



Laundry Work in Religious Institutions— Powers of Inspection

HC Deb 16 March 1905 vol 143 cc192-3 192
§ MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.)

I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is any official list of establishments belonging to various religious societies where laundry work is carried on; and whether the Government propose to introduce legislation to make such laundries subject to the ordinary law.

§ *MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS

Yes, Sir, there is such a list. It was prepared after the passing of the Factory Act of 1901, in fulfilment of the promise made by my predecessor at the time. I do not contemplate introducing legislation such as the hon. Member suggests. I may add that about half these laundries have consented to be inspected, and are, at the present time, regularly inspected by His Majesty's Inspectors of Factories and Workshops. † See (4) Debates, cii., 28.

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§ MR. T. L. CORBETT

Including those belonging to the Roman Catholic Church?

§ *MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS

Certainly; that is the whole point.

§ MR. T. L. CORBETT

No, it is not the whole point.

§ MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.)

Will the right hon. Gentleman give a list of the institutions inspected?

§ *MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS

I do not think there will be any objection to that; but if the hon. Member will put down a Question I will consider it.

§ MR. T. L. CORBETT

Also of those that refuse to allow inspection?

§ MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny)

Is it not a fact that when proposals were before the House for inspecting these institutions, many Protestant institutions objected to inspection on the same ground as Catholics did?

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