

[Botsford]

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I find from my notes that I neglected to [mention?] in my previous report Arthur Botsford's unique method of jogging his memory. Mr. Botsford has preserved a "time book" 70 or more years old, which he said he snatched from a load of ancient records which were being consigned to the fire by a company janitor.

This journal was a day book, used in lieu of other timekeeping methods by the concern. In it, each employe entered his name and the time spent at his work at the end of each day, subject, of course to the approval of the foreman. Mr. Botsford's first day of service with the company was recorded and he was able, by looking at the entries and significant gaps, to trace events in the lives of fellow employees."

"Look here," he said, pointing to a name— "That shows me the exact date McLaughlin's boy died of typhoid fever. You see, he worked up till Wednesday—the rest of the days are blank after his name. Here's the last day we were permitted to work 11 hours. Then the new law went into effect. And here is the daisy of them all."

He pointed to a blank sheet, dated some time in April, 1873. "All gone—young and old," it read in faded ink. "That meant that P.T. Barnum was playing in Waterbury," said Mr. Botsford.

I believe Mr. Albecker's description of ear timing adequately covers the subject. I regret that you gained the impression that "ear-timers all drink," for many do not. there are none employed at Seth Thomas now, but there are several living here who work at Ingraham's and all are sober, reliable men. There have been instances of hard drinking among ear timers, I gather from conversations with the older men, and this led to the belief that there was something about the work which led to addiction to liquor. It is, as Mr. Albecker said,

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highly nervous work, and the tension which accompanies it may lead some of the workers to seek relief—a temporary letdown—in an alcoholic spree after their working hours.