**Document 1**

The following is an excerpt from William Cooper's testimony before the Sadler Committee in 1832.

Sadler: What is your age?

Cooper: I am eight and twenty.

Sadler: When did you first begin to work in mills?

Cooper: When I was ten years of age.

Sadler: What were your usual hours of working?

Cooper: We began at five in the morning and stopped at nine in the night.

Sadler: What rime did .you have for meals?

Cooper: We had just one period of forty minutes in the sixteen hours. That was at noon.

Sadler: What means were taken to keep you awake and attentive?

Cooper: At times we were frequently strapped.

Sadler: When your hours were so long, did you have any time to attend a day school?

Cooper: We had no time to go to day school.

Sadler: Can you read and write?

Cooper: I can read, but I cannot write.

**Document 2**

Here is an excerpt from the testimony of Joseph Hebergam to the Sadler Committee.

Sadler: What is the nature of your illness?

Hebergam: I have damaged lungs. My leg muscles do not function properly and will not support the weight of my bones.

Sadler: A doctor has told you that you will die within the year, is that correct?

Hebergam: I have been so told.

Sadler: Did he tell you the cause of your illness?

Hebergam: He told me that it was caused by the dust in the factories and from overwork and insufficient diet. . . .

Sadler: To what was his (your brother's) death attributed?

Hebergam: He was cut by a machine and he died of infection.

Sadler: Do you know of any other children who died at the R\_\_\_\_Mill?

Hebergam: There were about a dozen died during the two years and a half that I was there. At the L­­­\_\_\_\_Mill where I worked last, a boy was caught in a machine and had both his thigh bones broke and from his knee to his hip the flesh was ripped up the same as it had been cut by a knife. His hand was bruised, his eyes were nearly torn out and his arms were broken. His sister, who ran to pull him off, had both her arms broke and her head bruised. The boy died. I do not know if the girl is dead, but she was not expected to live.

Sadler: Did the accident occur because the shaft was not covered?

Hebergam: Yes.

**Document 3**

This excerpt is from The *Philosophy of Manufactures* by Andrew Ure, 1835.

I have visited many factories, both in Manchester and in the surrounding districts, and I never saw a single instance of corporal chastisement [beating] inflicted on a child. They seemed to be always cheerful and alert, taking pleasure in the light play of their muscles. . . As to exhaustion, they showed no trace of it on emerging from the mill in the evening; for they began to skip about.... It is moreover my firm conviction [opinion] that children would thrive better when employed-in our modern factories, than if left at home in apart­ments too often ill-aired, damp, and cold.

**Document 4**

This excerpt is from The Working Man's Companion subtitled The Results of Machinery, Namely Cheap Production and Increased Employment. It was published in 1831.

You are surrounded, as we have constantly shown you throughout this book, with an infinite number of comforts and conveniences which had no existence two or three centuries ago and those comforts are not used only by a few, but are within the reach of almost all men. Everyday is adding something to your comforts. Your houses are better built, your clothes are cheaper, you have an infinite number of domestic utensils. You can travel cheaply from place to place, and not only travel at less expense, but travel ten times quicker than two hundred years ago.

**Document 5**

This description is from a pamphlet published in 1797 by the Society for Bettering the Condition and Increasing the Comforts of the Poor.

The village contains about 1500 inhabitants, of whom all who are capable of work are employed in and about the mills. Of these there are 500 children who are entirely fed, clothed, and educated by Mr. Dale. The others live with their parents in the village and have a weekly allowance for their work. The healthy appearance of these children has frequently attracted the attention of the traveler. Special regulations, adopted by Mr. Dale, have made this factory very different from the others in this kingdom. Out of the nearly 3000 children employed in the mills from 1785 to 1797, only fourteen have died.

**Document 6**

This excerpt, from *Manchester in 1844,* was written by Leon Faucher (Frank Cass & Co. Ltd., 1969) after his visit to English factory towns.

The little town of Hyde was at the beginning of the century a little hamlet of only 800 people, on the summit of a barren hill, the soil of which did not yield sufficient food for the inhabitants. The brothers Ashton have peopled and enriched this desert. . . . Mr. T. Ashton employs 1500 work people [in his factories). The young women are well and decently clothed.... The houses inhabited by the work people form long and large streets. Mr. Ashton has built 300 of them, which he lets [rents] for ... 75 cents per week. . . . Everywhere is to be observed a cleanliness which indicates order and comfort.

**Document 7**

This excerpt from *The Conditions of the Working Class in England* was written by Friedrich Engels after he visited an English industrial city in 1844.

Every great town has one or more slum areas where the workers struggle through life **as** best they can out of sight of the more fortunate classes of society. The slums are generally unplanned wildernesses of one- or two-storied houses. Wherever possible these have cellars which are also used as dwellings. The streets are-usually unpaved, full of holes, filthy and strewn with refuse. Since they have neither gutters nor drains, the refuse accumulates instagnant, stinking puddles. The view of Manchester is quite typical. The main river is narrow, coal-black and full of stinking filth and rubbish which it deposits on its bank. . . . One walks along a very rough path on the river bank to reach a chaotic group of little, one-story, one-room cabins. . . . In front of the doors, filth and garbage abounded....

**Document 8**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| British Iron Production (1740-1900) ; | |
| 1740 1796 1839 1854 • 1900 | 17,350 tons 125,079 tons 1,248,781 tons 3,100,000 tons 9,000,000 tons |

**Document 9**

This excerpt is from the Combination Act of 1800, which hindered the growth of unions.

. . . that every workman . . . who shall . . . enter into any combination [union] to obtain an advance of wages, or to lessen or alter the hours ... or who shall, for the purpose of obtain­ing an advance in wages . .. persuade, solicit, intimidate, or influence . . . any workman . . . to quit or leave his work ... shall be committed to ... jail....

**Document 10**

This excerpt is from the Health and Morals Act of 1802.

The minimum age of employment shall be nine years.

The working day for children under fourteen shall be limited to twelve hours.

**Document 11**

This excerpt is from the Factory Act of 1833. .

Be it enacted that no person under 18 years of age shall be allowed to work in the night in or about any cotton, woolen, linen, or silk mill or factory, where steam, water, or any other mechanical power is used to work the machinery ... no person under the age of 18 years shall be employed in any such mill or factory more than 12 hours in one day, nor more than *69* hours in any one w.eek ... his majesty [the king of England] shall appoint... inspectors of factories . . . where the labor of children under 18 years of age is employed.

**Document 12**

This excerpt is from the *Condition of the Working Cities in England* by Friedrich Engels. In it he criticizes capitalism.

People regard each other only as useful objects; each exploits the other, and the end of it all is, that the stronger treads the weaker under foot, and that the powerful few, the capitalists, seize everything for themselves, while to the weak ... the poor, scarcely a bare existence remains.

**Document 13**

Here is an excerpt from the *Communist Manifesto* written by Marx and Engels in 1848.

The Communists openly declare that their ends can be attained [gained] only by the forc­ible overthrow of all existing social conditions. Let the ruling classes tremble at a communist revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. "Working men of all countries, unite!”