# 13.2.3 Fighting for Better Pay



## Paragraph 1-2

Factory workers were between 10 years old to elderly

They often worked 10-14 hour days, 6 days a week.

Many were **injured** or even **killed** on the job and received *no compensation*. **Often they were fired**.

Workers wanted safer conditions, better pay and shorter shifts, but realized they had little power on their own.

Labor Unions were groups of workers who joined forced to fight for better working conditions as a large group, giving them a more powerful voice.

#### Craftsmen

- Formed Craft Unions
- 2. Worked in small shops doing skilled work.

# **Factory Workers**

- Formed Labor Unions
- 2. Worked in factories

In 1836 there was a major economic crash (remember when Jackson destroyed the national bank)

Workers lost their jobs in massive numbers. Those who did not took massive pay/condition cuts.

Sarah G Bagley- fought for female factory workers rights.

She established the Lowell Female Labor Reform Association.

Bagley gave speeches and published stories in the newspaper of her experience.

**Bagley** became an enemy of factory owners and some politicians, but she continued her work.

The LFLRA, and Bagley, appealed to the government to make laws shortening work days. They would not.

Fortunately, after public opinion of the factories shifted (due to newspaper campaigns) the factories elected to make changes to better their image.

Bagleys work inspired other unions to strike

A strike is when workers refuse to work until demands are met.

20,000 shoe workers across 25 cities walked out of their jobs over wages.

Employers began meeting workers demands.