

Indicative newspaper extracts for factory inspection.

Blackburn Standard 27 July 1853

Important Factory Informations at Bacup

The time of the Court of Petty Sessions held at Bacup on Friday, was chiefly occupied with the hearing of informations preferred by Mr Charles Patrick, sub-inspector of factories for the district, against several manufacturers in the magisterial division. The magistrates on the bench were :- Messes James Whittaker (chairman), David Whitehead and George Hargreaves. Mr R.R.B. Cobbett, solicitor, Manchester, appeared for the prosecution in all the cases. The first case gone into was the most important, being one of a character which seldom comes under the notice of a court of law. The defendants were Messers Edmund Howorth and Brothers, cotton manufacturers, of Newchurch, and the allegation preferred against them by Mr Patrick, the Sub-Inspector, was that, on the 28th of May, they did wilfully connive at the noting of a false entry in the certificate book of the attendance at school of James Pilling, a child under 13 years of age, for the week ending the 28th May last, and that they did the same in a certificate affecting S. Trickett, a child under 13 years of age, for the week ending the 28th of May last. After a long examination, the bench found the charges proved, and fined the defendants in £5 each and costs. The same defendants were charged with employing two children without certificates of school attendance from the schoolmaster. They were found guilty and fined £1 in each case and costs. The same defendants were further charged with having employed two children on the afternoon of a day upon which they had worked in the forenoon. They were also convicted upon this charge and fined £1 and costs. The next case was that in which Messers Dawson and Haworth, cotton manufacturers, Waterside Mills, Bacup, were defendants; and the charge against them was that on July 1st, they worked certain females and young persons in their factory 13 minutes after six in the evening. There were 27 informations against the defendants, all of a precisely similar character. The defendants were represented by Mr G. T. Read of Bacup, solicitor. After hearing the evidence, the magistrates convicted the defendants in a penalty of £1 and costs and dismissed the others because the evidence was not sufficient to bear the allegations made. Mr John Maden, cotton manufacturer, Bacup, was fined £2 and costs, in three cases against him for overworking females and young persons, on the 23rd June last, to wit, at 15 minutes past six o'clock in the evening. The defendants were convicted in the penalty of £1 in each case and costs

Blackburn Standard 21 Feb 1855

Infringement of Factory Act

There was a crowded court at Haslingden on Thursday last, in the old National school. Mr Charles Patrick, one of Her Majesty's sub-inspectors, preferred a charge against Mr. Joshua Maden, cotton manufacturer, Britannia Mill, Spotland, of having on the night of 30 January, employed six young persons, contrary to act of parliament, after six o'clock. Mr Maden was represented by his nephew, who

pleaded guilty but stated, in extenuation of the charge, that he was not aware of the change that had taken place in the act of parliament. Mr Patrick announced to the court that any change taking place in the Factory Act was always advertised in the papers. The bench inflicted a penalty of £3 and costs in three cases, and of costs only in the other three cases.

Preston Chronicle 20 Jan 1855

Factory Information

On Monday last at the petty sessions held at Bury, an information was preferred by Mr Charles Patrick, sub-inspector of factories, against Messers John Wild and Son, cotton spinners, Heywood, for not securely fencing off a horizontal shaft, so that a person named James Ashworth, a jobber in the factory, lost his life on the 23rd of December last. The penalty inflicted was £10 costs, which in the aggregate amounted to £11 3s.

Preston Chronicle 29 March 1856

Fencing off Machinery

At the Rochdale petty sessions on Wednesday, James Rostron, of Bridge Mill, near Healey, was charged by the sub-inspector of factories, Mr Charles Patrick, with having on the 21st of January neglected securely to fence a certain portion of mill-gearing, whereby a youth, under thirteen years of age, called Thomas Gibson, had his arm broken in two places. The penalty for not fencing was abandoned, and the one for bodily injury was proceeded with for the recovery of from £10 to £100. Mr Rostron pleaded guilty to the charge. It appeared that on the day in question the overlooker, contrary to Mr Rostron's orders, had called a youth to hold a strap while he mended it; that he got upon a throstle to do so and was taken up by the strap and round the shaft, but in consequence of the strap breaking he fell on the floor, otherwise he must have been killed. Mr Rostron immediately discharged the overlooker, and had paid the wages of the boy regularly ever since, and appeared willing to do something further. The bench inflicted the lowest penalty, £10.

Blackburn Standard 15 July 1857

Factory information

At the Town Hall, Haslingden, on Saturday, before Henry Slater and Rd. Wild, Esqs., Messers William Barlow and Sons, of Spring Mill, Dean, were charged by Charles Patrick Esq., sub-inspector of factories, with having employed Sarah Pickup, a young person, after six o'clock in the evening of the 27th April last. Mr Patrick stated that he arrived at the defendant's mill at ten minutes past six. The mill was stopped. He entered the doorway, and met several hands coming out. Mr Patrick produced Sarah Pickup, who said that they told her the inspector was coming, and she ran. She was loosing her frock down, after taking the shuttles out of the boxes, when the inspector saw her. Mr Baldwin, of Burnley, on cross examination of Mr Patrick, proved that his watch had been set by Rawtenstall railway time a few days before, and that he had not compared it with Newchurch

railway time (which governs the factory) for a week before. The case was dismissed. There were five other similar cases against Messers Barlow, but Mr Patrick said he should withdraw them.

Messers Knowles and Son, Albion Mill, Rawtenstall, were also charged with employing Esther Nuttall and five others after six o'clock in the evening of the 4th May last. Mr Patrick stated that he visited the mill at twenty five minutes past six and saw several hands come out, but the mill was standing. Nuttall said she had done nothing after the mill stopped except change her apron and put her dress down before she saw the inspector, and said she was as sharp as she could. Mr Baldwin said Messers Knowles reside at Burnley and produced Radcliffe, the engine-tenter, who swore that he stopped the engine at six o'clock by the mill clock; and Richard spencer, a tackler, who swore that he was in the fire-hole at the time. Mr Patrick said that Nuttall and others came to his house the following morning and wished him to forgo proceedings, as they, and not the masters, would have to pay the fines. Fined £2 each and costs in thee cases, and to pay the costs in the other three.

Blackburn Standard 1 Sept 1858

A Machine to Save Human Lives in Mills

A machine has been invented by Messes S. and D. Taylor, watchmakers, of Rochdale, to prevent accidents and the loss of life by straps in mills. This machine answers the purpose which factory inspectors intended to accomplish by rectangular hooks. A strap in motion may be taken off a revolving drum of pully without being touched, or it may be pulled off in the same way, and the patent catches it as it falls from the drum or pully, and holds it in such a way that it is impossible for the straps to lap round the shaft. Mr Charles Patrick, sub-inspector of factories, has seen it, and thinks it is just the instrument that has long been wanted to protect human life.

Burnley Advertiser 26 March 1859

Haslingden

On Saturday last, at the petty sessions, Mr Charles Patrick, sub-inspector of factories, preferred an information against the Rossendale Industrial Association, for having, on the 24th February last, employed a young person named Mary Lonsdale, without registering her name and without medical certificate. A similar charge was preferred with respect to a young person named Elizabeth Mitchell. Mary Lonsdale had been employed about three months, and the latter about six weeks. Mr David Bolton, book-keeper, appeared on behalf of the association, and stated that the infringement of the act arose from his own ignorance of the law. Mr Patrick expressed his opinion that it was an act of carelessness,, and was not done fraudulently. With respect to Mary Lonsdale, a penalty of £2 and costs on each charge was inflicted; and costs only with respect to Elizabeth Mitchell. The penalties and costs amounted to £6 5s. 6d.

Burnley Gazette 6 July 1864

Breaches of the Factory Act

Mr James Lord, manufacturer, Hollin, near Newchurch, was charged by Charles Patrick Esq, sub-inspector of factories, with employing Mary Ann Farley and 12 others during meal time. Complainant stated that he visited defendant's mill on the 3rd inst. And all appeared to be at work. Half past twelve was the time appointed for dinner, but it was ten minutes after that time. Defendant admitted the offence, and said they were only running the looms that day. Fined £3 and costs in two cases and ordered to pay costs in the others.