

Queries to be Answered by Employers of Children and Young Persons in Mines and Works of Metallic Ores

Mines of Tin Copper, Lead and Zinc: The Masters of the Mines and Works to whom these Papers are transmitted are requested to answer the Queries and fill up the Tabular Forms *within a fortnight* from the time of their being received, or as soon after as practicable. In the absence of the principals, the chief person acting for them is requested to do the same.

In order to save future trouble in the verification of the Returns by the Sub-Commissioner who will visit your Mines and Works, it is requested that, in filling up the Tabular Forms descriptive of the circumstance of the Children and Young Persons employed, inquiries should be made of each individual included; and that, in supplying the whole particulars requested, resort may be had to any other source of information which it may be requisite to consult in order to secure accuracy.

If any Children or Young Persons are employed by the adults in your works and are not entered in the wages-book, you are requested to have them brought before you, to enable you to fill up the columns in the Queries and Tabular Forms that relate to them.

In any case in which the blank space opposite to each Question may be insufficient, the answer may be written on a separate sheet, with the number of the Query prefixed. When the answer to any question is omitted, it is requested that the reasons for such omission may be stated.

The Queries and Tabular Forms, when filled up, are to be returned to the Commissioner, under cover to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department; for which purpose the cover under which they are received will serve, when reversed, so that the address printed inside may appear externally. Payment of postage is not necessary.

There follows a section to record:

- Name of person or firm working the mine
- Description of mine working
- Number of persons employed by gender and age groups 18+, 13-18 and under 13 years
- Moving power employed to drive machinery; hand, animal, wind, steam + water (HP)
- Locality; town, parish and county

1. Is there any special provision in your works for ventilation? If so, describe its nature and effects; state also the temperature of the air, and of the rock or water, in the several parts of your mines and works.

2. How are your mines entered; whether by shaft or otherwise?

3. What precaution is taken to keep the head-gear and the machinery, ropes, ladders, &c., in good repair, whereby the people descend into the mine?

4. How many of your peoples are allowed to descend together, and how many are allowed to come up together; or have you any regulation whatever on the subject?

5. What is the smallest height of the levels, gateways, horseways, or mainways, in your mine?
 6. What is the thickness of your bed or ore?
 7. Are your workings, heads, or ends, of the same depth with the neds or veins of ore or do you cut away any of the top and bottom?
 8. How many fathoms from the surface of the ground, or from the adit, is the ore you are working?
 9. Are the miners supplied with Davy-lamps, to be used when they find them necessary?
 10. Do any noxious gases exist in your mines? If so state the nature of those gases, what means have been taken to prevent their accumulation, or to dissipate any that are found to exist?
 11. Have any explosions taken place in your mines within the last two years, from carburetted hydrogen gas, otherwise called fire-damp, wild-fire, and sulphur and have any lives been lost thereby? If so, state how many.
 12. Have any accidents occurred in your mines, within the last two years from carbonic acid gas, otherwise called choke-damp and black-damp, and have any lives been lost thereby? If so, state how many.
 13. Have any accidents occurred in your mines, within the last two years from other causes, attended with loss of life or permanent injury? If so, state the number and cause of each.
 14. Have you taken any precautions against such accidents? Is there, for example, in your mines any protection over the heads of the people descending the shaft or coming up, to keep off bricks, stones, timber, or other things from falling on them?
 15. By what means is the ore brought from the workings to the foot of the shaft, gateway or
 - Machinery
 - Animals
 - Adults
 - Children or Young Persons
- If by Children or Young Persons, state the ages at which they are so employed, from the youngest age upwards, their sex, and their number.
16. Are there any Children or Young Persons who draw by a belt or a girdle and chain; if so what are the ages and what is the sex of the Children or Young Persons so employed?
 17. Along what distance, as nearly as you can estimate, are the ore-carriages, tram-waggons, dans, or corves, driven or hurried by Children or Young Persons in your mine?
 18. What is the weight of the loaded carriage, tram-waggons, dan, or corve?
 19. By what means is the ore brought to the surface?

- Machinery
- Animals
- Adults
- Children or Young Persons?

If by Children or Young Persons, state the ages at which they are so employed, from the youngest age upwards, their sex, and their number.

20. If the ore is carried to the surface by Children or Young Persons, state the weight each Person bears or carries; the height the Children or Young Person has to carry the load, and whether the ascent is by ladders or not.

21. Have you any Children, *that is, Persons under 13 years of age*, employed in breaking or otherwise preparing the ore? If so, state their number and the nature of their employment.

22. Have you any Children employed about your furnaces? If so, state their number and nature of their employment.

23. Have you any Children employed about your casting works? If so, state their number and nature of their employment.

24. Have you any Children employed about your furnaces for refining metals? If so, state their number and nature of their employment.

25. Have you any Children employed in assisting in the puddling, or other process in preparing the metal? If so, state their number and nature of their employment.

26. Have you any Children employed in rolling-mills? If so, state their number and nature of their employment.

27. State the number of Young Persons, *that is, Persons above 13 and under 18 years of age*, employed in the several descriptions of work, whether the labour of Children or Young Persons is the same.

28. Do the Children or Young Persons drive carriages along the roads or gateways to the foot of the shafts in your mine?

29. Children or Young Persons drive or hurry singly, or two together?

30. Are any females employed in any other descriptions of work in your mines? If so, state in what description of work.

31. State the several employments of Children or Young Persons not included in any of the above queries.

32. State the ages at which the Children begin work in each description of employment.

33. Does any part of your work necessarily require the employment of very young Children, and why? If so, state the youngest age required.

34. Are you acquainted with any machinery which could render the employment of very young Children unnecessary in your mines? Do you think the employment of such machinery is practicable?
35. Do you think a limitation of the age at which Children are employed in mines desirable? If so, state why, and at what age you would recommend they should begin work?
36. Have you, the Butties, Charter-masters, or any other persons, any Apprentices in your mines; if so whence were they obtained, at what age, and for how many years were they bound?
37. How many of your apprentices have served out the full term for which they were bound?
38. What is the usual number of hours each day during which the work in your mine is carried on, and what relays of hands, if any, supersede each other during these hours?
39. Do the Young Children invariably and universally work the same number of hours as the adults? If not, state what is the difference between the number of hour during which the Children and Adults work?
40. Are Children or Young Persons ever employed at night in your mine; that is, after nine o'clock at night, and before 5 o'clock in the morning? If so, state how many hours, and under what circumstances.
41. Is the working of your furnaces suspended on the Sunday; and if so, for how many hours?
42. Do you find that you are able to keep the working of your furnaces suspended for such time without material inconvenience?
43. Have you made the experiment of trying to keep your furnaces suspended for a still greater number of hours? If so, what was the result?
44. Do you feel that your workpeople derive comfort or moral advantage from the suspension of their labours for a certain number of hours on the Sundays?
45. Is Sunday a day of double-shift or double-turn?
46. If the working of your furnace is not suspended on a Sunday, will you have the goodness to state whether you have made any experiments as to the practicability of suspending them for a certain number of hours; for how long a period you continued those experiments; for how great a number of hours you aimed at suspending the working of the furnaces; and what was the final result of your trials?
47. Have you any other works besides the furnaces in operation on the Sunday; or what portion of it; if so, for how many hours?
48. What are the times allowed or meals during the day?
49. Have you any system of rewards or punishments for inducing attention on the part of the Children or Young Persons employed at your mines? If so, state the nature of them?

50. Are corporal punishments inflicted on any Children or Young Persons employed in your mine; and if so, by whom?

50. Have you forbidden corporal punishments, or taken any steps for their prevention, when you were informed of any instance of their infliction?

52. Have any instructions been given by you to your Butties, Charter-masters, or other persons who contract to do the work, with relation to the punishment or the employment of Children or Young Persons? State those instructions. If in print, append a copy to these returns.

53. Have you taken any means to check bad language and other immoralities? If so, state what means you have adopted?

54. Is there in connection with your mine any school, reading -room, lending-library, or sick fund? If so, state the particulars respecting each as fully as you can.

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56. If you have any further observations to make with reference to the present Inquiry, have the goodness to state them, especially with reference to any observable improvement in employment and condition of the Children or Young Persons in your mines or works, and to the causes of that improvement?

Queries on the Religious, Moral, and Social Conditions of the Poorer Classes, as influenced by their Education during the period of Childhood and Adolescence (addressed to Employers and Others)

1. Have you had any opportunity of forming a comparison between the condition and conduct of the three following classes of the labouring poor (male or female) in your neighbourhood, namely [1] those who have been educated in well-conducted public or charitable institutions [2] those who have received instruction only in the ordinary dame-schools [3] those who have been wholly uneducated?
2. Has your station and office, as a minister, magistrate, &c., afforded you peculiar means of information? If so, state how long you have resided in your parish or district, and the extent, character, and habits of its population.
3. If you have been an employer of workpeople, or the agent of an employer, state the description of trade or manufacture you have carried on, how long you have personally conducted the business, and the number of persons, male and female, usually in your employment.
4. If you have been an overlooker or an operative, state any particulars which may show the extent of the opportunities which you have had of comparing the above-mentioned classes.
5. Of the three classes named in the first question, which is the most attentive to their religious and moral duties, when they have attained a state of manhood or womanhood?
6. Which class is most attentive to their domestic duties?

7. Which class is most regular and attentive to their daily employment?
8. Which class is the most valuable to the employer in regard to their general intelligence and skill as workmen?
9. If you have had an opportunity of noticing the conduct of these classes under periods of public or private excitement or embarrassment, or in disputes between workmen and employers, which class have you observed to be the most reasonable and the most capable of comprehending the real state of any difficulty or understanding?
10. If improvements or alterations are to be introduced into a manufactory, which class do you find the most willing to appreciate and conform to them?
11. When from the fluctuation of fashion or other causes the workpeople are thrown out of their accustomed employments, which class applying themselves with the greatest facility and the least loss of time to other remunerating occupations?
12. Have you paid sufficient attention to the present system of school education, as afforded to Children or Young Persons of the labouring classes, to offer any suggestion with a view of improving their religious, moral, and intellectual condition, when they become adults?
13. What are the means of obtaining religious instruction open to the labouring classes in your neighbourhood, and to what extent do they profit by them?
14. Can you suggest any means of increasing the amount of their religious instruction, or of inducing them, and especially the younger portion, to avail themselves of the opportunities which may be afforded to them?
15. What is the nature and amount of secular instruction open to them in day, evening or industrial schools, and to what extent do they avail themselves of it?
16. Do you think it would tend to improve the character and to elevate the social condition of the working classes, if there were established schools of design, and schools in which the elements of mechanics and of other branches of natural philosophy were taught, in which the Children or Young Persons who desire it might qualify themselves for the higher departments of manufacture?
17. You are requested to add any remarks on the general subject of these Queries, which may illustrate the present actual condition of the working classes, or show how that condition may be improved, or which you may conceive to be deserving of the attention of the Central Board.

Queries of Moral Condition addressed to Clergymen

1. Are there in your district any Sunday-schools with which you are acquainted? If so state with what place of worship they are in connexion.
2. Are there in your district any day, evening or industrial school for the education of Children or Young Persons of the working population? If so, state where each school is situated, and the hours at which it is open for the attendance of Children or Young Persons.
3. Are there any schools in which the female Children or Young Persons employed in labour are taught needle and other domestic work? If so, state where each school is situated, and the hours at which it is open for the attendance of Children or Young Persons.
4. If there are any such schools, describe particularly which of them are attended, and to what extent, by the Children or Young Persons working in the mines, collieries, and the various branches of trade and manufacture Children or Young Persons work together in numbers.

If Children or Young Persons employed at the Mines, Collieries, and other branches of Trade do attend such schools, Answers are requested to the following Questions:

5. What are the branches of instruction in these several schools, and what is taught in each?
6. Describe how far the teachers connected with the schools with which you are acquainted are persons of education, the branches of instruction for which they are qualified, and whether they have been trained as teachers.
7. State from your own knowledge, or from the information of teachers, at what ages Children or Young Persons are removed from school to go to continuous employment.
8. Does the removal of the Children or Young Persons from school at the ages specified in the last answer operate to their injury in afterlife? If so, state in what manner.
9. Up to what age do you think that such Children or Young Persons ought to be allowed to remain at school?
10. Do you consider the Sunday-schools, or other means of instruction at present accessible to Children or Young Persons employed in labour, sufficient to make up for the loss of instruction by early removal from the day-schools?
11. Have you any knowledge of the actual progress made in such schools by Children or Young Persons partly engaged in labour, as compared to those wholly unemployed, or with those engaged in labour during the greater part of the week-day? If so, state the result of your observations.
12. Will you be so good as to add any other information which you may think is desirable to communicate relative to the education, and the actual religious, moral and intellectual conditions of the Children or Young Persons employed in labour in your district.