



India.

	Page		Page
Statistics - Census + Family	1		
do Detailed Social Class	2		
Artificial Flower Making. <small>Extract from Miss Collett's Report</small>	3		
Artificial Flowers. <small>Extract - Drapers' Record</small>	4		
Button Making. <small>N.R. Hayward</small>	42	Umbrella making:	
		H. Coe + Company	38
		Price. Mr	40
Feather Curling. <small>Miss Collett's Report</small>	5		
Home Industries. <small>Miss Heather Biggs Paper</small>	6	Trimming + Fringe making	9
<small>Extracts from</small>		do Messrs J.H. + J. Muddiford	9
		do Silk. Mr E. Simms	14
		<small>evidence before Selects Commission</small>	
		do Upholsters <small>James St.</small>	16
		<small>Mr C. Simms</small>	
		do do Mr Lowe	19
		do A. Nelson	32
		do Hayward + Son	35
Jet. Ornament Making. <small>Miss Plumtree</small>	12	Walking Stick Making	
<small>(see also page 4)</small>		Messrs J. M. Barton + Co	23
		Chambers Journal. <small>Article by</small>	27
		Mr W.H. Berry	29
		Mr Richardson	30



Yrummings, Umbrellas &c.  
Persons Represented

Census Enumeration					Enumerated by Families					
Females		Males		Total	Sex	Wales		Total	Remarks	
-19	20-	-19	20-			Male	Female			
Yrummings	1613	2995	184	1047	5839					
Art Flowers	1441	2570	90	486	4587	Birth	In London 69% Out of London 31%	3855 1716	Head of Families	
Umbrellas	380	1152	501	2042	4075	Stat	Employer 16% Employed 65% Neither 19%	829 3658 1084	5571	
Buttons & Pins	232	368	69	313	982					
Feathers & Quills	781	1049	35	242	2127					
Other Workers	220	368	76	710	2868					
					Total Population Concerned					
					In Family	Needs	Others Occupied	Unoccupied	Servants	Total
					4667	9196	975	4840	19678	22567
					Average	1	1.09	1.84	.12	4.05

Remarks

Classification	Distribution
Numbers living in families	
3 or more persons 3333 14.8%	East June 6472 Oct 579 7051
2 or more persons 4672 20.7%	North June 1109 Oct 5107 6216
1 or more persons 5282 23.4%	West June 329 Oct 1075 1404
less than 1 person 7505 33.2%	Central June 2973 Oct 2973 2973
4 or more persons	S East June 508 Oct 1803 2311
3 or more persons	S West June 1201 Oct 1411 2612
2 or more persons	Total 22567 100%
1 or more persons 802 3.6%	
With 2 or more persons 287 1.3%	
Servants 683 3.0%	
Total 22567 100%	
Crowded June 48% Oct 29% Together 36%	June 12592 56% Oct 9975 44%
Not " June 52% Oct 71% Together 64%	

Distribution

East	North	West	South	Total
6371	5429	4030	3818	19678

Status as to Employment (according to Census Enumeration)

Census Division	Employers		Employed		Neither		Total	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females		
Yrummings &c	142	101	499	1508	2221	43	287	4801
Lace Manuf.	40	20	93	62	149	6	85	485
Hosiery "	6	-	60	34	35	5	11	151
Other Workers & P's	53	6	247	19	35	37	5	402
Certified Flower L.M.	107	65	375	1441	2304	94	201	4587
Umbrella Parasol &c	217	42	2031	380	1002	295	108	4075
Quilt Feather Dresser	49	40	215	781	911	33	98	2623
Gloves & Shawl L.M.	38	8	195	140	211	18	13	623
Button Maker	21	2	103	92	132	7	2	359
Other Workers & L.M. in Clothes	105	88	433	220	405	248	569	2068
Total	778	372	4251	4674	7435	786	1379	19678
		1150		16363		2165		

Proportion of Employers to Employed 1 to 14



Social Classification Analysis by districts

Enumeration by Families	East	North	West	Central	East	West	All London
4 or more persons to a room	514 7.7	215 3.4	51 3.6	318 10.8	29 1.2	66 2.5	1223 5.4
3 & under 4 — " —	968 13.7	365 5.9	51 3.6	456 15.4	107 4.6	163 6.3	2110 9.4
2 & " 3 — " —	1941 27.5	945 15.2	160 11.4	860 29.0	384 16.6	382 14.6	4672 20.7
1 & " 2 — " —	1745 24.8	1386 22.3	299 21.4	704 23.4	533 23.0	615 23.5	5282 23.4
Less than 1 — " —	223 3.1	271 4.4	83 5.9	81 2.1	105 4.6	134 5.2	897 3.9
More than 4 rooms	1366 19.4	1582 25.5	396 28.2	376 12.7	767 33.2	803 30.7	5290 23.5
4 or more persons to 1 room	182 2.6	595 9.5	82 5.8	82 2.8	180 7.9	173 6.6	1318 5.8
Less than 4 — " —	37 5	441 7.1	84 6.0	44 1.5	111 4.8	109 4.2	802 3.6
" " " " 2 sets	-	74 1.2	47 3.4	11 .4	16 .7	65 2.5	213 .9
" " " " 3 sets	-	26 .4	44 3.1	4 .1	-	-	74 .3
Servants	45 7	316 5.1	107 7.6	37 1.2	79 3.4	102 3.9	686 3.1
Total	7051 100%	6216 100%	1424 100%	2973 100%	2311 100%	2612 100%	22567 100%

Notes re Statistics

Census Returns. Of the women nearly two thirds are engaged in Trimming ~~and~~ or artificial flower making e.g. 8128 out of 13863. Next in importance from the point of numbers are Feather dressing (1830) & Umbrella making (1532). In this <sup>latter</sup> section the men outnumber the women, their number being 2543.

Family Enumeration. These sections come <sup>midway</sup> between the section where females predominate and the ordinary sections in which a man is usually the head of the house. Of the heads of families about one-third are females. The number ~~per~~ of persons per family is 4.05 company with 4.50 or upwards ~~are~~ for male ~~heads~~ heads + 2.38 (Shutmaker). The chief difference comes in the unoccupied column e.g. children. Thus Shutmakers .62, sections 43-4 1.84. Hatters 2.12. <sup>(females)</sup> <sup>(men)</sup> Bootmaker. 2.46. unoccupied



*Artificial Flower Making. Mrs Collets Report p. 94.*

Witness 55, manufacturers of artificial flowers, doing a large middle-class trade, and dealing only with wholesale houses, said that the cheaper class of goods (primroses, buttercups, &c.) were made by small people in Hoxton. They occasionally sold raw material to Hoxton houses, and then found it worth while to buy back the manufactured article because produced cheaper than they themselves could do it in their factory. They also bought a considerable quantity from Germany which their flower makers refused to make at the price; they generally bought the flower incomplete, and added something to it.

The wage books were shown to me, and the different branches explained.

Cutters, who cut the leaves, petals, &c., by placing the stamp cutter under a press moved by power, were paid time wages. The lowest wages were 7s., the highest 14s., the majority earned from 9s. to 12s.

Shaders who dip the parts in the dye, shade, and strip them, were also on day work. The forewoman earned 25s., the maximum wage was 20s.; good shaders earned from 12s. to 16s., and less experienced hands from 9s. to 11s.

"Black makers" who make mourning flowers were on piece-work. Their numbers fluctuated considerably. Learners were paid 3s. 6d. to 5s.; the wages of the rest ranged from 7s. 6d. to 12s.

Grasses were being made by learners who received 3s., 4s., and 5s. during their three years' apprenticeship; improvers were paid 7s. 9d., 9s., and 10s.; the better hands earned 11s.

Leaf makers fluctuated very much in number. They were rather a rough class of girls. The girls taught by the firm never stayed long in the leaf-room, as they generally advanced to "mounting" or "making." The majority of the leaf hands earned from 8s. to 10s. Skilled hands in the season had made as much as 35s., and earned over 20s. in ordinary times.

"Makers" (of roses, &c.) were in many cases elderly. There were 77 altogether, and of these in one week in February, five earned over 25s., and five over 20s.; girls about 20 years of age would earn about 12s.

"Mounters" ranged from 12s. to 25s. The total wages of 36 for one week came to 311.

The employers stated that wages were 30 per cent. of cost, both in good and bad years. A very bad year would require about half the work done in a very good year; a very good and a very bad year each came about once in seven years. Their ordinary seasons were from March to the end of May, and from the middle of August to the end of October.

They employed a considerable number of out workers, nearly all of whom were married women; their work was very irregular, and during a large part of the year they would have none. In very great pressure, some of the out workers would come into the factory for a month.

The number of women employed, as far as it was possible to ascertain, is given in the following table. Witness 55 said that she and her mother made boys' coats throughout at 1s. 3d. a coat. She worked with her mother because the latter was so poor, and it was the only way she could help her. If they worked a long day together, from about 8 to 8, they would not finish two coats. Her mother was very delicate and did not earn more than 4s. a week, and 6s. was about the most they earned together. Her mother and thread cost about 1d. in the 1s. She paid 1s. 6d. a week for the machine. Her mother paid 3s. 6d. a week for one room and received out relief.

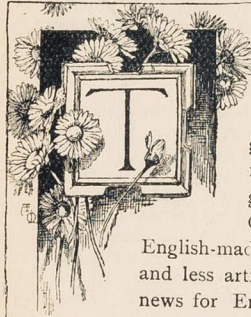
NUMBERS EMPLOYED.

1889. Nov. 22	311	1890. Sept. 12	405	1891. July 3	396
" " 29	343	" " 19	420	" " 10	381
" Dec. 6	296	" " 26	410	" " 17	373
" " 13	297	" Oct. 3	401	" " 24	385
" " 20	328	" " 10	403	" " 31	351
" " 27	232	" " 17	382	Aug. 7	327
1890. Jan. 3	334	" " 24	371	" " 14	352
" " 10	314	" " 31	379	" " 21	365
" " 17	342	" Nov. 7	375	" " 28	366
" " 24	352	" " 14	375	Sept. 4	408
" " 31	397	" " 21	374	" " 11	416
" Feb. 7	398	" " 28	376	" " 18	410
" " 14	402	" Dec. 5	373	" " 25	412
" " 21	436	" " 12	370	" Oct. 2	393
" " 28	437	" " 19	379	" " 9	380
" March 7	440	" " 26	350	" " 16	386
" " 14	475	1891. Jan. 2	368	" " 23	394
" " 21	501	" " 9	409	" " 30	390
" " 28	505	" " 16	450	" Nov. 6	400
" April 4	499	" " 23	466	" " 13	395
" " 11	473	" " 30	488	" " 20	398
" " 18	503	" Feb. 6	491	" " 27	406
" " 25	512	" " 13	509	" Dec. 4	414
" May 2	523	" " 20	490	" " 11	417
" " 9	502	" " 27	409	" " 18	419
" " 16	512	" March 6	504	" " 25	394
" " 23	538	" " 13	492	1892. Jan. 1	387
" " 30	474	" " 20	470	" " 8	411
" June 6	517	" " 27	476	" " 15	413
" " 13	494	" April 3	430	" " 22	445
" " 20	451	" " 10	469	" " 29	448
" " 27	423	" " 17	444	" Feb. 5	457
" July 4	411	" " 24	427	" " 12	472
" " 11	367	" May 1	481	" " 19	458
" " 18	345	" " 8	472	" " 26	466
" " 25	343	" " 15	475	" March 4	461
" Aug. 1	340	" " 22	440	" " 11	443
" " 8	323	" " 29	421	" " 18	456
" " 15	323	" June 5	429	" " 25	450
" " 22	363	" " 12	407	" April 1	439
" " 29	361	" " 19	385		
" Sept. 5	391	" " 26	391		

41



ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS.



HERE seems good cause to believe that artificial flowers will be very much in vogue for the decoration of Spring hats and bonnets. For some time past manufacturers have been exceedingly busy, and it is gratifying to learn that one of the tendencies noticed is in the direction of better-class goods, especially in the matter of foliage.

One may therefore reasonably expect that English-made leaves will take the place of the cheaper and less artistic foliage made in Germany. This is good news for English flowermakers and for their numerous employees, who, in recent years, have suffered considerably from foreign competition. The prospect, therefore, of the Spring proving a flower season induced us to send a representative to describe this interesting industry as it is to be seen in one of the leading manufactories not a hundred miles from Jewin-street. On the opposite page will be found illustrations of some of the finished products, the making of which he describes.

Our representative writes:—One of the favourite occupations of my boyhood was that of planting seeds and watching them grow into flowers, occasionally varying the natural process by digging them up to see how they were getting on. I have now passed through a similar experience with artificial flowers. Under the courteous and intelligent guidance of one of the principals of the firm upon whom I called I have seen the transformation of a strip of muslin, satin, or velvet into the modest violet or gorgeous rose, in both cases the finished product lacking little except scent to make it equal for all ordinary purposes to its natural prototype. Artificial flower-making is an extremely interesting industry. It is curious to note that the preliminary process, as in nature, begins underground. Descending to the basement of the warehouse I found men busily engaged in anointing great strips of the various materials with a liquid which stiffens as it dries. This drying process was originally carried out before huge fires, which had the double disadvantage of heating the room to an excessive degree, and at the same time drying the material somewhat un-

kind of flowers are largely made by married flower-makers in their own homes, and I was informed that, during the coming season, such flowers, with heather, mignonette, and the like, will be an important feature in hat and bonnet decoration.

The manufacture of foliage is, perhaps, one of the most interesting of the many processes required for the production of artificial flowers. A girl picks up a flat leaf and places it upon a die, above which is a corresponding die moved up and down by a wheel which the operator twists round with her hand. The two dies meet: when they separate, there is the leaf perfect in shape and contour, and only requiring a little touching up with a floury substance to give it a charmingly life-like appearance.

In the better class of leaves a little manipulation is required with the fingers to obviate the stiffness caused by the above process, and they are made to look still more natural by the addition of india rubber or silk stems. A special feature at the time of my visit was the manufacture of large ivy, rose, and violet leaves, and some effects in the new nacre were particularly novel in appearance.

The flowers and leaves now go to another department, where they are skilfully made up into sprays or bunches. Some of the latter are extremely elaborate, as everyone familiar with the beauties of a milliner's window will know. A great deal of taste is required in the making-up of sprays, as some of them contribute the major portion of that very finished product—the bonnet. I was shown an example, in its primitive shape, of what I have no doubt will prove a very pretty *capote*. It consisted merely of a section of foundation material upon which a bunch of artistically-arranged flowers and foliage was placed. In the hands of a skilful milliner, this only requires a little touching up and arranging to become a charming specimen of feminine head-gear.

Before leaving the establishment I was shown through the jet department. The majority of so-called jet ornaments are made of glass. Jet itself has been described by an authority possessing great information, but no sense of humour, as a "dense variety of lignite passing by degrees of quality into bituminous fossil wood, sometimes perfectly black, capable of being easily cut and carved, and receiving a very beautiful polish." The name furnishes an excellent example of curious derivations. It is believed to come

our contemporaries. During the Empire Mr. Harris bought largely of M. Worth, often giving a thousand or fifteen hundred francs for a single costume for model purposes. Consequently he knew the great costumer well, and told our representative many things about his eccentricity, his originality, his generosity towards those who contributed to his stock of novel ideas. He loved to array himself in velvet, with a very low-cut shirt displaying his full throat, and a glowing tie. Thus attired he gave audience to the costume designers whose greatest ambition was to secure the approval of the Parisian *aristocrat*. A tasteless robe he speedily and peremptorily condemned, but an original and striking intention was amply rewarded. His greatest patroness was probably the Empress Eugenie, who was always "at home" when M. Worth called at the Tuileries. In private life he was much esteemed by the large circle of friends whom he loved to entertain at his *chateau*, surrounding them with Oriental luxury and magnificence, and himself the most striking figure in the scene. His death will be regretted by many besides those who looked to him as the only living fountain of original art in fashion. He leaves two sons to mourn his loss.

we do not need to enlarge upon the rare opportunity now offered for some fortunate draper to acquire the services of a manager without physical verbosity, but with a high coronal brain. Telegrams will naturally have precedence over letters. Don't all wire at once.

His perceptions give tact, and he has talent as well. Not let his mind and body rest all he can in leisure. Needs a change of occupation, if convenient, for a year or two. He ought to succeed in writing something as years go on. Has ability to learn the Greek language. get over a good deal of work when in trim for it. The chin denotes affection and craft as well, he likes the quality of food rather than quantity. The thickness of nose shows that he can heights of imagination. money matters, can come down to the practical as well as go to the yet has music in his soul; the lower end of nose denotes shrewdness in if things are in their places in an instant. Music is not his specialty. His perception of colour is good, and form and shape, and he can see year or two yet, though he will not be at home in bachelor life. lamouches out in love matters, should not advise him to marry for a feeling; the chin shows deep affection, must be carried when the



Census  
Section 19. 3.

Feather Curling. from Miss Collett's Report  
to Labour Commission

Witness 56, employing about 80 women and girls in curling and arranging feathers, said that the industry was not nearly so fluctuating as was generally imagined. He had been in the trade for 30 years, and had only known three thoroughly bad periods. They nearly always worked up the same quantity of feathers. They exported them to the colonies, and when one country

took few another took many. When feathers themselves were out of fashion they made feather trimmings, aigrettes, &c. There were two seasons in the year, from January to July and from September to the middle of November. Feathers were in fashion in London just then and not in demand in Canada. Only inefficient girls were really often out of work. The others were kept on in slack times because of the difficulty of getting good hands in the season. Out-door labour was not good; out-workers were principally married women who did not keep up with the fashion. In the season his hands worked overtime really, but not much on the premises; they took the feathers home. He liked the Factory Acts on this account, because, by making it undesirable to work late in the factory, it gave employers more free time. Judging from the wage books which were shown to me, the girls in some cases made a considerable amount of money by this home overtime, and must have worked long hours. They were all paid by time at the warehouse to prevent their doing the work too quickly and carelessly. One girl, whose time wage was 16s., earned 24s. during the previous week, having, therefore, made 8s. by overtime or home work. The work done at home was paid by the piece. The hours of work at the warehouse were from 9.0 to 7.0, and 9.0 to 3.0 on Saturdays, with one hour for dinner and half an hour for tea. If they worked later than 7.0 they were paid for overtime.

An apprenticeship of two years was required, learners beginning with 3s. a week. The wage books showed that the majority of the girls earned from 10s. to 17s., a few going up to 19s. and 20s., and over. The numbers employed throughout the year varied very little.

This employer only knew of one firm which paid piece-work, and this firm made a low class of feather, and was also the one which gave the greatest quantity to out-workers. But the amount of common work done in London was much less than formerly; good feathers were cheaper. Germany made the greater part of the common stuff put on the market. He considered the children who came as learners were cleaner than the learners used to be, but more difficult to manage and more inclined to play.

Witness 111 had worked for seven years for a feather-curler who employed about 40 people; she learnt at a private house managed by Jews. She only "laid out" feathers to make them shapeable, and had never learnt curling. She was absent three months last year from slackness, but would probably have been kept on if she had known how to curl feathers as well. The hours were from 9.0 to 7.0, with one hour for dinner, and 9.0 to 1.0 on Saturday. They were paid overtime after 7.0, and frequently at 8 o'clock would take feathers home. They often, however, worked overtime till 9.30 at the workshop, and she preferred this to taking work home.

41



13  
Notes from paper "Women in London Industries." by  
Miss A. Heather Bigg.

The paper is written to prove the importance of home-work for women & in opposition to the policy that would transfer the work done on this system to the factories.

The following statements are from the paper:

A manufacturer of Ladies Under linen stated that in her business as much labour was employed outside as inside.

Babies' Millinery. 30% to 40% of this work is done in the homes.

Evidence of Workers. Woman making artificial flowers is paid 2<sup>d</sup> a gross for "pinched anguilbeens" 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> d for mounting a spray of 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> dozen of them and making the tail. Worked irregular hours - has worked from 5 am to 1 am.

Mrs — has 6 children and makes silk ties. For doing the bands of 'Darby's' is paid 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> d per dozen; the cotton (for which she pays) costs 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> d a gross. Obtains the work from a friend who takes it from the warehouse. Has worked from 4 pm to 2 am when she wanted money. Eldest girl picks up 4/- or so by cleaning for neighbours.



neighbours. Worked at the trade since she was 15 years old; had been in the factory. Ragged & untidy.

Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ (aged about 35) also makes ties. Has four children of her own and the orphan daughter of a friend. Eldest girl is a book folder. Husband gives her 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> a week. Has another woman working with her. Pays 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub><sup>d</sup> a dozen for knots. The warehouse pays 2<sup>d</sup> a dozen for these. Was in a workshop before marriage & has worked at the trade since she was 8 years old.

Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ crochets babies hoods & Fam-o-shanters. Does it for pocket money & has qualms of conscience about it. Difficult to say how much time she gives to it. Goes out for an hour walk twice a day and meals & cooking take about 3 hours. Begins at 10 & works until 10 pm. About 6 to 7 hours a day and makes a dozen caps a day. 10<sup>d</sup> to 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>5</sub><sup>d</sup>. Reckons to earn 6<sup>d</sup> or 6<sup>9</sup> a week when the middleman gets a large order. At the warehouse if they give out 12 lb of wool, they expect 12 lb to be returned - This includes the goods, waste ends of wool, and the paper & string that form the parcel.

Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ . boxmaker. Makes shallow square boxes for Xmas cards. Is paid 1<sup>9</sup> a gross & earns 1<sup>6</sup> a day



17  
day or 9/- a week - Daughter helps.

Homework of three kinds and differs in its effect on the worker and on the community generally.  
<sup>work done for</sup>  
(a) Absolute subsistence, (b) partial maintenance, (c) Additional luxury.

Hours have to fit in with other occupations.  
"Number of Home workers habitually work very long hours, while many more do so on occasion. One woman earning good wages said that if her work did not come in she would get a telegram asking for it and the cost of the same would be deducted from her week's earnings. Where long hours are worked it is due not to the method of home work but to the fact of workers being necessitous.

Mr Wilkins & Rev Wilfred Davis opened a Parochial <sup>out</sup>workroom in Bethnal Green and urged homeworkers to profit by its superior warmth, light & air. It was soon closed. Mr Davis writes  
"It was so ill-attended that I did not feel justified in continuing it."



Messrs J. H. & J. Muddiford.

Trimming and fringe makers.

32 Leonard Street. E.C.

[Interview by J.S.A. Jan 16/95] <sup>copied</sup> taken from Note Book Section 29-30)

Saw the Principals.

Their work is mainly in jet and colored bead trimmings, made by girls and women and nearly all done with the needle. Woven trimmings have almost entirely died out and whereas they used to employ 27 male weavers, they now find it very difficult to keep one man going. On the other hand, needlework has greatly increased. They have now about 90 females at work on the premises, although it is the slack time & also employ some out door workers, the number being increased when busy.

All the work done here is of the best kind, & includes very elaborate & beautiful designs, worth 23/- to 25/- a yard

Cheaper work is done on a large scale by R. Evans & Co., W. Williams & Sons, Withal (Brunswick Place) & Kerr (Bethnal Green)

Seasons. The busy times are from February to Whitsun



and from Sept. to Xmas. Mr Muddiford complains of Factory Acts, interfering with them a good deal in busy times.

Character of work. It is all piece work & so far as possible is shared amongst the hands.

The heading is mostly done on net and is set off to some extent with silk or metal cord, which is woven or spun by the men. The men also make silk girdles for dressing gowns and children's dresses. 3 or 4 men are employed to do the spinning.

Girls are not apprenticed but come on and are taught the work. Earnings vary from 5/- to 15/- according to ability. The work requires a good deal of practice & knack to obtain proficiency & the firm never willingly part with their trained hands. When they leave to get married, they offer them home work if they will take it and usually they do so. Thus several of their outdoor hands are married women who worked for them as girls.

The work is nearly all for special orders, & being light, clean, & delicate naturally attracts a very respectable class of girls, many of whom are kept by their parents & use their own earnings for dress or pocket money.



As a rule the best work is done on the firm, where it can be closely supervised, and any error in the intricate pattern immediately rectified. Commoner work can be more safely given out.

The firm also makes girdles of Berlin wool & do a certain amount of embroidery work but there is little of this now.



GA 2/10/95

12  
Mr J Gurr Reed, Jet Ornament Maker  
56 Red Cross Street. E.C.

Mr J Gurr Reed occupies the top floor (4<sup>th</sup>). When I called about 50 girls were at work, seated at long tables each accommodating about 12 - 5 on each side and one at each end. The ornaments are made of <sup>black</sup> beads threaded on thin wire. The wires are twisted and looped and form sprays of flowers, leaves etc, ~~and~~ and are bound together at the lower end to form bunches of various design. These are mounted on cards and in this form, sold to milliners & fancy drapers for ornamenting ladies hats and bonnets.

Beside the indoor hands a number of outworkers are employed. Two came while I was there, one had a baby in her arms. They were youngish women & ~~looked as if they~~ appeared to belong to the same class as those indoor -

Hours - Usually work from 9 to 7, except for about 3 months in the year when busy and then from 9 to 8 pm. Busy in March & September and then gradually slacken. Have an hour for dinner - 1 to 2 & half an hour for tea 5 to 5.30. It is difficult



13  
to get the girls to come at the right time, generally a little late & not all in until 9.30.

Earnings. All are piecework except the forewomen and apprentices. The earnings of an ordinary worker are from 10/- to 12/- a week. Slow workers earn less, some not more than 6/- a week, others rise to 14/- & 15/- a week.

Apprentices are taken for 2 years and start at 7/- or 7/6 a week. They would not earn this for about a month. The forewoman teaches them. They gradually rise until the end of their time they get about 7/- a week. When out of their time, girls are put on piece work and seldom earn as much as they obtained just before on time until they get into the swing of the work.



Royal Commission on Labour - Group C.

Evidence given on February 5<sup>th</sup> 1892 by

Mr E. Simmons.

Mr Mundella

15252, Are you a silk trimming manufacturer? - Yes.

15252. Are you a silk trimming manufacturer? - Yes. You work for the manufacturer, I suppose? - Yes, or manufacture myself mostly. 15251. Are the silk trimmings made by some is made by females by their hands, and wheels, the same as you would spin rope, on looms; some of it is made by the aid of machinery? - The silk trimming consists of trimming for dresses and some of it is made by hand.

Mr. Mundella - continued.

Mr. E. SIMMONS called and examined.

15245. Was not that same country at one time the seat of a lace industry? - The lace should be glad if you would bring this matter before the lady commissioners.

Mr Courtney.

15251. They are a very small proportion of the persons employed in the lace industry are women and children, are not they? - Most of the persons employed are women and children. There are men whom we employ as well.

15250. Most of the persons employed in the lace industry are women and children, are not they? - Most of the persons employed are women and children. There are men whom we employ as well.

15249. Is it not possible that the trade is doomed to go as the lace has gone? - I do not think it is. I think if the contriving ability of the people could be drawn out that even now with new fashions coming up, trade might be revived. There is a great deal of Nottingham shire lace used at the present moment in the manufacture of hats.

15248. How many people are employed in the lace industry? - There are only 72 names given in when Lady Abrahams came to address the meeting there for the purpose of forming a Union, and we cannot get men to come forward for fear that they might be boycotted by the people they have to depend upon for their bread. As for myself, I am independent of them; I do not care anything about it.

15247. Then you have met with some measure of success in forming this Union, have you? - There is a great deal of apathy on the part of the people, because they have not been taught.

15246. Then you have met with some measure of success in forming this Union, have you? - There is a great deal of apathy on the part of the people, because they have not been taught.

15244. And none of those are now members of the straw trade.

15243. How many people are employed in the lace industry? - There are only 72 names given in when Lady Abrahams came to address the meeting there for the purpose of forming a Union, and we cannot get men to come forward for fear that they might be boycotted by the people they have to depend upon for their bread. As for myself, I am independent of them; I do not care anything about it.

15242. Then you have met with some measure of success in forming this Union, have you? - There is a great deal of apathy on the part of the people, because they have not been taught.

15241. How many people are employed in the lace industry? - There are only 72 names given in when Lady Abrahams came to address the meeting there for the purpose of forming a Union, and we cannot get men to come forward for fear that they might be boycotted by the people they have to depend upon for their bread. As for myself, I am independent of them; I do not care anything about it.

15240. How many people are employed in the lace industry? - There are only 72 names given in when Lady Abrahams came to address the meeting there for the purpose of forming a Union, and we cannot get men to come forward for fear that they might be boycotted by the people they have to depend upon for their bread. As for myself, I am independent of them; I do not care anything about it.

15239. How many people are employed in the lace industry? - There are only 72 names given in when Lady Abrahams came to address the meeting there for the purpose of forming a Union, and we cannot get men to come forward for fear that they might be boycotted by the people they have to depend upon for their bread. As for myself, I am independent of them; I do not care anything about it.

15238. How many people are employed in the lace industry? - There are only 72 names given in when Lady Abrahams came to address the meeting there for the purpose of forming a Union, and we cannot get men to come forward for fear that they might be boycotted by the people they have to depend upon for their bread. As for myself, I am independent of them; I do not care anything about it.

15237. How many people are employed in the lace industry? - There are only 72 names given in when Lady Abrahams came to address the meeting there for the purpose of forming a Union, and we cannot get men to come forward for fear that they might be boycotted by the people they have to depend upon for their bread. As for myself, I am independent of them; I do not care anything about it.

15236. How many people are employed in the lace industry? - There are only 72 names given in when Lady Abrahams came to address the meeting there for the purpose of forming a Union, and we cannot get men to come forward for fear that they might be boycotted by the people they have to depend upon for their bread. As for myself, I am independent of them; I do not care anything about it.

15235. How many people are employed in the lace industry? - There are only 72 names given in when Lady Abrahams came to address the meeting there for the purpose of forming a Union, and we cannot get men to come forward for fear that they might be boycotted by the people they have to depend upon for their bread. As for myself, I am independent of them; I do not care anything about it.

15234. How many people are employed in the lace industry? - There are only 72 names given in when Lady Abrahams came to address the meeting there for the purpose of forming a Union, and we cannot get men to come forward for fear that they might be boycotted by the people they have to depend upon for their bread. As for myself, I am independent of them; I do not care anything about it.

15233. How many people are employed in the lace industry? - There are only 72 names given in when Lady Abrahams came to address the meeting there for the purpose of forming a Union, and we cannot get men to come forward for fear that they might be boycotted by the people they have to depend upon for their bread. As for myself, I am independent of them; I do not care anything about it.

15232. How many people are employed in the lace industry? - There are only 72 names given in when Lady Abrahams came to address the meeting there for the purpose of forming a Union, and we cannot get men to come forward for fear that they might be boycotted by the people they have to depend upon for their bread. As for myself, I am independent of them; I do not care anything about it.

15231. How many people are employed in the lace industry? - There are only 72 names given in when Lady Abrahams came to address the meeting there for the purpose of forming a Union, and we cannot get men to come forward for fear that they might be boycotted by the people they have to depend upon for their bread. As for myself, I am independent of them; I do not care anything about it.

15230. How many people are employed in the lace industry? - There are only 72 names given in when Lady Abrahams came to address the meeting there for the purpose of forming a Union, and we cannot get men to come forward for fear that they might be boycotted by the people they have to depend upon for their bread. As for myself, I am independent of them; I do not care anything about it.

15229. How many people are employed in the lace industry? - There are only 72 names given in when Lady Abrahams came to address the meeting there for the purpose of forming a Union, and we cannot get men to come forward for fear that they might be boycotted by the people they have to depend upon for their bread. As for myself, I am independent of them; I do not care anything about it.

15228. How many people are employed in the lace industry? - There are only 72 names given in when Lady Abrahams came to address the meeting there for the purpose of forming a Union, and we cannot get men to come forward for fear that they might be boycotted by the people they have to depend upon for their bread. As for myself, I am independent of them; I do not care anything about it.

15227. How many people are employed in the lace industry? - There are only 72 names given in when Lady Abrahams came to address the meeting there for the purpose of forming a Union, and we cannot get men to come forward for fear that they might be boycotted by the people they have to depend upon for their bread. As for myself, I am independent of them; I do not care anything about it.

or  
silk  
fil  
velo,  
nals  
d.



Mr. Mundella—continued.

plenty of legislation at the present time, if carried out in its integrity. This is my view of it: We buy, and repute is the principal factor on which we carry on business. If I go to Dents, in Pall Mall, and ask them for a chronometer, I simply go there because they are makers to Her Majesty's Government, I knowing nothing about a chronometer, and what I want to point out is, that if you had the actual maker's name on the article, then the consumer would get more in touch with that individual, and he would be able to pay his workpeople a better price.

15,276. You would not put the maker's name on every piece of trimming that is used upon a woman's dress?—I do not know about the trimming; I meant on the box. Dents place a label on their gloves. The factories stamp it. The Manchester calico people put their name on their goods.

15,277. They do, and they do not, as they please?—They do as a rule. Of course I know there is such a thing there as putting the name of some other person. I have taken labels to Paris, and they have been put on there.

15,278. When a lady gets her dress home with the trimming on it, how are you going to ensure that she shall know who makes the trimming?—I am not defending the lady; let the lady defend herself.

15,279. You say you want everybody to put the name upon the article?—Yes, the maker's name. I do not mean the workman's.

15,280. When a lady gets her dress home, she does not, and cannot know under any circumstances, who manufactured the trimming?—But if she knew that that had come through half-a-dozen different agencies, it would have a great effect upon her mind.

15,281. She cannot know that, can she?—She would know. I do not think you exactly see what I mean. If I go to Pall Mall and buy a hat, the Pall Mall people put their names on it as the makers, although that hat is manufactured in Bethnal Green. Now, I say this: It is because, I suppose, this is the hat of the

Mr. Mundella—continued.

West End maker that I am induced to buy it, but if I knew it came from Bethnal Green, I should buy it there.

15,282. If I buy a hat at the West End, I know generally it is a good hat, but I do not know who made the trimming of that hat, do I?—No.

15,283. Then I put to you a case of a lady who goes to the West End and gives her order for her dress, which has various kinds of trimming upon it; you cannot attach the merchandise marks to those trimmings?—Yes.

15,284. How do you attach the merchandise marks to the trimmings so that when the dress comes to the lady she may know who made the trimmings?—If she goes and buys these trimmings, and they attach a label to it and say "made in Paris" when, perhaps, it has been made in Germany, that very often has an influence over her, and she purchases it.

15,285. She does not buy the trimmings herself?—She buys the dress with the trimmings attached to it. She instructs her dressmaker to buy the trimmings for it.

15,286. I suppose you have competition with France in this industry, have you not?—Yes.

15,287. Germany, too?—Germany is the greatest competitor.

15,288. Paris is the great maker of ladies' trimmings?—And there they pay a very fair price for their work. I have been among it in Paris and a little of it in Switzerland.

15,289. Paris sets the fashion?—Paris sets the fashion.

15,290. So that, for instance, in your silk trade, until Paris has set the fashion, you hardly know what to get to work on?—Not till then. We depend a great deal upon them, unfortunately; unless you adopt the course of placing a label upon it, and calling it "Paris make," then, perhaps, you may sell it.

15,291. The conditions of this industry apply more to women than to men?—There are more women by 75 per cent.

15,292. Then it is a matter for inquiry by the women sub-commissioners, is it not?—Yes.

Adjourned.



GBA

Mem. This man's statement must be taken with care: he evidently does not know much about the trade as a whole.

There are several others in a large way of business.

16

Mr C. Simmons, Upholster's Trimming Maker,  
49 Oxford Street, Stepney, S.E.

Mr S. is a German, who has been 10 years in England. He is now working here (a private house) on his own account, employing one man (25/-) + two girls (8/- + 4/-)

The upholsterers trimmings are made in the City chiefly. Messrs Dalton, Barton & Co of Jewin Street, and Pitman, Son & Co of 35 Rolls Street, Falcon Street &c are two of the principal manufacturers. Very little is made elsewhere in London. Does not know another man in the business in East London. East End trimming makers are manufacturers of bead trimmings.

The Germans and French compete very much in this work and the trade is declining. Mr S. cannot compete either with the foreign goods nor with the City firms. He mainly supplies the small upholsterers trimmings dealers & upholsterers.

When Mr S. came to England he obtained a situation with one of these upholstering trimming makers and after a time ~~and~~ went to Pitman, Son & Co's of Rolls Street. where he was given a regular



Women use working looms at Melbourn sales do weaving in  
their own homes. 811

17  
situation at 40/- a week. He remained here 14 years  
& then the firm put him on piecework at the beginning  
of the slack season & as he could not earn sufficient  
to keep him he left & set up on his own account.

The trade had been gradually growing worse while  
he was at Pitmans.

Seasons. From August to December is the best  
time & from January to March - the three  
months after Christmas the worst. Then they  
do not work more than half time.

Description of Work. The men employed are known  
as weavers, spinners and twisters. In London  
the weavers use hand looms. No power looms used here.  
The work is mostly piecework and weavers earn 35/-  
to 40/- a week when busy, dropping to 8/- or 9/-  
a week about Christmas time. Spinners  
earn about 35/- a week and Twisters 25/-;  
these rates being also subject to a large decrease  
in the slack time. There is also another  
branch of the work known as Handwork. It  
is done by women, girls do not work the looms in  
Pitman Son & Co. employed 8 <sup>weavers</sup> <sup>not time</sup>, 2 <sup>spinners</sup> <sup>London</sup>  
& one twister when he was there.



They did not take any apprentices as the men objected & would not teach them being pieceworkers.



Cl 4  
Nov 1895

19

Mr W. A. Cowie. All Saints Church House, <sup>Kinder St</sup> <sup>New Cross SE.</sup>  
Trimming Maker. Former Secretary of the Society  
now a Scripture Reader

Mr Cowie was secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Upholsterers' Trimming Makers until Dec/93. when he met with an accident (was run over by a bus) & was in the hospital 6 months. During this time an assistant was appointed but the society fell to pieces and is now he thinks defunct. At all events it has left the Society house, The St John of Jerusalem, St John Street, E.C. & its whereabouts are unknown. It was organized in May 1890 & practically existed for 3 years. The sub- was 3<sup>d</sup> per week & it gave out of work benefit, 10/- for 6 weeks & 5/- for other 6 weeks.

The Upholsterers' Trimmings is the principal part of the trimming trade in London. Dress trimmings has declined & head trimming is a distinct branch. The men are divided into two main classes: weavers and spinners, the latter being subdivided into spinners and twistors. Hours of work vary from some firms work from 8



8 am to 8 pm. (Messrs Foster); another has introduced an eight hour day (Brook Bros), working from 8.30 to 6. -

Wages. Weavers are generally piece work, although a few are employed by time. Their earnings are always greater than spinners. Mr G. the last year he was at the trade averaged 39/10. He kept an account. This is above the average which he would not put higher than 30/- . He has earned as little as 2/6 in a week & as much as £5. - earnings varying greatly between busy & slack time. Should think weavers' average would be about 45/- when busy & he would be fortunate if he made 25/- when slack. Spinners are usually time workers. Their highest would be about 36/- & they would drop to 26/- when slack. Twisters also time earn 16/- to 25/- a week. average about 20/- .

Seasons. Busy April to July and October to Christmas and slack in the intervals. Very slack about Christmas & from the end of January there is a gradual revival. A few make an amount of goods for stock but



41

21  
the introduction of art furniture ~~of fashion~~ into  
the question has and with it the influence of  
fashion in furniture leads the manufacturers to  
wait & see what is going to be the style.

Women. There are a number of weavers & they used  
to work in many factories; think they are dying  
out. They do the narrow braids etc. Does not  
think a weaveress would ever earn 10/- a  
week - not more than half that. Tablehands  
are better off than weaveresses; they sometimes  
rise of over 20/-.

Mode of Learning. Largely by apprenticeship. The trade  
can be picked up but thinks that the men who learn  
in this way do not become so proficient as those  
apprenticed. Apprentices are taught by weavers on time  
work. W. C. was apprenticed in London.

Trade is moving westward. Tottenham Court Road  
district. Brook Bros. Rathbone Place; Foster,  
Winsley Street; H. Newbery & Co. 19 Clerkenwell Rd.

Character of Men. Compared with other <sup>London</sup> working men, the  
trimming makers are an inferior set, and also with the  
men at Coventry. Drink a good deal. Thinks the



low type is due to the irregularity of the work, long hours and the low wages. These causes lead the best men to get out of it when they can.

In Slack Time weavers have to come in and then they would go early in the afternoon if there was no work when the traveller came in. Spinners being are sent on short time - rarely discharged as the firms like to keep their men together.

Outworkers. There are a number of men, who take out work & employ girls or lads. They set the looms & then take it easy while the others work [Probably Simmons of Oxford St. is such a man]



Messrs J. M. Barton & Co. Walking Stick Manufacturers.  
15 Dufferin Street, Bunhill Row E.C.

The men engaged in the walking stick trade are known as Benders, Straighteners & Polishers. The first two are the skilled workmen. The bender bends the crooked handles. Various methods are adopted for this purpose. Here the bender placed the end of the Japanese cane on which he was operating into a can of boiling water. After ~~the~~ a short time the cane is taken out and the <sup>wet</sup> end of the cane and a cylindrical block of wood are fastened in a vice, the jaws of which open vertically. The man then brings the flame of a bunsen burner to bear upon the part of the cane to be bent & gradually forces the other end of the cane round until the crook is formed around the wooden block. It is then tied tightly together and ~~then~~ taken out of the vice & thrust into a bath of hot sand. When perfectly dry the stick & block may be removed.

A stick that has to be straightened is placed in a hot sand bath (the heat of which varies for different woods) and then is thrust



The 'horse'

into one or other of a series of slots or notches in the edge of a thick wooden plank, which is supported at an angle of about 45 degrees with the floor. ~~at~~ This provides the leverage for bending the stick straight. Polishing does not require the same amount of skill and is done by young fellows of 20 or so.

Hours & wages. Work from 9 to 7 here and overtime when busy. I think 8 to 8 are the usual hours. Work time here. Benders & straighteners earn 35/- to 45/- a week & polishers 18/- to 25/-, their average being 20/-. There is some piecework in the trade possibly as much as time work but Mr B. does not know extent. One hour & a half allowed for dinner & tea.

Women. Some are employed but it is not usual in the factories. They work in their own homes. A stick maker takes out work to do at home and then his wife & daughters assist him. It is only common work that is given out & it is mostly done in East London. Many men prefer this home work and a good deal is



Band saw if sticks are 'made'

done. When busy the manufacturer would need much larger warehouses if he did common sticks indoors.

Mounting is a separate part of the business & the mounters are quite distinct from the other men, although most of the principal firms make their own mounts. The men are known as cutters, finishers, chasers and polishers. Going over the works I saw these men. One was making silver bands for sticks. Another was forming the designs on the knobs etc, while a youth about 18 was polishing & burnishing. The latter used an emery wheel and another wheel covered with cloth on which a reddish ~~put~~ polishing powder is sprinkled. The wheels are worked with a beadle, the lad holding the silver article against the wheel.

Machinery. Very little machinery can be used in the walking stick manufacture. A lathe is used to turn the knob for the handle & that is all. In umbrella stick making machinery comes in as the sticks have to taper.



towards the female & are not left in their natural state like walking sticks.

Seasons. The busiest time is from March to Sept<sup>r</sup> when they are very busy. Slackest in Nov<sup>r</sup>, Dec<sup>r</sup> & January.

Fashion exerts a considerable influence and effects the kind of wood, substance and shape. A short time ago thick sticks were in vogue - they could not get them thick enough. Now crooks are all the rage and only a medium sized stick is saleable. Cherry wood and silver mounts are the favorite now.

The trade is growing. It is a mystery to stick makers where all the sticks go.

Foreign Competition. Have beaten the foreigners in many instances. Even the cheap sticks that were imported are now made here and the proportion of foreign finished sticks is very small indeed. Import is practically confined to one wood - acacia; the reason being that the foreigners stain this wood better than we do.

Learning. No apprenticeship. Formerly apprentices were taken but the practice has died out.



Walking Sticks. An article from Chambers Journal  
May 27. 1893. by Mr W. H. Berry.

Paper Manufacture

WALKING-STICKS.

THE fashion or habit of carrying a Walking-stick, or some article of the same nature, seems to have existed from the remotest antiquity. The spear of the warrior, the shepherd's staff, the club, baton, rod, or wand of office, are all developments of the same idea. It has been used not only as a support to the body, but to lend dignity and grace to the individual, and as a means of defence. In modern times the use of walking-sticks has increased enormously, and to-day the manufacture and use of these articles are cultivated almost to the extent of a fine art. But though popular and well-known as an article of everyday use, very little is known about the walking-stick as an article of commerce—where it comes from, who makes it, and how it is made.

Under the general term 'Walking-stick Trade' is included the manufacture of sticks for umbrellas, &c., of which an incredible number are produced annually. In England—which, by the way, almost supplies the world—the number of men employed is about four thousand. The trade is rather scattered, though by far the greatest part is done in London, where, in the East End, it is carried on extensively. The workmen are chiefly drawn from the poorer classes of St Luke's, Finsbury, Shoreditch, Whitechapel, and Bethnal Green, in which parishes the principal workshops are situated. The trade is strictly a season one; it is among the first to feel depression, and among the last to recover. A large number of the men employed earn on the average a fair living, especially those in the largest houses, who enjoy, as a rule, the most regular employment. But a large section of the trade pays bad wages—in fact, in some cases it is a mere existence. A great quantity of sticks produced by these latter are manufactured in dwelling-houses, nay, in the very living-rooms, though in this respect there is a gradual improvement going on. The people among whom this state of things exists are mostly small manufacturers, who work on their own account. In busy times, it often happens the man is compelled to work nearly all night in order to get the work done in time for payment on Saturday. It has been known for wives and even children's help to be put to account. This is true when trade is busy, which is generally from March to November, when slack time begins, and continues, with more or less abatement, till the following spring.

During slack periods, most of the men are on half or three-quarter time; but a large number have practically no work at all; this, added to low wages in busy times, renders their lives and surroundings quite deplorable. The men most in demand are those with the ability to make samples, and the first question most employers put to a new workman, is, 'Can you make me anything fresh?' This is important, as on the freshness and variety of new samples depend the



28

chances of new and large orders. Men have ere now made a small fortune out of a new sample. This, of course, is rare; but it has occurred several times in the last ten years. A sample known as 'Brazilian Pine' became so popular as to make the whole trade unusually busy for two or three years. Another, known as 'Acacia,' has been in great demand for the last five years, and bids fair to become a standing order in the trade. 'English Furze,' dressed, bent, joined, and stained in a countless variety of combinations, has had a run on the market for some years; and there are scores of new samples on the kinds of wood I have mentioned being prepared even now for next season or the season after.

The raw material from which are produced the almost countless varieties of sticks in the market is brought from nearly every part of the earth. There is a large quantity grown in England, but the bulk is foreign. To get an idea of the vast quantity of foreign sticks imported into England, one should visit the London Docks, East Smithfield Entrance Warehouse, No. 1, which is one of the largest storehouses of the kind in England. Here, piled from floor to ceiling, are all sorts of sticks imaginable: pimento, olive, myrtle, hazel, oak, ash, orange, bamboo, Tonquin canes, and a host of others, in such profusion as to be bewildering. It must be seen to be realised, by any person outside the trade. It would be impossible to name all the different kinds of raw material; but the following are the names of the most important: Olives from America, Queensland, and South Africa. Pimento from the West Indies, chiefly Jamaica, from which island from three to four thousand bundles, each containing from five to eight hundred sticks, are imported annually. Many of these sticks are sawn up into half-a-dozen smaller ones. Myrtle from South Europe, and most of the countries situated round the Mediterranean Sea. Ash from America, South Europe, and South Africa. Cornel or cornelian cherry from Mid and South Europe and some parts of Asia. This wood is very tough, and was used extensively when the 'acacia' became popular. Also several varieties of each of the following: Oak, orange, cherry, hazel, thorn, Ceylon vines, supple-jacks, palm, orange, crab, birch, beech, sycamore, lancewood, ebony, Amboyna, tulip-tree, snakewood, rosewood, Whangee, Jambeze, Penang, Rajah, Partridge, bamboo, Tonquin, betel, Malacca, Nana, Madagascar, Whampoa canes, bird's-eye maple, greenheart, &c. The chief produce of Great Britain are: Oak, ash, furze, birch, hazel, thorn, beech, crab, sycamore, cherry, and many other minor varieties. This list will show the great amount of skill required to become a judge of the raw material only.

But though extensive, the raw material is nothing compared with the multiplication of

workmen. More than this—it is possible to take half-a-dozen olives, and, by treating each of them differently, to produce a corresponding number of sticks, which are known in the market as pepper, nutmeg, cinnamon, Australian bay, acacia, and olive—six distinct kinds from the same wood. This is done more or less in every branch of the trade, especially among what is known as 'Naturals,' that is, sticks made from the single branch of a tree. The handle is made to the desired shape from a piece of a thicker branch, which is left on for that purpose when the stick is cut. As it is difficult to get a sufficient quantity of sticks grown like this, the difficulty is met by joining the required piece on. The joint is so neat that most people would never notice it, or if they did, it would be more by accident than design.

The other great branch of work besides the natural is called 'Fancy,' and embraces carving, bending, inlaying, and everything which might be described as other than natural. There are many curious things made up into walking-sticks, such as snake-skins stretched on wood, sinews of large animals, sunflower stalks, cabbage stumps, sticks rendered curious by nature, some of which are of very strange and fantastic growth. The most curious stick the writer has ever met with was made as follows: A smooth round stick, on which knots were made with plaster of Paris, and then covered neatly all over with American table-covering, the pattern of which resembled the grain of wood. The edges were joined so neatly as to be invisible. The whole produced a very novel and peculiar stick, which deceived many experts, who, believing it to be wood, were puzzled at the peculiar grain. It was only by cutting a piece off that the trick was discovered.

Many pieces of very rare wood are made into walking-sticks—pieces of old ships, &c., beside scarce specimens of wood almost unknown, such as Myall wood, Australian black wood, muskwood, Cypress pine, zebra wood, kauri pine, deodar wood, calamander, sabicu, and occasional pieces of lignum vitæ. The 'modus operandi' whereby sticks which grow crooked are made straight is not generally known, and has been the subject of some curious speculation. We do not remember to have met with a satisfactory account anywhere in print, although at different times sage advice has been given on the subject through the press, in answer to correspondents. All such advice, so far as we know, has been more or less erroneous and absurd. The main object is to render the wood or cane soft and pliable; to do this, it is plunged into heated sand. Woods such as oak, ash, orange, &c., require wet sand; while olives, pimento, and all varieties of cane, require dry sand. In addition to this, a contrivance called 'a horse' is used, which consists of a plank of

work is not up to the English market. The severely condemned and written against than that of opium-smoking. Now and then a We suppose that no habit has been more have been imported from Austria and Germany, not inconsiderable quantity of unsued sticks non, and this, no doubt, is due to sentimentation.

See  
back  
of page  
for end  
of  
article



GLA  
Oct 30 1905

29  
Mr W. H. Berry, 77 Esmeralda Road, Bermondsey, S.E.

Mr B. was formerly a stickmaker but left the trade about 4 years ago partly on account of a set that was made against him for being connected with a Co-operative Stick factory and the Trade Union. He is now employed at the Wholesale Co-operative Society.

Mr B. seemed loth to speak about the trade giving as a reason that he had left it a few years & his statements might mislead. He however referred me to an article he had written in Chambers Journal (See page 27-28)

The Stickmakers' Union was started about 1889 - soon after the Dock Strike. It lasted about 2 or 3 years.

Wages are paid by piece, weekly and also by the hour. Struts wages have fallen during the past 7 years.

Apprenticeship has died out entirely. Walking and Umbrella sticks are made by the same men. Machinery is used to a considerable extent, but he could not give details respecting it.



GWA  
20/10/95

30  
Mr Richardson, Walking Stick Manufacturer.  
Ashcroft Road, Grove Road, E.

Mr R. was out but his foreman volunteered to give information instead. He had been with Mr R. many years.

Women are not employed now except indirectly e.g. they work at home assisting their husbands who take the work from the shop. Formerly they were employed to finish the work.

The work is not subdivided here. The men have to be able to do a little of every thing [The business here is mainly cheap sticks of which large quantities must be turned out. They were then engaged in preparing Japanese canes of which large supplies were stocked here & there. Most thin canes of medium quality.]

Hours are from 8 am to 8 pm with an hour for dinner and 30 minutes for tea. Close at 2 pm on Saturday & 6 pm on Monday.  
Seasons. They are busy from March to June.



Formerly were busy from January to October but trade has fallen off. The slackest time is just before Xmas.

So far as they are concerned, stick-making is a declining trade. He does not think the cause is their distance from the center. If they have anything good the buyers will come.

In the busy season get more work but in the slack time the indoor hands get the preference. In proof of this he showed me the wages book. The outdoor earnings were always greater in the busy season than the slack, one man occasionally reaching £5. - he used to employ others to assist them. When slack the same man earned less than the indoor hands. About half the workers took the work home. These were paid piece rates & the ~~the~~ indoor hands time work. The earnings were very irregular, the same man seldom taking the same amount in successive weeks.



Mr Alfred Nelson. Trimming Manufacturer.  
86 Derbyshire Street, Bethnal Green Road E.

Dress trimmings is almost gone out, owing to a change of fashion and also the German & French competition. Upholsterers' trimmings is a small part of the trade. Furniture trimmings is Mr No's branch: in this he has been able to take work from the Germans.

Hours of work are from 8 am. to 7 pm. and 2 o'clock on Saturday. One hour is allowed for dinner & 30 minutes for tea (4 to 4.30). Have no difficulty in getting the girls (tablehands) in punctually in the morning. With the older women - weaveresses - it is not so easy.

Wages. Weavers ~~are~~ average about 30/- a week - Spinners 25/- or 26/-. Weaveresses are usually piece workers and only a few of them work on the premises. The other women employed - tablehands - are also piece workers except the learners. Their average earnings are about 12/- a week. Learners come for two years and are paid four shillings a week.



week They receive a rise of 2/- at the end of two years are put on piece work. At first they do not earn so much as when on time but they soon improve their speed. About one-fourth of the table hands are learners.

Training Cannot get girls who understand the work. Have to train their staff. The girls do not change much. Have not had any leave to get married yet (Mr M's is a comparatively new business) Men are taken on as weavers. Lads learn by picking up the trade gradually, Begin as boys by making themselves generally useful. It is becoming difficult to obtain weavers.

Seasons are Spring & Autumn. The demand in the slack season is only about half that of the ~~summer~~ other. The trade is largely dependent on fashion. When slack Mr M. makes up stock work. (Mr M said in his letter then enclosing the returns he said of wages ~~and~~ that there was not much difference between busy and slack weeks.)

The Works Went of over the works. Machinery is largely used. The spools of silk are wound by a



special machine and except the tablehands & some twistors all use machines in their work.

Beside the weavers & weaverses there were ~~two~~ a few spinners, but the tablehands formed the majority of the workpeople. These girls take the fringes after they have been made on the looms, cut the loops on one side to make the fringe & then affix little balls or tassels according to the work.

Mr Nelson showed me the sample books afterwards. These were mainly "art fringes" in all varieties of colour & the work was well finished, and quite equal to West End work.

Mr Nelson has a factory at Coventry. Comparing the London workpeople with those at Coventry he speaks very disparagingly of the Londoner. The latter is given to drink; his home is always dirty & untidy and this applies especially to the weavers & spinners: tablehands are of a better class.



Messrs W Hayward & Sons. Trimming Manuf<sup>rs</sup>  
4 Patriot Square, Cambridge Road - E.

Messrs Hayward, when sending their wages return,  
write "It is rather a difficult matter for us to fill  
in the enclosed form, all workpeople we employ  
are paid by the piece, so naturally their money varies  
every week, then again some are slower than others,  
then some of our people outdoors take out work &  
have girls to help them, so consequently they take  
ever so much more money than the others."

"We should think taking slack time with the busy,  
we employ about 50 workpeople, women & girls, and  
taking a fair average all through, their money  
would work out from 13/- to 14/- a week"

Calling upon Messrs H. I was allowed  
to take a week's earnings from the wages book.  
In the week ending Oct 26/95, which seemed  
a fairly representative week judging by the total  
amount paid the following results were obtained:

<u>Indoor Hands.</u>	Weavers.	11	earned 11/9 to 17/-	average 14/6
	Tablehands.	6	" 12/10 to 14/3d	" 13/5
			(Three couples of sisters working together & earning £1. 5. 8 £1. 6. 5 £1. 8. 7)	
	Messenger & Clerk	1	"	8/-



Outdoor Weavers - 7 earning  $\$14/6$  to  $16/6$  average -  $13/6$   
 Tablehands 16 "  $6/6$  to  $18/6$  "  $10/10$   
 1 employ 2 girls + earned  $29/10$ .  
 Silkwinder 1 earning  $13/2$   
 Woodwinder 1 "  $3/9$ .  
 Spinner (a man)  $7/5$   
 Total - Indoor 18. Outdoor 27. Together 45.

Weaving is all done by women on piecework.  
 He reckoned earning as from  $12/6$  to  $17/6$ .  
Tablehands also piece earn  $12/6$  to  $14/6$  ordinarily.  
 If taken on as workers, must be able to do anything.

Hours of Work are from 9 am to 8 pm, and on  
 Saturday from 9 to 1. Cannot get the workers  
 to keep time. Pieceworkers do not look upon  
 punctuality as a necessity.

Seasons. Busy from February to May  
 and again from August to Christmas.  
 During the slack time the outdoor hands are  
 stopped and preference given to the indoor workers.  
Fashion besides the dress trimming trade and  
 in this they follow the foreigners who lead the  
 fashions.



fashions. In upholsterers trimmings there is not so much uncertainty. Bead trimmings they can buy of the foreign houses cheaper than they can make them.

Learning trade. Girls are taken for 6 months without pay to learn the 'table' work. At the end of their time they become pieceworkers. Weaving is not taught at the works. Girls have to learn at home.

Spinners & Twisters they regard as the same. The men are pieceworkers. This work is given out.

The business is carried on in a private house which has been adapted with but slight alterations to the trade. On the upper floor the looms are placed. The women using them are none of them young & look like married women. One of the rooms on the floor below was used as an office & in the other 6 tablehands worked.

The trimmings in process of manufacture were for furniture, their design being similar to those of Mr. Nelson but the colours were not so bright nor the finish so good. Messrs. Hayward evidently catering for a lower class trade.



Mess<sup>rs</sup> Henry Coe & Co. Umbrella Manufacturers  
12 Old Change + 33 + 34 St Paul's Churchyard.

This firm have a large warehouse here, using the upper floors for the work and the ground floor for show room and offices.

Cutters and Finishers are employed on the premises and are timeworkers. Cutters' wages vary from 2s to 3s a week and finishers from 2s to 3s.

Machine hands sew the pieces of silk together and Tippers attach them to the frames. Both classes are women and work ~~out of doors~~ in their homes.

Some are kept on the premises but the majority are outside. Piecework & prices vary. For ordinary work would reckon Machining 2s & Tipping 1s per dozen.

Hours of work are from 9 to 5 when slack; when busy they work until 8 pm.

Season depends to a large extent upon the weather. They quickly feel the effects of wet weather or of a dry bright season. Generally speaking March, April & May is the busy time for sunshades &



parasols and August to October for umbrellas.  
When trade is slack they keep their indoor staff  
together and the outside workers lose their  
employment.

There is no apprenticeship, nor has there been for  
many years. The lads pick up the work. Some-  
times they have a girl but it is seldom. They learn  
the work before they come.



Mr Ince. Umbrella maker.  
Commercial Street E.

Has been in the trade from boyhood. Employs two men who have been with him for many years. These men are framemakers and finishers. The framemaker takes the ribs and runners, puts them together and on the stick. The finisher or fitter puts on the ferrule and completes the umbrella except the tipping. His men get 31/6 + 30p a week. The wages range from 29 to 32-

No apprenticeship now. Lads pick up the trade.

Finishers always work at the warehouses. Some of the framemakers work in their homes taking the work from the warehouse. Such men cannot earn so much as those employed in the house.

The women are employed indoors & out.

The trade is much worse than formerly. The margin of profit has been reduced greatly. Mr I. only keeps on now because it gives him something to do. He could <sup>not</sup> live on the income from



from the business now. [ Mr Luce has some  
house property & lives at Croydon.]

Umbrella case making is a distinct branch  
of trade.



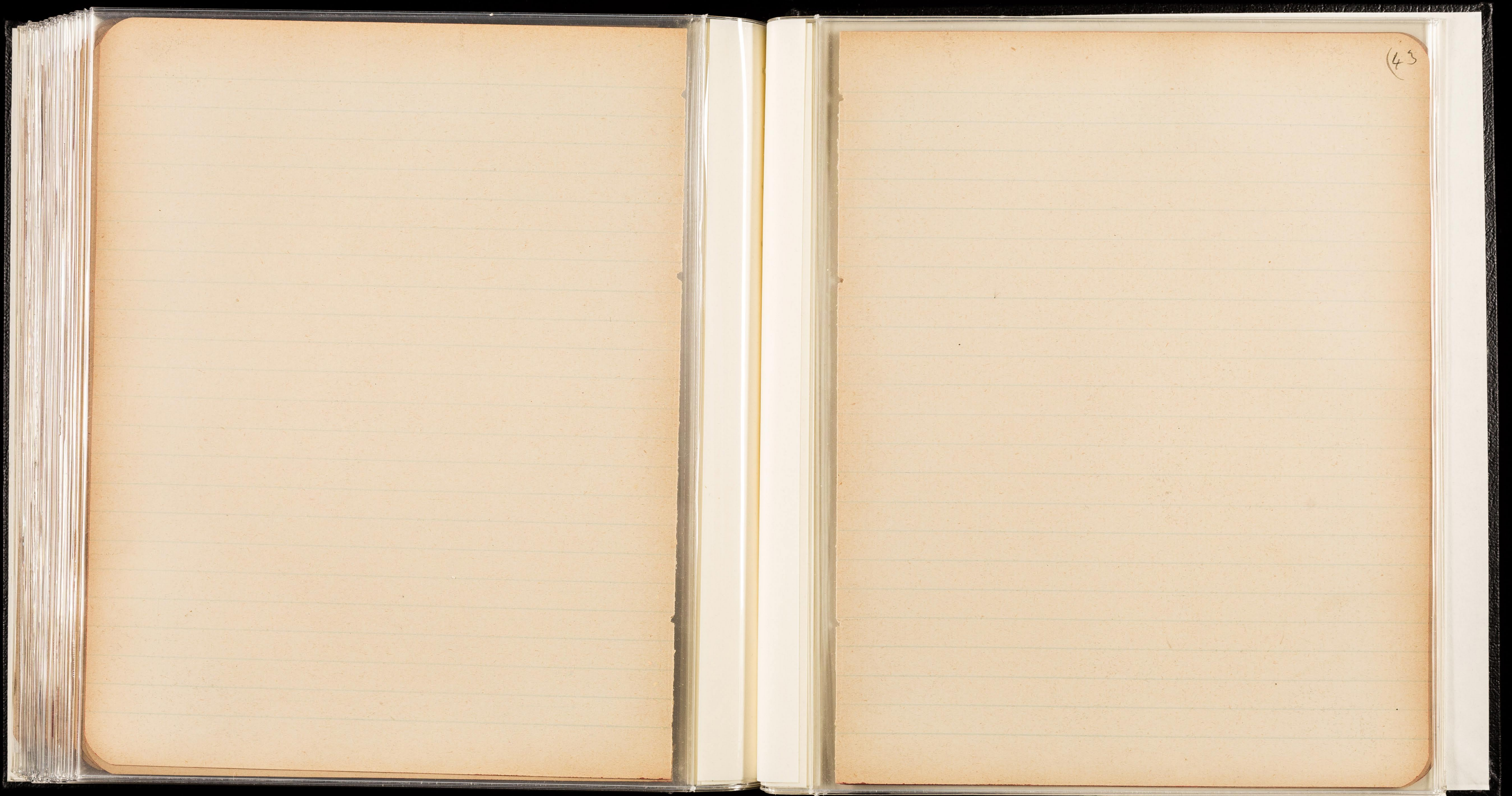
W. N. R. Hayward. Button manufacturer  
50 Long Acre.

Has a shop ~~in front~~ and used the  
back premises for the work.

Buttons made in London are mainly  
of the best class; military, naval & hunting  
buttons. Birmingham and Germany do  
most of the cheap trade and it is difficult  
to tell the extent of the trade in London. The  
large firms (Finnin, Hobson &c) have manufacturing  
at Birmingham as well as here.

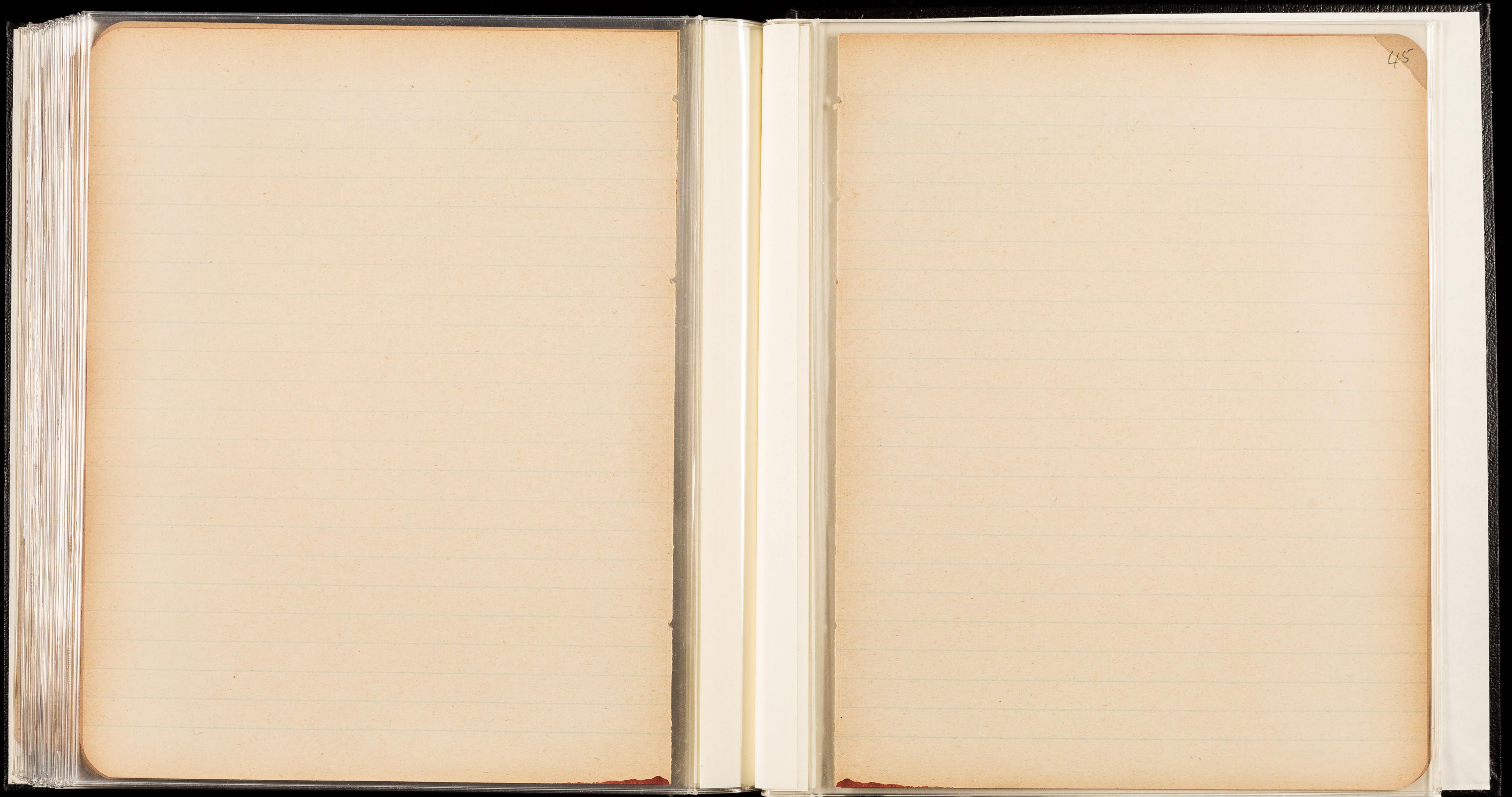
Horn, bone and pearl buttons are made  
here. Messrs Reading & Bros of 35 Berwick  
Street are engaged in this trade. Several  
firms make Upholsterer's buttons.





43





45



