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Our company, Bell's Canned Delight, would have faced many obstacles if it had been created in today's society. Since the Industrial Revolution, many laws have been created that impact how a business is ran, such as child labor laws, environmental laws, and minimum wage laws. We would have to adjust how much we paid our workers, at what age we hired children, and many other parts of our business to abide by the law in today's time.

During the Industrial Revolution, there were no laws about how much to pay workers. Minimum wage did not begin until 1938 (Kurtz & Yellin). Considering this, we had complete control over how much our workers were paid. We could save money by paying children substantially less than the average adult. We could also have children work for long periods of time(12-19 hours) and not have it be an issue (Amack). During this time period, we could essentially take advantage of children and mistreat them because of their youth. We could pay them very little, allow them to work in harsh environments, and work grueling hours. In addition, they could get hurt on the job and receive no medical compensation (Amack). Our factory would not have to worry much about the safety of our employees because they could get hurt and we wouldn't have to pay for their medical bills. In reality, our work environment wouldn't be for the benefit of our employees, only to produce our product.

If our factory ran during today's time, we would have to make substantial changes. First, we would have to pay our workers minimum wage, which is currently \$7.25 per hour (Doyle). This would prohibit us from saving money by paying our workers very little and using the money for other, more important purposes. We would also not be able to hire children under the age of 14, and therefore would have a much smaller workforce.

In relation to not being able to employ young children, we could not allow the 14 and 15 year olds we employ to work more than three hours a day and 18 hours a week during the school

year (“Everything Teens Need to Know about the Legal Age to Work | Snagajob”). This too would not be beneficial for our factory in that we couldn’t have children working around the clock because they would have to be in school. All of these changes would have to be made due to the creation of child labor laws during the 1900s (“A History of Child Labor”). Finally, we would have to provide medical compensation for our employees if they got hurt on the job. Workers compensation was enacted in the early 1900s in the United States to provide cash and medical benefits to workers injured on the job (Reno & Sengupta). This would cause us to create a safe work environment so that our workers wouldn’t be harmed and we wouldn’t lose money.

In conclusion, many laws have been passed since the Industrial Revolution that are better for workers, but not the most beneficial to companies. Our company would have to make great changes in who we hire, what we pay them, and how we deal with their injuries. We wouldn’t be able to abuse our power as much as we could during the Industrial Revolution, but our workers would be safer and get paid appropriately for the work they complete.

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