United States Senator's Picking Up Some Easterly Material.

From the New York Tribune.

The United States Senate committee on education and labor yesterday inspected some of the housing of laboring people in this city. The committee is trying to determine the conditions of life in the smaller cities, and to get the conditions in the capital of the country. The committee was in the Fifth Avenue hotel about noon under charge of Senator W. E. Pink, a Central Bible detective. The front room is a cheap lodging house at No. 206 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 square and contains a cot with a straw mattress, and a small chest in which to hang clothes.

The partitions between the rooms extend about half way to the ceiling, thus furnishing air and light from above. The Progress House," first visited, contained 150 rooms, and it was cleanly in appearance and was viewed with interest by the senators, who are in the habit of paying for $6 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 door.

The committee visited other houses of the same description, at some of which sixteen cents was charged for a room and ten cents for a bed—consisting of a cot—in a larger room or bed filled with straw. These houses all do a thriving business, being frequented by peddlers, laborers and working men of various kinds.

When Detective Pink led the way into Mott street and began his visit to the quarters, Senator George, of Mississippi, at once became much interested in the surprise at seeing well-dressed and clean children wearing clothes that they had fully adopted the habits and customs of the country, so far as at least, as appearances are concerned. The committee entered a tea room, and "interviewed" the proprietor, desiring to know if for the number of children in the city is increasing.

"Hard to say," said the man, Chinaman, "they come and go like the cat.

The peculiarities of the Chinese method of counting of children were explained to Senator. They next visited the Italian sitaruita, in Baxter street, and a crowd of idle men surprised the Senators. It was explained to them that they had been made a rag-picker who worked at night, while others work or will catch a fish. There was an organization, etc. It was remarked, however, that the Chinese houses were more expensive than those of the Italians. Senator George made some inquiries of a healthy-looking Italian woman as to the number of children. She said that she had twelve children, and the oldest was seven years old. Senator Blair, of New Hampshire, made various inquiries of small children about the prices charged for meals and groceries and directed the committee to take a considerable amount of information in regard to the methods of life of the workingmen and women.

"I am surprised," remarked Senator George, "I did not find so little among these people. I do not see how children can grow up healthy in some of these rooms and with no place to go for air or play except to the crowded streets.

The streets look clean, though, and I think a good deal of credit must be due to the benevolent and street cleaning departments. The committee inspected a primary school in the city. The Superintendent said that the facilities offered for education were greatly increased. The committee learned from the janitor that the brightest pupils in the school were usually among the 800 pupils were Italian, German, and other races, and that told that there were thousands of children in the city who had been unable to gain admission to the public schools. In the front room, the committee expressed astonishment that a wealthy city like this should trust such a statement.

"How much does the city spend for police protection and for the maintenance of criminal courts on the average?" asked a member of the committee.

"About $10,000,000," was the reply.

"And how much for its schools in the same year?"

"No city $1,000,000."

"Well, that is a good deal of money," remarked Senator Blair, but I think we should be cheaper to put in a public school tuition to allow them to grow up in appearance, and then turn them out to spend so much money for police protection and for jails and asylums."