

fatal cases, accidents by falls of persons from trees and heights provide the maximum of 250.4 per thousand of all fatal cases, the next highest figure being reached for accidents due to vehicles drawn by animals (165.5). As regards cases of permanent incapacity, accidents due to dust, nails, and splinters account for 333.9 per 1,000 of all permanent cases, and a very high proportion is found for accidents caused by falls from trees, etc. (195.7). The greatest number of temporarily disabling accidents is due to tools for cutting (183.7), while high figures are again found for dust, nails, and splinters (158.7) and falls of persons on the ground (157.7).

As regards the distribution by consequences of all accidents due to each cause, conclusions may to some extent be drawn from these figures as to the degree of danger of each cause : among 1,000 accidents due to transport by mechanical power, for instance, no less than 205.9 cases are fatal, as against an average for all causes of 26.1. Fatal cases are of great importance also among accidents due to dangerous substances (92.9), transport by vehicles drawn by animals (66.5), falls of persons from trees, etc. (61.1), and falls of objects (60.0). On the other hand, certain kinds of risk are almost entirely represented by cases of temporary incapacity, such, for instance, as accidents due to handling tools for harvesting (998.8), to vehicles moved by hand (995.7), to tools for cutting (965.5), etc.

These measures, however, are but a very imperfect substitute for frequency and severity rates.

Labour Conditions in Wusih, Kiangsu¹

Wusih, a *hsien* district lying to the north-west of Soochow along the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, Kiangsu Province, has rapidly become an important Chinese industrial centre since the introduction of modern manufacturing methods. A study of its labour conditions is therefore a reflection of modern economic and social conditions in China.

Labour in Wusih may be generally divided into two classes, the skilled and the unskilled. A detailed description of these two is given below.

SKILLED LABOUR

Spinning and Weaving Workers. Most of the skilled workers in the city belong to this class, which numbers about 15,780 ; 20 per cent.

¹ Adapted from a report in *The Chinese Economic Bulletin*, Vol. XIV, No. 24, 15 June 1925 ; compiled and published by the Bureau of Industrial and Commercial Information in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Labour of the National Government of the Republic of China.

of these workers belong to the city and 50 per cent. are from the suburbs, the remaining 30 per cent. being immigrants from other cities. The native workers usually come from very poor families, and only 5 per cent. of them are comparatively better off. Quite a number of workers are from the suburbs in the eastern and northern sections of the city. During the busy silk-worm breeding seasons they have therefore to quit factory work and return home to attend to the cocoon crop. As regards immigration from other cities, the natives of Shanghai, Changshu, Kiangying, Ihing, Liyang, and other regions north of the Yangtze River in Kiangsu Province seem to assume an increasingly dominant position.

Although the male workers employed by the weaving and spinning mills in Wusih represent only one-fourth of the employed, there is a growing tendency to replace male workers by females, leaving to males only those jobs that entail physical exertion. A day's work consists of 24 hours, divided into two shifts of 12 hours each. The day shift is from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the night shift from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. The days set for interchange of workers are the 1st, 8th, 15th and 23rd of every month, and work is suspended on these days. Wages are usually paid at piece rates; they vary according to the nature of the work done. The following are detailed statistics regarding daily wages paid by the various departments of the spinning and weaving factories in Wusih.

Department	Sex	Average age	Maximum wage	Minimum wage	Average wage
			\$	\$	\$
Ginning	Female	30	0.35	0.20	0.22
Mixing	Male	26	0.47	0.35	0.43
Scutching	Male	26	0.59	0.40	0.51
Carding	Male	25	0.52	0.42	0.46
Drawing	Female	28	0.42	0.20	0.32
Slubbing	Female	26	0.65	0.42	0.38
Spinning	Female	18	0.52	0.32	0.35
Reeling	Female	23	0.39	0.22	0.29
Yarn packing	Male	24	1.00	0.40	0.52
Quilling	Female	16	0.55	0.30	0.28
Spooling	Female	16	0.40	0.23	0.28
Warping	Female	25	1.00	0.50	0.75
Sizing	Male	27	0.80	0.40	0.43
Reed drawing in	Female	24	0.50	0.30	0.38
Weaving	Female	26	1.00	0.40	0.41
Converting	Female				
	and Male	26	0.60	0.30	0.40
Cloth packing	Male	24	1.00	0.40	0.52
Safety testing	Male	25	1.00	0.36	0.50

Silk Reelers. Thirty-six silk filatures equipped with 9,880 reels are operating in Wusih. The total number of hands employed is 26,246, 90 per cent. of whom are females. The working hours are 12 a day, from 5.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., with a break of one hour for a meal. The

following is a daily wage scale as adopted by the various departments of the filatures :

Department	Sex	Maximum wage	Minimum wage	Average wage
		\$	\$	\$
Cocoon cleaning	Female	0.38	0.17	0.32
Silk reeling	Female	0.57	0.37	0.48
Silk steeping	Female	0.34	0.17	0.20
Cleaning and packing	(juvenile) Female	0.62	0.37	0.50

Flour-Mill Workers. There are only four flour mills now in operation in Wusih. The total number of workers employed in these mills is 560, and two-thirds of them are employed only in time of emergency. The foremen are provided with free board, while the workers are given only lodging in the factory dormitories upon payment of a rent of \$2 per month. The wage for workers in the flour storage rooms ranges from \$12 to \$20 per month ; for workers in the machine repairing department it is from \$12 to \$30 ; for workers in the packing department, from \$11 to \$13 ; and for workers in the delivery department, from \$11 to \$13.

Hosiery Workers. Over 30 hosiery factories employing over 3,000 hands are now operating in Wusih. As human labour constitutes such an important factor in the operation of machines, most of the workers work at home with machines provided by the factories. The wages are paid on a basis of piece rates. A worker's daily output may amount to 1½ dozen, and he is paid at the rate of \$0.30 per dozen. There is no fixed work schedule in these factories, but it is usual to work 10 to 13 hours a day.

Electric Plant Workers. The total number of electric plant workers in the city is 116, all of them males. Their wages vary from \$20 to \$66 per month. Their working hours are not fixed. On busy days, they may work even from 17 to 18 hours a day ; but sometimes they wander about the whole day long without doing any work.

Telephone Company Employees. Except those engaged in pole erecting and repairing works, the operators employed are all females. Their number totals over 30, and their wages vary from \$3 to \$30 per month. Although they work 8 hours a day, yet they are in duty bound to observe the regulations of the company.

Oil Extractors. The total number of oil extractors in the city is 567. Their wages, which vary from \$0.35 to \$0.55 a day, are paid on a piece rate basis. Some experienced workers can get twice as much as is given to an inexperienced man.

Rice Grinders. The total number of workers employed by the

20 rice mills in Wusih is over 2,000. Their working hours are 12 a day and their wages vary from \$0.35 to \$0.80 a day.

Foundry Workers. A total of 571 foundry workers has been registered in Wusih. Their wages vary from \$12 to \$45 per month and their working hours are 12 a day.

Tailors. Tailorcraft in Wusih is generally of two kinds : foreign style and native style tailoring. The total number of workers employed is about 8,000. The shop workers receive from \$3 to \$7 a month, with board provided by the management. After the Mid-Autumn Festival, there is a general increase in wages, owing to the fact that the work is usually heavier from that time on. The tailors attached to private residences receive a wage of from \$0.35 to \$0.50 a day with board provided by the employers.

Barbers. Wusih has a total of over 2,000 barbers. They form several groups, namely : Yangchow, Chinkiang, Kouyung, Hupeh, Kiangsi and Wusih. The expenses as well as the profits of the shop are shared by the employer and the employees. They are jointly responsible for electricity and rent bills. As to profits, 60 per cent. is given to the employees, the remainder being for the employer. Their daily working hours are from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Bean Sauce Workers. The total number of bean sauce workers in Wusih is over 1,000. They work 14 hours a day, and their wages vary from \$3 to \$5 per month. They are entitled to a share of the profits in the form of a bonus at the end of each year.

Shoemakers. The total number of shoemakers in Wusih, including those engaged in making foreign-style shoes and those making Chinese-style shoes, is over 600. Their wages, which are paid on a piece rate basis, are about \$0.40 a day for males, and \$0.30 a day for females whose special job is to attach embroideries to the shoes.

Carpenters. There are about 10,000 carpenters in Wusih. Their working hours vary from 10 to 12 a day, and their wages from 40 coppers a day for country workers to \$1 for skilled furniture makers. The average wage paid in the city is \$0.72 a day.

Painters. There are about 1,000 painters in Wusih employed in over 300 shops. Their working hours are 12 a day, and their wages range from \$0.30 to \$0.80 a day.

UNSKILLED LABOUR

Public Ricksha Coolies. The total number of rickshas in Wusih is 1,770, and of ricksha coolies 3,000. There are two shifts to a working day, and their earnings vary from \$0.50 to \$1.20 a day.

Private Ricksha Coolies. The number of private ricksha coolies in Wusih is 380. Their living conditions are comparatively better since both board and lodging are provided by their employers. Their wages vary from \$6 to \$8 a month.

Chauffeurs. There are 20 buses and 2 private motor cars in Wusih. The chauffeurs work 12 hours a day, and their wages are over \$20 a month.

Sedan-Chair Carriers. Since the introduction of rickshas, sedan chairs have gradually disappeared from the streets of Wusih. The number of sedan-chair carriers left is not significant, for they are no longer dependent upon that as their sole profession; they are also engaged for wedding and funeral processions. Their working hours are indefinite, and they usually share their earnings with the employers.

Porters. There are several hundred porters around the railway stations and the wharfs of Wusih. They have no definite working hours and their maximum wage amounts to only \$0.30 a day.

Coal Pickers. About 1,000 women, all of them natives of the region north of the Yangtze River in Kiangsu Province, are engaged in the picking of small coal blocks from the coal sediment stored on the factory grounds. The coal blocks thus sorted out are sold to the small bakeries in the city. Although they have no definite working hours, yet sometimes they have to work for 14 hours a day, only to get a meagre wage of \$0.30 a day to keep body and soul together.

Unemployment Relief in Sweden from 1914 to 1924

A report on the activities of the Swedish State Unemployment Commission during the ten-year period 1914-1924 has recently been published under the title "The Swedish Community and Unemployment, 1914-1924".¹ The report runs to over 660 pages, containing some 35 illustrations, several diagrams, and numerous statistical tables. It is divided into five principal parts which discuss the various features of unemployment and the measures taken by the community to deal with it.

The unemployment policy in Sweden is based on two fundamental principles: (a) the responsibility for unemployment rests primarily with local authorities; (b) relief should as far as possible be organised so as to furnish an opportunity to the unemployed to earn their livelihood by work. Temporary deviations from these principles were recognised as inevitable at the beginning of the war, and during the deflation crisis when unemployment assumed very considerable proportions.

¹ SWEDEN. STATENS ARBETSLÖSHETSKOMMISSION: *Det Svenska Samhället och Arbetslösheten, 1914-1924*. Stockholm, 1929. 665 pp.