

0. EFFORTS TO PROTECT CHILDREN - Story Preface

1. CHILD LABOR OVERVIEW

2. EFFORTS TO PROTECT CHILDREN

3. LOBBYING FOR CHILDREN

4. CHILDREN IN THE FIELDS

5. IN THE CANNERIES

6. IN THE MINES

7. IN THE MILLS

8. REGULATED CHILD LABOR

When data from the U.S. census of 1900 revealed the extent of working children in America, people concerned about their welfare began to agitate for social reform.

- Congress, actively trying to protect children by 1907, incorporated the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC).
- Lewis Wickes Hine (who was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin in 1874 and later died in poverty) quit his teaching job in New York City so he could photograph the plight of working children of working children and the poor. His photographs shocked the nation.
- In 1909, the Bureau of Labor Statistics issued a landmark, 19-volume study about women and children in the work force. It revealed that more children were employed in the South (especially in cotton mills) than in New England. In some cases, children's wages were needed to avoid family hardships, but such was not always true.
- By 1913, all but nine states required children to be at least 14 before they could work in factories.
- In 1916, Congress passed its first child labor law (the Keating-Owen Bill) which prevented certain goods made by children from being sold outside the state in which they were made. The U.S. Supreme Court found the law unconstitutional, however, because it overstepped the federal government's power to regulate interstate commerce.
- Undaunted, Congress tried again - and failed again - to regulate child labor. Reviewing the second law in 1918, the Supreme Court (in Hammer v Dagenhart) held: "The power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce does not extend to curbing the power of the states to regulate local trade."
- In 1924, Congress tried a different approach and proposed a Constitutional Amendment which would have allowed the federal government to regulate child labor. That amendment was not ratified by the states.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/EFFORTS-TO-PROTECT-CHILDREN-Child-Labor>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

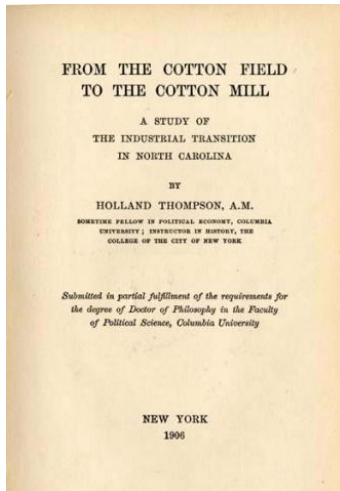
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/EFFORTS-TO-PROTECT-CHILDREN-Child-Labor>



Lewis Wickes Hine

Photo courtesy of the elangelcaido.org website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lewis-Wickes-Hine>

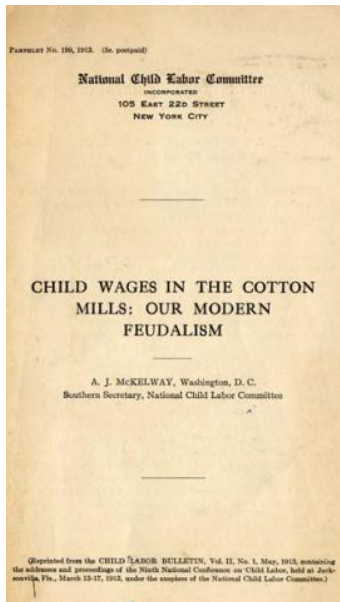


From the Cotton Field to the Cotton Mill

Photo courtesy of the University of North Carolina.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/From-the-Cotton-Field-to-the-Cotton-Mill>



Child Wages in the Cotton Mills: Our Modern Feudalism

Photo courtesy of the University of North Carolina.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Child-Wages-in-the-Cotton-Mills-Our-Modern-Feudalism>