

**INDUSTRIAL BULLETIN NUMBER 4,
LICENSED WORKERS IN INDUSTRIAL
HOME WORK IN
MASSACHUSETTS: ANALYSIS OF THE
BUREAU OF RESEARCH, WOMEN'S
EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL UNION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649510832

Industrial Bulletin Number 4, Licensed Workers in Industrial Home Work in Massachusetts:
Analysis of the Bureau of Research, Women's Educational and Industrial Union by Susan M.
Kingsbury & Mabelle Moses

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SUSAN M. KINGSBURY & MABELLE MOSES

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE BOARD OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRIAL BULLETIN

NUMBER 4

LICENSED WORKERS IN INDUSTRIAL
HOME WORK
IN
MASSACHUSETTS

ANALYSIS OF CURRENT RECORDS

Under the Auspices of the

BUREAU OF RESEARCH

WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL UNION

BY

SUSAN M. KINGSBURY and MABELLE MOSES

BOSTON

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS

32 DERNE STREET

1915

APPROVED BY
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

331.4
K55

Gift of Women's Educational and
Industrial Union

STATE BOARD OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES.

INTRODUCTORY.

Enforcement of the laws, by which the manufacture of wearing apparel in tenement or dwelling houses is regulated, involves the granting of licenses to the workers; the maintenance of a list of all such workers engaged by employers; continuous inspection of such tenements or dwellings, to see that they are kept clean; and the revocation of licenses of workers dwelling in tenements or dwellings where contagious or communicable diseases may appear.

Some form of supervision has been provided by law for the manufacture of clothing in tenement or dwelling houses for more than twenty years, and better to systematize this work there was organized by the State Board of Labor and Industries, in the year 1913, a division which was known as the "Home Work Division," in which were employed a number of "investigators." In July, 1914, a decision was given by the Attorney-General which declared in substance that the "investigators" employed in the Home Work Division should be rated as "inspectors," and that inasmuch as the full quota of inspectors authorized by law had been previously appointed, the further employment of such investigators was illegal. The Home Work Division as a separate department of the State Board of Labor and Industries was, therefore, discontinued, and the inspection of the premises of those applying for licenses for home work was intrusted to the regular inspection force.

A great amount of information was accumulated during the existence of this division,—information which may be of inestimable value in determining the future of so-called home work in this Commonwealth. To analyze this amount of material and to make accessible this mint of information required the services of experts, and the Board was fortunate in making an arrangement to have this analysis conducted under

the auspices of the Department of Research of the Women's Educational and Industrial Union of Boston. Professor Susan M. Kingsbury, assisted by Miss Mabelle Moses, had charge of the work, and the results of the investigation are submitted in this bulletin. Whether home work shall be continued in this Commonwealth; whether licenses shall be granted for work other than upon wearing apparel; whether the conditions of the workers inside our factories are to be improved or injured by the continuance of our present method,—all these and many other interesting questions must be answered in the near future by our legislators.

We trust that the study presented in this bulletin may prove of value in determining the course which should be taken by the State in this important matter.

EDWIN MULREADY,
Commissioner of Labor.

JULY, 1915.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
List of tables,	6
Illustration,	7
List of appendices,	7
Outline of the work of the department,	9-11
Extent of the work of the department,	11-17
Description,	11-16
Statistics for the extent of the work of the department,	16, 17
Analysis of materials secured in the process of granting licenses for home work on wearing apparel,	17-63
I. Location of home workers in the State,	18-21
II. Location of industries giving out home work,	21-28
A. Shoes,	22, 24, 25
B. Pants,	22, 25
C. Knit goods,	22, 25
D. Sewing and crocheting,	25, 26
E. Embroidery,	26-28
III. Housing conditions,	28-44
A. Type of residence,	28-33
B. Conditions of residence,	32-37
C. Conditions of living,	37-44
IV. Conditions of the workroom,	44, 45
V. Nativity of workers,	45-49
VI. Nativity and age of family members,	49-53
A. Nativity of members of family,	49-51
B. Age of members of family,	51-53
VII. Responsibility of mothers in the family groups,	53-63
A. Where the father is at work and the mother is in home work,	54, 59
B. Where there is no male wage earner and the mother is in home work,	59
C. Where there is no male wage earner and the mother is in outside and home work,	60
D. Where the father is living, and the mother is in outside and home work,	60
E. Where the father is living, and the mother is not working,	60
F. Where the father is not living, and where there is a male wage earner over twenty-one years of age,	60, 61
G. Where the father is not living and the mother is not earning,	61-63
VIII. Economic status of the families,	63-97
Summary of findings,	97-105
Summary of conclusions,	105-109
Recommendations,	109
Legislation proposed,	110, 111
Appendices,	113-153

LIST OF TABLES.

	PAGE
TABLE I. Showing type of 2,379 houses where home workers are licensed,	29-31
TABLE II. Showing home conditions and sanitation where licenses for home work are granted,	34, 35
TABLE III. Showing cleanliness and conditions in tenements and dwellings where home workers are licensed,	36
TABLE IV. Grade A. Comparing the number of occupants with the number of rooms in houses of licensed home workers,	42
TABLE V. Grade B. Comparing the number of occupants with the number of rooms in houses of licensed home workers,	42
TABLE VI. Grade C. Comparing the number of occupants with the number of rooms in houses of licensed home workers,	43
TABLE VII. Showing location of workroom in houses where home workers are licensed,	45
TABLE VIII. Showing nativity of licensed home workers and their occupations in home work,	46, 47
TABLE IX. Showing nativity of members of families doing home work,	50
TABLE X. Showing age, sex and family relations of licensed home workers,	52
TABLE XI. Showing the responsibility of the mother in the family group in relation to home work,	55-58
TABLE XII. Showing monthly rent of 1,161 houses where home workers are licensed,	64, 65
TABLE XIII. Comparing the rent paid by families doing home work with the weekly income other than from home work,	68
TABLE XIV. Showing family income other than from home work of licensed home workers,	69
TABLE XV. Comparing the size of family with total weekly income from all sources other than home work,	70
TABLE XVI. Showing income sources other than home work,	71
TABLE XVII. Showing rate of weekly income from home work of licensed home workers,	72
TABLE XVIII. Showing rate of weekly income from home work and from members of the family,	73

ILLUSTRATION.

	PAGE
Map showing the cities and towns in Massachusetts in which licenses for home work were granted September, 1913, to December, 1914.	20, 21

LIST OF APPENDICES.

	PAGE
I. Complete list of cities and towns, graded according to number of licenses for home work granted in each by the State Board of Labor and Industries from September, 1913, to December, 1914.	115-117
II. List of cities and towns showing number of licenses for home work granted in each by the State Board of Labor and Industry, February, 1914, to August, 1914 (based on schedules used during this period).	118-120
III. List of cities and towns showing number of tenements and dwellings in each location where licenses have been granted.	121-123
IV. List of cities and towns in which only 1 license for home work has been granted.	124
V. List of cities and towns in which 2 to 5 licenses have been granted.	125
VI. List of cities and towns in which 6 to 10 licenses have been granted.	126
VII. Schedule of industries by localities.	127, 128
VIII. Schedule of industries showing localities where home workers are employed by specified employers (given by number), together with the number of home workers employed in each town.	129-133