

**TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL  
AND LABOR STATISTICS FOR  
THE STATE OF MAINE, 1898**

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1898 by Samuel W. Matthews

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**SAMUEL W. MATTHEWS**

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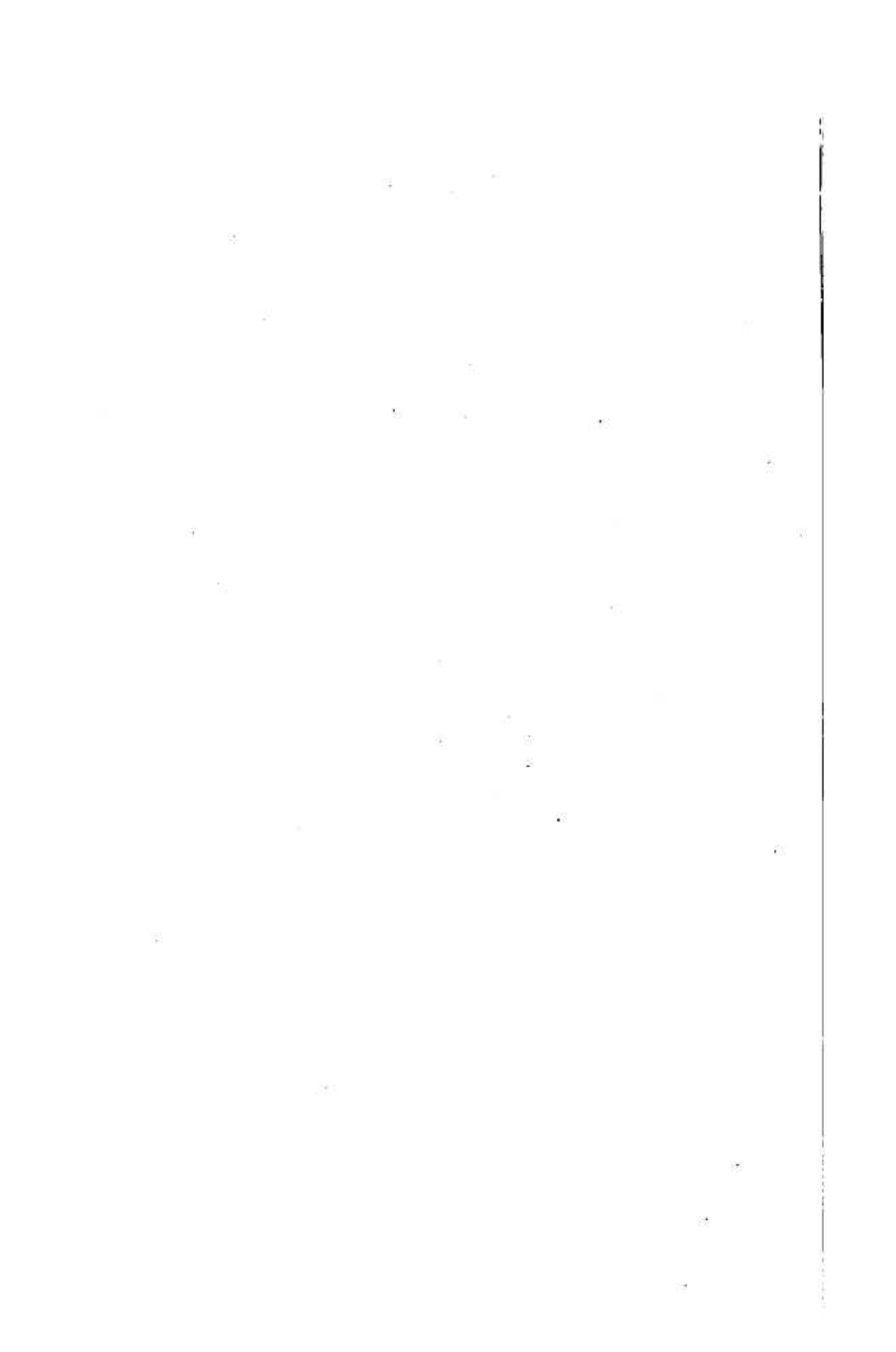
STATE OF MAINE.

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STATE OF MAINE.

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OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF  
INDUSTRIAL AND LABOR STATISTICS,  
AUGUSTA, December 31, 1898.

*To His Excellency, Llewellyn Powers, Governor of Maine:*

SIR: I have the honor to present the report of the Bureau of  
Industrial and Labor Statistics for 1898.

Very respectfully,

SAMUEL W. MATTHEWS,  
*Commissioner.*





## INTRODUCTION.

The work of the Bureau during the past year has been mainly confined to a few special lines of investigation, and the information obtained along those lines, is new and practical. The industries included in the investigation, are those of cotton, wool, and the manufactories of iron, steel, and furniture. The latter industries are much more extensive and important than has generally been known, and the facts and figures contained in extended articles in this report, will be found instructive and valuable. Other features of the report are, compilation of retail prices of articles of family consumption, made up from returns of retail dealers in all sections of the State; a compilation from census reports at different periods, and from reports of State valuation commissioners and assessors, of farm animals, in connection with which is an instructive article on the horse industry of the State; statistics relating to the liquor traffic in Maine; statistics of railroads, with an article descriptive of the Maine Central shops at Waterville, and the usual returns from assessors, of factories and workshops erected, enlarged and completed during the year.

The report of the Inspector of Factories, Workshops, Mines and Quarries, is required by law to be submitted annually to the Commissioner of Industrial and Labor Statistics, and is, accordingly, published in this report.

The conditions of labor have, during the past year, been, generally, encouraging. In most lines of industry employment at fair wages has been continuous and abundant and the relations between employers and employed amicable and undisturbed. The principal exception to this general rule, has been in the cotton mills where, in several cases, extensive strikes occurred in the early part of the year, involving several thousand workmen and lasting for several weeks. These strikes were the result of reductions in wages made necessary, as was claimed by mill owners, by the small margin of profits in the manufacture

of cotton goods. Estimates based on investigation and reliable information, place the losses in wages to the employes, at about \$200,000.

The work of the Bureau, as the Commissioner is well aware, is limited and representative in character. With the means at its disposal, any attempt to investigate in any one year, all the varied and important industries of the State, would result in practical failure to show the magnitude and extent of any. The plan adopted to thoroughly canvass a few each year, makes it possible, in a series of reports, to give such full and explicit showings of Maine's vast resources and accomplishments as makes its work truly educational. Even our own citizens do not fully realize the attainments and capabilities of our goodly State. That the information imparted through the work of the Bureau, is recognized and appreciated at home and abroad, is attested by the constantly increasing demands for its publications.

The Commissioner desires to acknowledge his obligations to Major C. J. House, the able and efficient clerk of the Bureau, and to special agents Francis Wiggin, Henry A. Wing and W. A. Newcomb, for valuable assistance in the investigation of industries herein reported.

## THE COTTON INDUSTRY.

In 1897 complete returns were received from ten out of the sixteen cotton mills in the State and the same were tabulated and certain deductions drawn from the figures shown. The present year an equal number of returns have been received, eight of which are identical with those received last year. The following is the tabulation of the ten returns received in 1898.

### COTTON GOODS.

	Capital Invested.	Cost of material used.	Value of product.	Number weeks in operation.	AVERAGE NUMBER HANDS EMPLOYED.				AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES.			Total wages paid.
					Total.	Men.	Women.	Children under 16 years.	Men.	Women.	Children under 16 years.	
1	\$1,500,000	\$258,574	\$647,733	52	860	275	580	57	60	540	\$8 87	\$247,546
2	2,250,000	552,471	1,102,751	52	1,277	605	522	150	6	4 92	2 68	363,846
3	2,000,000	779,098	1,185,392	46	1,463	622	729	113	6	7 18	2 68	380,917
4	100,000	37,568	112,890	50	133	55	60	8	0	7 00	4 00	48,600
5	500,000	80,000	300,000	50	263	140	91	32	8	74 5	2 10	80,779
6	1,200,000	558,567	1,386,000	52	1,746	728	692	26	8	04 6	3 00	508,777
7	1,188,500	237,650	460,000	40	702	326	320	26	7	70 5	2 76	178,493
8	1,000,000	394,014	729,297	37	1,150	496	617	37	7	81 5	3 04	248,337
9	840,000	74,650	167,645	47	230	85	125	20	8	30 5	3 08	62,912
10	2,500,000	832,158	1,456,876	46	1,759	591	900	178	7	11 5	3 91	475,864
	\$12,558,500	\$3,905,748	\$7,455,394	47.9	9,583	3,938	5,025	625	7	45 5	32 74	\$2,596,131

A comparison is made of the results of the above table and those obtained from a similar tabulation last year, with those given by the United States census reports of the cotton industry for the State in 1880 and 1890. The two main items entering into the production of cotton goods are raw material and labor. Outside of these, which we will lump together under the name