

## THE LABORING MAN'S HOME.

### United States Senators Picking Up Some Valuable Information.

From the New York Tribune.

The United States Senate committee on education and labor yesterday inspected some of the homes of laboring people in this city. The committee is to make a report on the relations between capital and labor and to recommend such remedial legislation as it may deem beneficial in improving the condition of the workingman, and also to adjust the differences between capital and labor. The committee started from the Fifth Avenue hotel about noon under charge of W. E. Frink, a Central office detective. The first place visited was a cheap lodging house at No. 205 Chatham street. At that place rooms are rented at twenty-five cents a night or \$1.50 a week. A room is about six feet long and five feet wide and contains a cot with a straw mattress, and a small closet in which to hang clothes. The partitions between the rooms only extend about half way to the ceiling, thus furnishing air and light from above. The "Progress House," first visited, contains 156 rooms, and it was cleanly in appearance and was viewed with interest by the Senators, who are in the habit of paying from \$5 to \$10 a day for their rooms. Board of health notices were posted on each floor stating the limit in number of persons allowed to occupy each floor.

The committee visited other houses of the same description, at some of which fifteen cents was charged for a room and ten cents for a bed—consisting of a cot—in a large room or loft filled with other beds. These houses all do a thriving business, being frequented by pedlers, laborers and workmen of various kinds.

When Detective Frink led the way into Mott street, and began to show the Chinese quarters, Senator George, of Mississippi, at once became much interested. He expressed surprise at seeing well-dressed and cueless Chinamen smoking cigars, and showing that they had fully adopted the habits and customs of this country, so far, at least, as appearances are concerned. The Senators entered a tea store, and "interviewed" the proprietor, desiring to learn whether or not the number of Chinese in the city is increasing. "Hard to tell," said the aged Chinaman, "they come and goe like the cars." The peculiarities of the Chinese method of counting were explained to the Senators. They next visited the Italian quarter in Baxter street. The swarms of idle men surprised the Senators. It was explained to them that many of the men were rag-pickers who worked at night, while others work at night on street-cleaning, etc. It was remarked, however, that the Chinese houses were much cleaner in appearance than those of the Italians. Senator George made some inquiries of a healthy-looking Italian woman as to her family. She said that she had eleven children, and the oldest was fifteen years of age. Senator Blair, of New Hampshire, made various inquiries of small tradesmen as to the prices they charged for meat and groceries and directed the committee's stenographer to take down a considerable amount of information in regard to the methods of life of the workingmen and the cost of living.

"I am surprised," remarked Senator George, "to find so little sickness among these people. I do not see how children can grow up healthy confined in narrow rooms and with no place to go for air or play except to the crowded street pavements. The streets look clean, though, and I think a good deal of credit must be due to the health and street cleaning departments." The committee inspected a primary school in the Sixth ward, and expressed admiration for the facilities offered for educating the poor. Senator Blair learned from the janitor that the brightest pupils in the school were Hebrews, and that among the 600 pupils were Italians, Germans, Poles, and three negroes. When told that there were thousands of children in the city who had been unable to gain admission to the public schools for lack of room, the committee expressed astonishment that a wealthy city like New York should permit such a state of things.

"How much does the city expend for police protection and for the maintenance of its criminal courts, jails and asylums?" asked a member of the committee.

"About \$6,500,000," was the reply.

"And how much for its schools?"

"Nearly \$4,000,000."

"Well, that is a good deal of money," remarked Senator Blair, "but I should think it would be cheaper to put every child in a public school than to allow them to grow up in ignorance, and then to be compelled to spend so much money for police protection and for jails and asylums."