

180. Have you any other complaints to make except these five things?—We do not sleep very warm in the winter; we have only three thin blankets.

181. Are you one of the girls who do wood-chopping?—Yes.

182. How often do you do it?—Every time we go out.

183. How often last week?—Every afternoon excepting Tuesday and Thursday.

184. How long were you at it?—From 1 o'clock to a quarter to 5.

185. No time in between?—Unless we go to the garden, watering.

186. Who is with you?—The staff.

187. What member of the staff?—Miss Dean.

188. Has the work ever knocked you up?—Yes; we have to work whether we are in very good health or not.

189. Are you in good health or bad health?—At times I am not in good health.

190. The doctor comes periodically?—Yes.

191. Have you ever been under medical treatment?—No.

192. Have you been ill at all in the last four or five years?—No; only once when something happened. I had to do something I was made to do, and I had to go to bed for the day.

193. What were you made to do?—[Witness did not answer.]

194. Is it something you do not wish to say anything about?—Yes.

195. How do you spend your day? Take yesterday—at what time did you get up?—At 6.30 a.m.

196. What did you do then?—I dusted the passage and swept it.

197. That is the ordinary house-work?—Yes.

198. What time have you breakfast?—I think, at 8 o'clock.

199. And before you start work again you have half an hour?—No.

200. What time is breakfast over?—8.30 a.m.

201. And you have to go straight off to work from the table?—Yes.

202. What do you do?—Go to the workroom and sew.

203. For how long?—Half an hour before school.

204. And from 9 o'clock until what time are you in school?—We came out early yesterday, at 11 a.m.

205. What did you do after that?—I came in here.

206. What would you have done on an ordinary day, if the Commission had not been here? Do you have recreation?—Yes, from 1 until 1.30.

207. To do as you like?—Yes.

208. Do you start work again at 1.30?—I forget the time we have dinner.

209. After dinner, what is your next work?—We play until 1 o'clock, and then the bell goes and we start work outside.

210. Until when do you work outside?—4.45 p.m., and we have until 5 o'clock to do as we like.

211. What work do you want to do instead of this wood-chopping?—Housework.

212. Suppose there is not enough housework for everybody?—When we go out to service our mistresses have to teach us.

213. But suppose there is not enough housework?—There is sewing.

214. I understand you object to doing work outside the house?—Yes.

215. You want to be kept in the house and nothing else?—I do not mind washing.

216. Did you see anybody about this matter before you saw Mr. Salter? Did you see Mr. Fountain?—No.

217. Did you see Miss Howden?—I told Miss Howden once I had some nasty things said to me, and she told me never to mind.

218. Did she tell you the Commission was coming here?—No.

219. When did you first know there was to be a Commission?—By the papers. Miss Howden happened to speak to one of the girls. Miss Howden said to F— B— that it was hellish to have such things said about you and to have to live in a place like this, where you could not prove what is said about you.

220. Was that referring to the things in the papers?—No, to the things the Matron said about us.

221. Did you hear Miss Howden say that?—Yes, I overheard it.

222. Did Miss Howden chat to you about the bad way in which the girls were treated?—No; Miss Howden was just in every way.

223. What did you understand Miss Howden to mean by saying it was hellish to live here and have things said about you?—In order to tell her about the things the Matron said about her.

224. Did Miss Howden say the Matron would not be long here?—I did not hear her say anything in my presence.

225. Did she say her name would be "Walker"?—No.

226. Did Miss Howden tell you to remember these things, so that you could put them before the Commission?—No.

227. Do you know a man named Bone—the farm hand?—Yes.

228. In regard to water at the lupins, G— J— said there were only two days out of the whole lot when water was not allowed to be taken?—I was in the scullery.

229. You said yesterday that the water was hardly ever taken?—Yes.

230. So this girl is wrong when she says there were only two days on which you were short?—I was in the scullery, and the other girls were working there before me, and I knew nothing about it.

231. You were working on wages in the scullery?—Yes.