

**SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE FACTORY INSPECTION MADE  
TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT  
ITS JANUARY SESSION, 1901**

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Seventh Annual Report of the Factory Inspection Made to the General Assembly at its January Session, 1901 by J. Ellery Hudson & Helen M. Jenks

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**J. ELLERY HUDSON & HELEN M. JENKS**

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*State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.*

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SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FACTORY INSPECTORS,

MADE TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AT ITS

JANUARY SESSION, 1901.

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J. ELLERY HUDSON,                      HELEN M. JENKS,  
*FACTORY INSPECTORS.*

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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

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SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

INSPECTIONS OF FACTORIES, MERCANTILE ESTABLISH-  
MENTS, AND WORKSHOPS,

FROM

JANUARY 1, 1900, TO JANUARY 1, 1901.

177336

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

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OFFICE OF FACTORY INSPECTORS,  
PROVIDENCE, R. I., January 1, 1901.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY WILLIAM GREGORY,  
*Governor State of Rhode Island.*

GOVERNOR:—In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 68 of the General Laws, we have the honor to submit to you, and through you to the General Assembly, this the seventh annual report of the Factory Inspectors of this State, covering the inspection of factories, workshops, and mercantile establishments during the year ending December 31, 1900.

Respectfully submitted,

J. ELLERY HUDSON,  
HELEN M. JENKS,  
*Factory Inspectors.*

## REPORT.

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The State Factory Inspectors respectfully present their seventh annual report as follows:

We have, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 68 of the General Laws, inspected five hundred and ninety-five (595) establishments during the year ending December 31, 1900. This is an increase of forty-six (46) over the number visited in 1899. The new establishments are pretty evenly distributed among the varied industries in the State.

The number employed in the various establishments coming under the factory inspection laws was found to be as follows:

Males of sixteen years of age and over.....	44,337
Females of sixteen years of age and over.....	32,215
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Whole number of adults.....	76,552
Males under sixteen years of age.....	2,844
Females under sixteen years of ages.....	2,409
	<hr/>
Whole number of children.....	5,253
Total number employed.....	81,805

A comparison of the foregoing figures with those reported last year shows an increase of two thousand five hundred and two (2,502) in the number of men employed; an increase of one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four (1,754) in the number of women employed; an increase of two hundred and eighty-nine (289) in the number of boys employed; and an increase of two hundred



and ninety-eight (298) in the number of girls employed; a total increase of four thousand eight hundred and forty-three (4,843).

Of this increase in the number of employees, two thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine (2,779) adults and two hundred and seventy-three (273) children were found in the new places visited, and one thousand four hundred and seventy-seven (1,477) adults and three hundred and fourteen (314) children comprise the increase in the number employed this year in the establishments included in last year's report.

By the foregoing it will be noticed that there has been an increase of 587 in the number of children employed in our State. The first thought is, naturally, that this increase is to be looked for in the cotton and woolen mills which give employment to a large proportion of our laboring people, and in which 70 per cent. of all the children employed are to be found at work. But a careful examination of the statistics which form a large portion of this report reveals the fact that the greater part of this increase in child labor is to be found in industries other than cotton or woolen. In 1899 the combined cotton and woolen industries of the State gave employment to 3,533 children or 75.7 per cent. of all the children employed. This year those industries employed 3,689 children, or 70.2 per cent. of the whole number under 16 years of age. This is an increase of 154 in the actual number employed, but a decrease of 5.5 per cent. in the relative number.

In 1899, the industries other than cotton or woolen gave employment to 1,133 children, or 24.3 per cent. of the whole number under 16 years of age. This year the same class of industries employed 1,566 children, or 29.8 per cent. of all; an actual increase over the year 1899 of 433 and a proportionate increase of 5.5 per cent.

The following table shows the number of adults and children employed in the State, by counties, cities, and towns:

REPORT OF FACTORY INSPECTORS.

THE STATE, COUNTIES, CITIES, AND TOWNS.	Number of Adults.	Number of Children.	Total Number.	Percentage of Children.
THE STATE.....	78,559	5,253	81,805	6.4
<i>Providence County.....</i>	68,612	4,148	67,760	6.1
Burrillville.....	1,771	184	1,895	6.5
Central Falls.....	2,168	145	2,314	6.3
Cranston.....	418	0	419	1.4
Cumberland.....	3,409	183	3,682	5.
East Providence.....	925	0	921	.6
Johnston.....	656	85	741	11.5
Lincoln.....	2,452	167	2,619	6.4
North Providence.....	801	69	890	10.
North Smithfield.....	669	45	744	6.
Pawtucket.....	5,968	587	6,800	8.5
Providence.....	32,408	1,796	35,394	5.1
Scituate.....	552	64	616	10.4
Smithfield.....	535	43	578	7.4
Woonsocket.....	6,680	567	7,287	7.7
<i>Bristol County.....</i>	2,705	176	2,881	6.1
Bristol.....	1,597	75	1,672	4.5
Warren.....	1,108	101	1,209	8.4
<i>Kent County.....</i>	6,686	734	7,419	9.9
Coventry.....	1,338	161	1,394	11.5
East Greenwich.....	210	24	284	10.4
Warwick.....	5,222	549	5,771	9.5
West Greenwich.....	20	.....	20	.....
<i>Newport County.....</i>	750	71	821	8.6
Newport.....	838	13	351	8.7
Tiverton.....	412	58	470	12.0
<i>Washington County.....</i>	2,800	124	2,924	4.2
Hopkinton.....	231	2	258	9
North Kingstown.....	788	39	825	4.7
Richmond.....	898	26	419	6.2
South Kingstown.....	618	28	646	4.3
Westary.....	772	29	801	3.6

As will be seen by the foregoing table, the increase in the number of children employed during the past year was mainly in the cities of Providence, Pawtucket, and Woonsocket, the increase in those cities being 256, 277, and 124, respectively. A very large proportion of the increase in Woonsocket is due to the addition of two industries, viz.: the Lawton Spinning Co., employing 53 children, and the Lafayette Worsted Co., with 41 children. Both are finely appointed mills, with excellent sanitary arrangements. In Pawtucket nearly one-half of the increase in child labor was in the factory of the Hope Webbing Co., one of the brightest and best appointed places in the State where employment is given to children. In Providence the increase is more evenly divided among the several industries. In twelve of the towns, viz.: Cumberland, East Providence, Johnston, North Providence, North Smithfield, Bristol, Coventry, Warwick, Tiverton, Hopkinton, South Kingstown, and Westerly, there has been a decrease in the number of children employed. By counties the increase has been: Providence, 675; Newport, 1; total, 676. The decrease for the remaining counties has been: Bristol, 5; Kent, 62; Washington, 22; total, 89. Net increase, 587. In 1899, of all the employees in the various manufacturing and mercantile establishments in the State coming under the provisions of the factory inspection law, 6 per cent. were children. This year the number of children at work comprises 6.4 per cent. of the total number employed.

In our annual reports for 1898 and 1899 we recommended the enactment of an amendment to our present law, embodying the requirement that—"No person, firm, or corporation who shall be deemed a factory, manufacturing, or mercantile establishment within the meaning of the law, shall employ any child under fifteen years of age while the public schools of the town or city where such child resides are in session, unless furnished with a certificate from the school authorities of such town or city that such child can read and write the English language." We still believe that the necessity for such an amendment exists. Prob-