FOUR WORST JOBS OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

BY JULIANNA

LEECH COLLECTOR

It is my belief that being a leech collector is one of the worse jobs in the industrial revolution. This is because they work long hours in murky swamps and similar places for low pay.

Their job operates by attracting leeches by using their legs as bait, this means that you are in constant pain. Most did not even remove the leeches until the twenty minute mark since it was easiest to remove them after a significant time.

As well, there is a consistent risk of contracting viruses from the leeches. The working months had to be the hottest due to the leeches' fondness of the sun. This meant that brutal temperatures were the norm. On example of where this job could be found in England was London's lake district. This all being said, like many

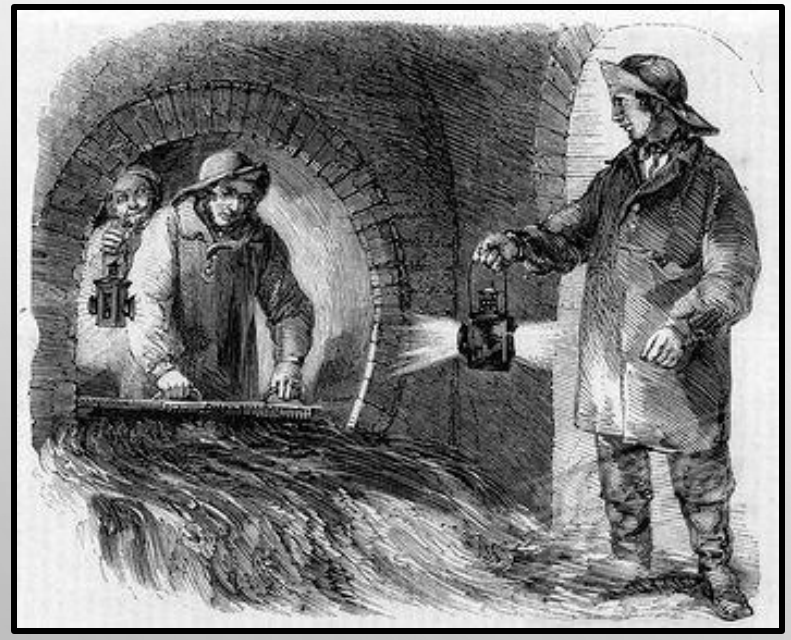
THE LEGGER

In the time before automated boats, but after the invention of the canal, there was the need for a new job. The legger would lay back to back with his partner on top of a plank that was settled on the rim of a boat. The team of two had to push the boat a long with their legs, using the wall as a floor,

This is even worse than it sounds, since a single boat would take roughly three hours to push through the canal, and their legs would start burning with pain after five minutes. Sometimes the walls weren't lined with bricks, meaning that a foot could easily get caught and crushed by the boat before anything could be done.

To make things harder, those same walls would be unbelievably slippery. It's worth being stated that the rudimentary boat-design meant that any water leaking onto the boat would almost always end in the vessel sinking. In other words, if either legger made a single mistake, it would end in devastation. However professional leggers would only be hired for the longer tunnels. Imagine doing all of this for no wage at all, like the

THE TOSHER



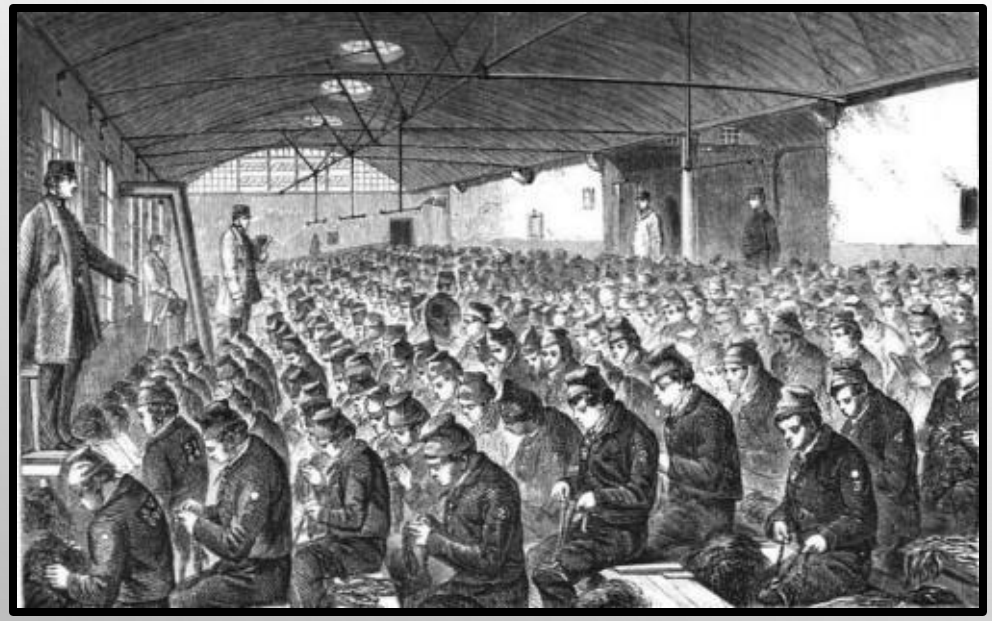
Toshers had a unusual job, in that they were self-employed. The scavengers of the sewers, these guys risked life and limb to gather up some sellable loot.

Any of the threats that could occur were both unpredictable, and to some extent, unavoidable. Everything from vicious rats to toxic air counted as possibilities of what the toshers would face. For what?

Perhaps they would be lucky and find some silver cutlery, or more likely, all that they would encounter would be mud pits that one will find themselves quickly slipping deeper into. Partly because of all these threats, they would work in groups of around four.

These scavengers—who nicknamed themselves shoremen—would start working at dawn. When this practice became illegal in later years, this occupation turned nocturnal.

OAKUM PICKING



Like many jobs in the workhouse, picking oakum was a terrible thing to do. You see, oakum is the material that ropes are made of. When those ropes wear down, someone has to unravel the fibers that make up the rope. This work fell onto the poor of Britain.

The further you went, the smaller the pieces of oakum would get. Meaning that at the beginning, it doesn't seem that bad, but as you progress, the thread will leave cuts that bleed for hours. Infections were common because of the mixture of dirty rope and open wounds. While nerve damage occurred from your hands staying in the same position for hours.

Your profit? Picking one and a half pounds of oakum a day would equal around two pennies.

CITATIONS PART 1

- ADMIN, M. "PRISONERS, POVERTY AND PICKING OAKUM." *ROVING CRAFTERS*, 1 FEB. 2016, ROVINGCRAFTERS.COM/2016/02/01/PRISONERS-POVERTY-AND-PICKING-OAKUM/.
- BORG, DAVID. "THREE WOMEN COLLECTING LEECHES." *THE WORST JOBS OF THE VICTORIAN ERA*, 2014, WWW.BA-BAMAIL.COM/CONTENT.ASPX?EMAILID=27820.
- "A BOX OF DYNAMITE." *ATF UPS THE POUNDAGE OF DYNAMITE STOLEN FROM CENTRAL PA. CONSTRUCTION SITE*, 18 APR. 2018, WWW.LIVESCIENCE.COM/59000-INTERESTING-FACTS-ABOUT-DYNAMITE.HTML.
- DASH, MIKE. "MEN SEARCHING THROUGH SEWERS." *QUITE LIKELY THE WORSE JOB EVER*, 29 JUNE 2012, WWW.SMITHSONIANMAG.COM/HISTORY/QUITE-LIKELY-THE-WORST-JOB-EVER-319843/.
- THE EDITORS OF ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA. "WORKHOUSE." *ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA*, ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA, INC., 15 MAY 2013, WWW.BRITANNICA.COM/TOPIC/WORKHOUSE.
- GERI WALTON. "LONDON SEWER HUNTERS IN THE 1800S." *GERI WALTON*, 18 MAY 2019, WWW.GERIWALTON.COM/LONDON-SEWER-HUNTERS/.

CITATIONS PART 2

- GHOSE, TIA. "A STICK OF DYNAMITE READY TO EXPLODE." *HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DYNAMITE: INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL*, 7 MAY 2017, WWW.LIVESCIENCE.COM/59000-INTERESTING-FACTS-ABOUT-DYNAMITE.HTML.
- HISTORY, SIMPLE. *LEECH COLLECTOR (WORSE JOBS IN HISTORY)*. *YOUTUBE*, 15 MAY 2018, YOUTU.BE/ERCP_AHG9SK.
- HUGHES, BRENDAN, DIRECTOR. *03- BRIDGE BUILDER AND LEGGER*. *YOUTUBE*, DAVID WILLCOCK, 7 MAY 2006, YOUTU.BE/IUV5ZR7FTDA.
- "INDUSTRIAL EXPLOSIVES APPLICATIONS." *INDUSTRIAL EXPLOSIVES APPLICATIONS*, INSTITUTE OF MAKERS OF EXPLOSIVES , 2014, WWW.IME.ORG/CONTENT/INDUSTRIAL_EXPLOSIVES_APPLICATIONS.
- JENN. "PRISONERS, POVERTY AND PICKING OAKUM." *ROVING CRAFTERS*, 1 FEB. 2016, ROVINGCRAFTERS.COM/2016/02/01/PRISONERS-POVERTY-AND-PICKING-OAKUM/.
- KINIRY, LAURA. "HOW TO GET A BOAT THROUGH A TINY TUNNEL, 19TH-CENTURY STYLE." *ATLAS OBSCURA*, ATLAS OBSCURA, 17 MAY 2019, WWW.ATLASOBSCURA.COM/ARTICLES/NARROWBOAT-LEGGING.
- KINIRY, LAURA. "TWO GUYS LEGGING A BOAT THROUGH A CANAL." *HOW TO GET A BOAT THROUGH A TINY TUNNEL, 19TH-CENTURY STYLE*, 30 APR. 2019, WWW.ATLASOBSCURA.COM/ARTICLES/NARROWBOAT-LEGGING.
- "A LOT OF PEOPLE PICKING OAKUM." *HISTORY HOUSE*, 2017, HISTORYHOUSE.CO.UK/ARTICLES/JUNK_AND_OAKUM.HTML.
- SCHEONG. "A BLAST FROM THE PAST: THE CREATION OF DYNAMITE." *THROUGHOUT HISTORY*, 21 MAR. 2011, WWW.THROUGHOUTHISTORY.COM/?P=1222.

THANKS FOR LISTENING

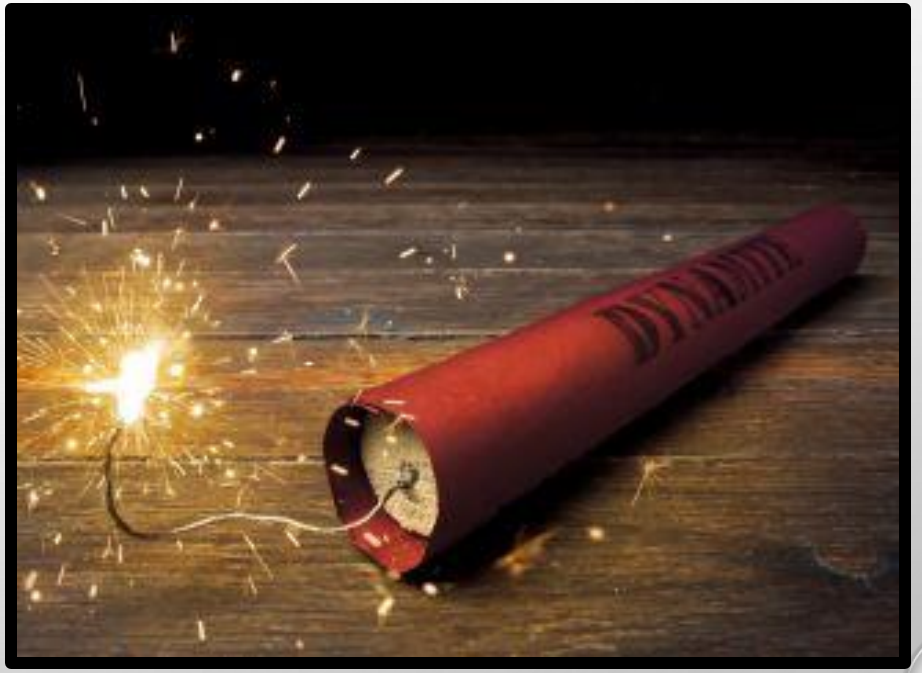
THE INNOVATION OF DYNAMITE

BY JULIANNA

THE PURPOSE OF DYNAMITE

Dynamite was created with the purpose of being a mining explosive that was both reliable and safe for transport. It was invented by Alfred Nobel in 1867. He was a chemist who wanted to create a safer alternative to nitroglycerine.

Dynamite was used to easily gain access to the deeper levels of earth. This meant that ores like iron and fuel sources like coal could be found at an incredibly improved pace. Materials that were used in buildings such as limestone could also be more readily available.



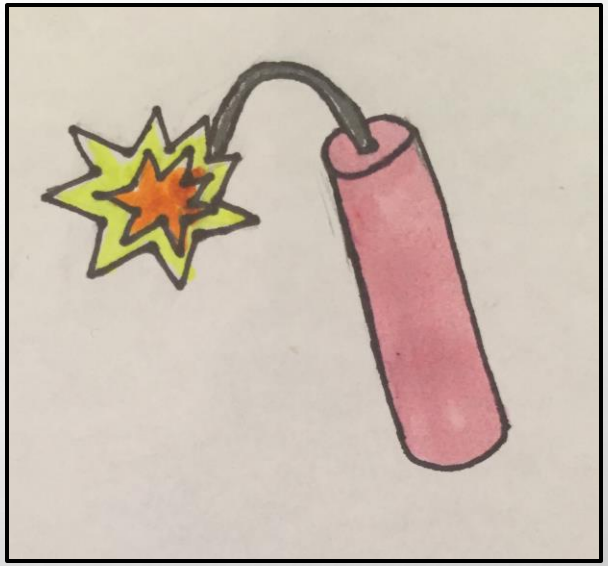
A PROBLEM THAT DYNAMITE FACED AND ITS SOLUTION

One of the problems that dynamite had was that although it was more reliable than the pure force of nitroglycerine, it was still risky for operations that required long and bumpy transports. The main example of this was in military use.

The solution that was implemented to fix this problem was substituting some of the more dangerous and reactive chemicals in dynamite with alternatives. This meant that this version of dynamite—named “military dynamite”—has less explosive force than the original design, but is much safer and practical for the rougher journeys that soldiers must take.

THE FUTURE OF DYNAMITE

In 50 years, I believe that the physical appearance of dynamite would not change. It is currently a simple design that I do not see time changing. However, I believe that the chemical make up of dynamite will be altered. In the future, the different chemicals made to use dynamite would mean that it is more stable while having increased explosive power. There would not be much difference in what its purpose is, dynamite will just do the job more efficiently.



THAT'S IT!

(CITATIONS ARE IN THE FIRST PART)