, their or its employ, and such list shall be produced for inspection on demand by the board of health or any of the officers thereof, or by the State Inspector, Assistant Inspector, or any of the deputies appointed under this act.

These provisions aim to regulate tenement house manufacture, and to modify some of its evils, while recognizing and maintaining the system. This method is pursued in all other States which

deal with the system by legislation. Laden with danger to the public as tenement house manufacture is, and unnecessary as it is, there has not yet been made any attempt to prohibit it in any State, although the system is everywhere growing and spreading in the face of regulation. Legislative restriction rests upon the theory of regulation by registration and such constant sanitary supervision of the shops as, it was believed, registration would make possible. The theory is disproved by two and a half years' faithful endeavor to apply it.

Tenement house manufacture in this State is confined chiefly to Chicago, and to the making of bread, cigars and garments. Within this limit it is very extensive, and as the tables of this report show, is increasing rapidly. Nearly all the cigar shops are in tenement houses, bakeries in cellars of tenement houses are common, and a very large majority of the garment shops are either in tenement houses or upon tenement house premises, over stable or shed, in basement or cellar, in upper floor living rooms. The provisions of the Illinois statute are especially intended to regulate the garment trade; yet in the tenement house shops, in 1895, this trade reached greater dimensions than ever before. There were more shops, more employés, more children among the employés; a larger trade in every way.

During the year there were inspected in Chicago 1,923 places in which garments were manufactured, employing 9,122 men, 13,832 women, 1,832 children, a total of 24,786. Only 208 of these 1,923 places are factories, and in the factories were employed only 3,305 men, 6,052 women, 525 children, a total of 9,882. All articles of wearing apparel, from hats to shoes, are included in the garment trades. An analysis of the table upon these trades (see Appendix B) shows that, of the 208 factories, only 18 are cloak and clothing factories. They are divided as follows: Cloaks, 10, employing 932 persons; ready-made clothing, 5, employing 424 persons; custom clothing, 3, employing 65 persons.

Contrast with this meagre showing of 18 factories employing 1,421 persons in the cloak and clothing trades, 1,715 contractors' or "outside" shops, employing 14,904 persons. The exact figures for the cloak and clothing manufacture in Chicago, in 1895, as shown in the tables, are:

	Number of places.	NUMBER EMPLOYED.			
		Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Factories.....	18	545	822	44	1,421
Contractors' shops.....	1,715	5,817	7,780	1,307	14,904

The shop of the contractor, commonly known as the "sweater" shop, is usually on tenement house premises, as is shown in the tables at the close of this chapter, and in Appendix C. The in-

crease in the number of these shops, and the number of persons employed in them during the last three years, shows how rapidly tenement house manufacture is growing in Chicago. The figures for the three years are:

Year.	Shops.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
1895	1,715	5,817	7,780	1,307	14,904
1894	1,413	4,469	5,912	721	11,102
1893	704	2,611	3,617	595	6,823

The law does not prohibit the keeping of a workshop in a tenement house. It only prohibits the use of *living rooms* in a tenement house for the purpose of manufacture by persons not members of the family dwelling therein, and expressly exempts members of the family from this prohibition. Any rooms not used for living purposes, though in a tenement house, may be used for a shop by a contractor, and he may employ therein as many persons as he can pack into the room or rooms.

Of the 542 violations of the statute successfully prosecuted in 1895, only 33 were violations of the statutory requirement that no person not a member of the immediate family shall be employed where eating and sleeping is done. Of these home shops, 9 were cigar shops and 24 were garment shops; there were 32 defendants, one sweater having been twice prosecuted for the same offense.

The small number of these prosecutions does not mean that strict enforcement of sections 1 and 7 of the law has accomplished the removal of the shops from tenement houses. On the contrary, there were never so many shops in tenement houses in Chicago as in 1895. It only means that fewer persons were hired to work with the contractor and his family in their living rooms, generally consisting of bedroom and kitchen. The tables for the cloak and clothing trades, at the close of this chapter, show how many shops are on tenement house premises, and how crowded with families are these premises.

The law requires that all shops in living rooms shall be kept clean and free from vermin and infection, although the provisions of the law are not adequate for the enforcement of these requirements; but there are no more regulations prescribed for a shop in a tenement house, outside of living rooms, than there are for the most sanitary factory. The tenement house shop may be, without violating the law, over a stable; in the garret of a building teeming with a filthy colony of tenants; in a basement so low, damp and dark that its walls drip slime. It may be so located that its employes must use halls and stairways, water supply, vault or closet, in common with tenants of all ages, in all manner of physical condition. The factory law does not empower the inspector to order changes in any of these foul and dangerous conditions.