This family living near a factory in Chicago includes Mother and Father and 7 children. The whole family lives in a one-room shack in shanty town. The younger kids all sleep in the same bed. Mom, Dad, and older sister sleep on blankets on the floor. Everyone has two pairs of clothes (one to wear, while the other is being washed). All the kids get one good meal a day, even if Mom and Dad have to go without. Tim (10), George (8), and Bob (7) all work in the factory. Sister Sara (16) and Mother work different shifts at the local sweatshop so that they can care for the little one: Lara (3) and Lisa (2). Little Billy (5) works with Dad as a Chimney Sweep (being lowered into the chimney to scrap off soot). The stove is used for cooking or heat only if they can scrape together wood or coal.
A family living in worker’s quarters near the Tifton Cotton Mill. The four smallest children were not working yet. The mother said she earns $4.50 a week and all the working children earn $3.50 a week. Her husband died last year and left her with 11 children. Two of them went off and got married. The family left the farm two years ago to work in the mill. Most of the children wear the hand-me-downs of the older ones. Only Mom and the oldest children have shoes. One meal a day and a single bed are their only luxuries.

Tifton, Georgia.
Child Labor during the Industrial Revolution

Furman Owens, 12 years old. Can't read. Doesn't know his A,B,C's. Said, "Yes I want to learn but can't when I work all the time." Been in the mills 4 years, 3 years in the Olympia Mill.

Columbia, South Carolina.

One of the spinners in Whitnel Cotton Mill. She was 11 years old and 51 inches high. Has been in the mill one year. Sometimes works at night. Runs 4 sides - 48 cents a day. When asked how old she was, she hesitated, then said, "I don't remember," then added confidentially, "I'm not old enough to work, but do just the same."

Whitnel, North Carolina.
Child Labor during the Industrial Revolution

Jo Bodeon, a back-roper in the mule room at Chace Cotton Mill. His mother showed me the family Bible indicating his date of birth as July 15, 1894. 10 years old now, he has been in the factory two years and occasionally works nights.

Burlington, Vermont.

The overseer at the Newberry Cotton Mill said apologetically, "She just happened in." She has been working steadily for at least a year. No idea how old she is. The mills seem full of youngsters who "just happened in" or "are helping sister."

Newberry, South Carolina.
Breaker boys of the Hughestown Borough Pennsylvania Coal Company. They work from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily driving mine cars. The dust is so dense at times as to obscure their view and it also penetrates the utmost recesses of the boys' lungs. A kind of slave-driver sometimes stands over the boys, kicking & prodding them into obedience.

Pittston, Pennsylvania.

Harley Bruce is a young coupling-boy at Indian Mine. He appears to be years old and says he has been working there about 2 years. It is hard and dangerous work. One of his friends died in a recent cave-in.

Near Jellico, Tennessee.
Child Labor during the Industrial Revolution

Young cigar makers in Engelhardt & Co. The three boys looked under 12 years old. They say they’ve been working off and on for the last three years. Labor leaders told me in busy times many small boys and girls were employed. Most of the youngsters smoke cigars while they work.

Tampa, Florida.

Rob Kidd, one of the young workers in Wheaton Glass Works. 11 years old now, but has been in the glass works two years and often works nights.

Millville, New Jersey.
Child Labor during the Industrial Revolution

Oyster shuckers working in a canning factory. All but the very smallest babies work. They began work at 3:30 a.m. and were expected to work until 5 p.m. The 6 year old girl in the center was working with her mother and brothers. Her mother said she is "a real help to me."

Dunbar, Louisiana.

Manuel is a young shrimp picker, age 5. A mountain of oyster shells behind him seems to grow larger every day. He has been working at least a year and doesn’t understand English. He doesn’t have any shoes and works about 16 hours a day.

Biloxi, Mississippi.
Child Labor during the Industrial Revolution

Camille Carmo, age 7, and Justine, age 9. The older girl has been picking berries for three years. Their Mother said they pick about 6-7 baskets a day. "And I don't make them pick; they volunteered to help on their own."

Rochester, Mass.

Twelve-year-old Tom Lahnert topping beets. The father, mother, and two boys (9 and 12 yrs.) expect to make $700 in about 2 months time in the beet work. "The boys can keep up with me all right, and all day long," the father said. Begin at 6 a.m. and work until 6 p.m. with an hour off at noon.

Fort Collins, Colorado.
According to Dr. Ward from Manchester; “When I was a surgeon for the factory, accidents were often admitted to the infirmary because the children’s hands and arms had been caught in the machinery. In many cases the muscles and skin had been stripped down to the bone. In some instances, fingers, hands, and even legs have been lost or required amputation. Of 106 child laborers, 47 have been injured.
A girl named Mary Richards, who was not quite ten years of age, attended a drawing frame, below which, and about a foot from the floor, was a horizontal shaft, by which the frames above were turned. It happened one evening, that her apron was caught by the shaft. In an instant the poor girl was drawn into the machine and dashed on the floor. She uttered the most heart-rending shrieks! Witnesses saw her whirled round and round by the shaft and heard the bones of her arms, legs, thighs, etc. successively snapped and crushed, seemingly, to atoms, as the machinery whirled her round, and drew her body tighter and tighter within the works. As she flailed helplessly, her blood was scattered over the frame and streamed upon the floor. At last, her mangled body was jammed in so fast, between the shafts and the floor, that it stopped the main shaft. When she was extricated, every bone was found broken and her head dreadfully crushed. Eventually, her body was removed and carried off quite lifeless. Within an hour, another girl was assigned to work the same machine.