Another pamphlet McKelway prepared, titled "[Child Wages in the Cotton Mills: Our Modern Feudalism](http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/mckelway/mckelway.html)," was published in 1913. He discusses two related subjects: the effect of child wages on adult wages, and the power of the mill operator not only as an employer but also as a landlord, social director, and officer of the law. McKelway compiles numbers found by the Federal Bureau of Labor in 1908-09 and argues that children in cotton mills make essentially the same wages as adults. "Why is it that a thousand workers 21 years and over out of 3,700 earn less than $2 a week in the cotton mills?" he asks. "It is because a thousand children under 14 can earn just as much" (p. [5](http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/mckelway/mckelway.html#mckel5)). McKelway calls this situation a temptation to poverty-stricken parents and a scheme on the part of mill owners to keep wages depressed (p. 5). His greatest concern is that these children cannot attend school and "have been condemned for life, with few exceptions, to an unskilled trade, in which there is not hope for advancement" (p. [6](http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/mckelway/mckelway.html#mckel6)). The depression of wages, McKelway argues, allowed employers to become wealthy and independent enough to survive temporary shut-downs of their mills. The ability to remain "in masterly inactivity" frustrated any attempts to organize employees into labor unions (p. [7](http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/mckelway/mckelway.html#mckel7)). That the mills and mill towns were private property of the management allowed management to terminate leases at will and to prevent outside observers from entering the towns. McKelway is particularly concerned with the potential for social revolution if many American voters are former child workers "who have been deprived of all opportunity for an education, who have been held in feudalistic bondage," and "who have been embittered by the robbery of their childhood" (p. [11](http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/mckelway/mckelway.html#mckel11)). He pleads for the abolition of child labor and the incorporation of mill towns so that they can develop local self-government.