PART IV.
EIGHT PAGES.

New-York Tribune.

FINANCIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Readers will please note that Part V is within Part IV—this is to insure delivery of complete copies.

NEW-YORK DAILY TRIBUNE, SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1905.

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CHILD SLAVERY HERE AND NOW

CONDITIONS THAT ARE DISGRACEFUL TO OUR BOASTED CIVILIZATION.

The Four Great States of New-York, New-Jersey, Massachusetts and Connecticut Guilty of Cruelty Toward Little Citizens of the Future.

The children in many American homes are little more than slaves.

As the result of investigations in the four States of New-York, New-Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts it is found that thousands of boys and girls are being ruined mentally and physically by long hours of labor.

Each State presents a different phase of the evil.

In New-York child slavery is more prevalent than at any time in the history of the State. Those who have investigated conditions say that the fault lies chiefly with the man at the head of the State Labor Department. They say that the laws are good, but are not enforced.

According to the New-York Child Labor Committee, which wants John McMackin, the State Labor Commissioner, removed, his thirty-seven inspectors are laughed at. Their work is called a mere farce. Although they reported in one year 2,607 violations of the Child Labor law, only five employers were prosecuted and only four were convicted. In up-State canning factories agents of the committee discovered thousands of children at work who were under the legal age limit of fourteen. Children as young as three and four were found toiling for a few cents a day. Labor inspectors had visited these factories, but either they had taken so little pains to conceal their coming that the factory superintendents knew of it and sent all the children home, or they simply gave a cursory look at the little workers and passed on.

In New-York City the committee discovers cases nearly every day of children under the legal age of fourteen working in crowded factories. Many children have been found so stunted in mind and body that they are practically ruined for after life. It is shown also that a large proportion of these unfortunate children finally land in the prison or the asylum.

In New-Jersey the child laborer is in some communities regarded as a social outcast. The little worker is barred from the schools and shunned by other children.

Such evil conditions are especially to be found in the smaller manufacturing towns, which are to a great degree owned and almost wholly controlled by mill owners. Not only do these manufacturers pick the clerks and employes of their stores and factories, but also the teachers and ministers of the town. If they want the children to work in their shops, they see to it that the little ones do not get into the schools.

New-Jersey has just passed more stringent child labor laws, and it is hoped that a vigorous enforcement of them by a reorganized department will continue the improvement already apparent. Those who have investigated the glass and textile factories say many children under the age of fourteen labor in them, oftentimes supporting drunken and profligate parents.

In the glass factories the children oftentimes lead the lives of veritable slaves. Here they work day and night in the glare and heat of the furnaces. Children who will do such work are at a premium, and a father who is himself worthless can find "employment" if he can bring along two boys to work as "snappers." The "glass children" frequently are so tired that they are unable to go home at night, but drop down in some corner of the factory to sleep. They soon become wan and peaked and die young.

In Connecticut real child slavery exists on many farms. Here poverty stricken foreigners have settled and are trying to eke out an existence by cultivating rocky and so-called "worn out" lands. Oftentimes these aliens take farms that have been abandoned as worthless.

In these country districts a father frequently regards his children as he does his horses or cows. They are only good for what they can do. He makes them plant vegetables, cultivate them and harvest the crops. Whenever possible he keeps them away from school, or, if thwarted in this desire, he forces them to labor in the early morning or late evening hours.

This evil is on the increase, and no remedy for it has yet been found.

The child labor laws are less favorable to the girls than to the boys. Fourteen years constitutes the age limit for both sexes, in spite of the fact that girl laborers over that age show the withering effects of factory life far more than the boys. To cure this evil tendency there is a movement now on foot to raise the age limit for the employment of girls to sixteen years.

The chief violators of the factory laws relating to children are French Canadians and Russians, who perjure themselves to obtain labor certificates for their children. They will swear that their boys and girls are fourteen, although, in fact, they are ten and twelve, in order to obtain their paltry wages.

In Massachusetts there is to be a sweeping campaign of the whole State for the purpose of ending child slavery in the factories. The State police are said to be negligent. The investigation is to be conducted by the American Federation of Labor, which has already unearthed flagrant violations of the law in many manufacturing centres. In the city of Lowell they found that children under fourteen were employed in almost every mill. When the State police were informed of what had been discovered, and were asked to interfere, they only made excuses. They said the children were only taking to the mills their parents' meals, and they made this statement in spite of the fact that the little ones went to the factories at 5:30 in the morning.

The labor union officials in their war against the violators of the child labor laws will take photographs and secure such other evidence that they say the State police will be compelled to enforce the law.

The withering effects of child labor are shown in the hospitals and asylums of the State. In a consumptive home in Boston it was found that many had worked nearly all their lives in the mills. The mortality in mill towns is exceedingly high.

In the shoe towns and smaller cities recently hundreds of little Greek and Italian boys were discovered who had been imported by padrones. Many were half starved, and their bodies were bruised by frequent whippings.

IN THE COTTON MILLS

Many Children in Illegal Bondage in Massachusetts.

Boston, Jan. 7 (Special).—By far the most flagrant violations of the child labor laws in Massachusetts have been ferreted out by the officials of the State branch of the American Federation of Labor. In response to the appeals of delegates from the textile unions the officers were instructed to investigate thoroughly the conditions in Lowell, Lawrence, Fall River, New-Bedford and other places where it was charged the law was being violated because of the inefficiency of the State police.

A party of seven officers of the State branch, including Daniel Driscoll, secretary, and a photographer, went to Lowell last October to secure evidence to lay before the Governor and their own executive council. Getting up at 5 o'clock in the morning, they went out in a pouring rain to see for themselves and take snapshots of children going to work in the cotton mills. Nearly a dozen negatives were secured, all of children manifestly under school age going to the mills and some of them entering the gates. One was a little lad hardly up to his father's knee, as both tramped through the rain to the mill. Another was a little fellow almost buried in a coat too big for him. A brother and sister, too, whose dinner pail hung to their ankles, they were so small, were seen.

Plenty of evidence was secured, says Secretary Driscoll, that the law is being violated daily by nearly every mill in Lowell. Every man in the party was assigned to a different mill, and liberal allowance was made on the estimated ages of the children seen going into the mill yards. Even then they found a large number certainly under the legal age. Puny and sickly, stunted and half starved were most of them, shivering in the cold drizzle of early morning. Twelve to thirteen years was the undoubted age of those the federation men noted in their quest for evidence. Later this evidence was laid before the State police, but met with a chilly reception.

"Carrying meals to the parents," suggested the police.

"Hardly carrying meals to the mills at 5:30 o'clock

Continued on second page.

THE LAW UNENFORCED.

Grave Charges Against New-York State Official.

Never in the history of the State of New-York, according to those who have investigated the facts, have so many children been reduced to a condition of slavery as at the present time. The laws prohibiting child labor in this State are direct, concise and far more stringent than those of many other States, but the fault lies, so it is charged, with the man whose duty it is to execute them. Consequently the employers of children below the legal age do, except in rare instances, go unpunished. In the mean time the ranks of paupers are being increased by men and women whose minds have been so stunted and whose bodies so weakened by childhood serfdom that in the battle of life they soon become helpless. In the end they become burdens to the community and at last find their way into the prison or the asylum.

Robert Hunter, chairman of the New-York Child Labor Committee, has led the fight for the enforcement of the law, but he says this is impossible as long as John McMackin is State Labor Commissioner. As long as he remains in office Mr. Hunter says the evils of child slavery will only increase. The committee of which he is chairman has unearthed some pitiful cases.

In one up-State canning factory an agent of the committee discovered last fall three hundred children all working illegally. All were under fourteen years old, the limitation set by the law. Among them was one little tot who was little more than four years old, and who, in her baby lisp, said that her name was Elsie and that she had earned 19 cents in one afternoon. Working near her was Earl, who was still younger, and who, when asked his age, said he was "fee." The mother said:

"I am so sorry Will isn't here. He is seven, but he gets tired. I left him home sick. Earl's a good child. He breaks off ends when he feels like it; but Elsie is real good at it. She made 19 cents the other day jes' stringin'."

In another factory the agent talked with the foreman, and in his report to the society he describes what he learned by saying:

"The foreman spoke of the women and children as a fine lot. He told me that in such work the age did not make any difference. In answer to my question about the length of time the children worked he said: 'They stay as long as their mothers—from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. It is all the same. The little one of three there can't do much to count. She just plays about, holds the box for her mother and breaks about a basket or so a day. Eh! Ain't she sweet?'"

THE LAW A JOKE.

In the committee's investigations it was discovered that the visit of a factory inspector was treated as a joke. His coming was almost always known and the children were either allowed to go home before he arrived or they were shut up in some building, where the inspector was told not to enter, because it contained "secret processes." Oftentimes, however, no attempt at all was made to conceal the fact that children under fourteen years were employed. For some reason or other the inspector simply shut his eyes and went his way. In one factory a committee agent learned that the factory inspector when he saw the little children at work simply remarked, "They are deuced hard to count, ain't they?" He issued no orders, and the children said that he would not dare to do so.

"I asked the children of one factory," the agent said in the report of his visit there, "if the factory inspectors caused any trouble. One boy answered by saying:

"'Inspectors! I know what that means. One of them looked at everything in the engine room. Yes; we didn't work that day. We boys were sent home. Dassent have him see us. He might pinch something, but he dassent touch the youngsters in the beans. That ain't none of his biz'."

Almost all the children whom the committee's agents found violating the law were deplorably ignorant. An agent had a talk with one lad who was twelve years old.

"He had worked in the factory for three years," said the agent, "and had gone to school only two. He could scarcely write his name, was unable to read or to do simple sums in arithmetic. He would have been in the second reader if he had gone to school that year. He said he would not go till after the apple packing was over, for fear of getting his father into trouble, because then they would have his name, and if he played truant he would get his father into difficulty. This year only three boys out of ten of his playmates went back to school, and it was the same with the girls. His employment was very irregular. When at work he got two cents a box for shutting corn, and he shut about twenty boxes a day.

"'When I get older,' he said to me finally, with an evident show of pride, 'I'll get more money. The older boys get five cents an hour.'"

In canning factories such as are situated in Niagara and Erie counties, the hours of labor for children are irregular. The little laborers begin at 6 or 7 o'clock in the morning, and work right along with only half an hour at noon for a bite to eat, until 8, 9 and 10 o'clock at night. In the rush season the children's factories are not closed until 2 or 3 in the morning, and work is also done on Sunday. The season lasts throughout the summer and fall.

LITTLE WORKERS SACRIFICED.

Factories in the city stunt the child's mind and dwarf his body even more than those in the country. City workshops are not as roomy. They do not have so much air and light. The homes of the city children are in the most congested quarters, and there is no outdoors for them but the street. The temptations to which they are exposed are more numerous and more alluring. They are also more likely to form evil habits.

City children who are "feeders" or operators of machines are slaves to a life which more than any other deadens their emotions, "changing them from human beings into animated puppets," as one sociologist expresses it. For the "machine child" intemperance has an especial charm. Liquor or opium opens about the only escape from their incessant drudgery. Mr. Hunter, in his book entitled "Poverty," points out the alarming tendency of child laborers to become criminals, vagrants and paupers, and by way of illustration he says:

A vagrant whom I once knew had for five years—from the day he was eleven until the day he was sixteen—made two movements of his hands each second, or 23,760,000 mechanical movements each year, and was at the time I knew him, at the age of thirty-five, broken down, drunken and diseased; but he still remembered this period of slavery sufficiently well to tell me that he had "paid up" for all the sins he had ever committed "by those five years of hell."

Complaints are constantly coming to the office of the Child Labor Committee in this city of violations of the law here. Only the other day word was received that in a large factory in Twenty-fifth-st. which manufactures textiles there were eighty-five children at work who were under fourteen years. An agent was sent to investigate, and by waiting until the noon hour he saw little ones as young as nine and ten flock out with round shouldered women and gray haired men.

"For three years," Mr. Hunter says, "our committee has made an effort to co-operate with Mr. McMackin in order to get the law enforced. Having failed however, we at last feel it necessary to ask that he be not reappointed to his present position. Mr. McMackin once excused himself by saying that he could not prosecute violators in New-York City, because he had no properly equipped official. Accordingly one of Mr. Jerome's men was placed at his disposal. What was the result? This man was not even asked to prosecute a single case."

INSPECTION A FARCE.

The work of Mr. McMackin's thirty-eight inspectors is said to be a mere farce. Although they discovered in one year and reported that 2,607 violations of the Child Labor law, only five prosecutions were instituted in the whole State, and only four convictions secured. The fines of the year from all sources amounted to only $215. In most cases employers found transgressing the law were simply told "not to do it again." In only a comparatively few instances did the inspectors revisit such places to see if the promise was kept. "That factory laws can be enforced," says Mr. Hunter, "is shown by what Illinois has done. I have tables at hand I think will make this clear."

The tables which Mr. Hunter prepared are as follows:

	New-York. 1902.	Illinois. 1900.
Inspectors in the field	38	11
Total employes	774,796	432,692
Employes per inspector	23,892	39,335
Total convictions	9	676
Total convictions (children under sixteen without affidavits)	*4	632
Total amount fines	$215	$9,950

*2,607 violations.

(From report of Department of Labor.)	New-York, 1902.
Violations of the law	50,000
First inspections	27,051
Reinspections	1,563
Prosecutions (only nine convictions)	13

Could the present child labor laws be enforced, Mr. Hunter says, the material as well as the moral benefit to this community would be inestimable. The only evil phase of the problem remaining unsolved would be that of sweatshop work for children, and even this, he says, is already overcome to a great degree by the compulsory education statute. All children between the ages of eight and fourteen are now required by law to attend school between October 1 and the following June 1. If the parents keep the child at home they are liable to a fine, and if the local school authorities do not enforce the act the State may withhold one-half the school appropriation. Of the half million children attending New-York city public schools, it is estimated that 100,000 are compelled to work and bring in money for their parents, but nevertheless, even if they work at home they do not have the ceaseless drudgery of their parents' sweatshop life. The five hours of school offer a break in their tedium; and if because of their tired and most times unfed bodies they cannot learn as fast as the children who do not have to work, yet they have the opportunity to learn that their existence is not solely for the purposes of labor. They learn to play and to sing as well as to read and write. In many schools play centres have been established especially for the recreation of the sweatshop children.

REFORM FORESHADOWED.

As soon as the labor committee secures the appointment of a man who will enforce the child labor laws in the factories, it is to begin a movement for breaking up still further the child sweatshop system. This is outside the domain of the State Labor Commissioner, who has only to do with child labor in factories. The task, however, of lightening the toil of children at home, upon whose labor the family oftentimes is dependent for its very existence, will be a most difficult one, and the committee will not begin it until it has studied the question in all its phases.

Children between fourteen and fifteen can be employed in factories, stores, business and telegraph offices, restaurants, hotels and apartment houses, but only after they have procured certificates of their age from the local Board of Health. Until recently the law on this subject was so loose that parents by lying obtained certificates for children as young as ten and twelve. In an investigation made before the law was perfected the New-York child labor committee unearthed hundreds of cases where children were employed through the perjury of their parents. In speaking of some instances of such an avoidance of the law, Mr. Hunter said:

"A typical illustration, an instance of children getting labor certificates though under age, will give an idea of the hours, the wages and the conditions of work of these little laborers. Peter Bastro, for example, was regularly employed in a factory to sew buttons on cards. He was only thirteen years old and four feet in height and conspicuously undeveloped. He worked six days in the week, from 7:30 o'clock in the morning until 7 o'clock at night, with an intermission of half an hour at noon. In return for his sixty-six hours of work each week he received a wage of $2.50."

The new law, which was framed by the committee, has cut down child labor between the ages of fourteen and fifteen appreciably. In the first year of its operation, which ended last October, there was a decrease of 40 per cent in the number of child labor certificates issued. In order to get a certificate now, the parents must show that the child has attended school at least 130 days since its thirteenth birthday, must be able to meet certain educational requirements, and, besides, must "file a transcript of its passport or of its birth certificate, baptismal record certificate, or other religious record, as evidence of age." The uncorroborated word of the parent is no longer sufficient.

Newsboys under age come under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education. The minimum age for a boy is ten, and for a girl is sixteen years. Newsboys between the ages of ten and fourteen years must have permits and badges from the board. They must not work after 10 o'clock at night.

SLAVERY IN FIELDS.

Abuses in Connecticut Are Difficult to Correct.

Hartford, Conn., Jan. 7 (Special).—The children of Connecticut do not suffer most in the factory, but in the field. In the small town districts real child slavery is found. On farms long deserted and then occupied by poverty stricken aliens from the shores of Europe, boys and girls are made to toil incessantly, from long before sunrise until long into the evening hours. In many cases these children belong to American families that have allowed their farms to run down, and have become impoverished as the result of intemperance or sheer laziness.

In the eastern part of Connecticut such conditions particularly prevail. Here the farmer looks upon his children much the same as he does his horse or his dog. They are only good for what he can get out of them, and as early in their life as possible he puts them to work. Many of these farmers raise vegetables, and the children are employed in weeding onions, cultivating strawberries, and later on in harvesting the crop. In addition to this the regular farm work about the barns must be attended to, and it is no uncommon sight to see a little girl of ten or a dozen years milking cows at daybreak, and also after dark by the light of a lantern. This evil phase of child labor is on the increase, and thus far no satisfactory remedy for it has been found. While some of these children go to school a part of the winter, still they must work as hard, if not harder, than they would if employed in a factory or store. The child on the farm does his work after returning from school, and it is not easy work, by any means, eespecially in the winter.

In Westport last spring so many farmers compelled their children to stay home and work that they almost compelled the local public school to close from lack of pupils. In Westport and the neighboring country onions are raised in large quantities for the market, and early in the spring the vegetables are planted. Cultivation begins soon after the seed is in the ground, and it is necessary to weed the long beds incessantly. It is this work the farmers compel their children to do. Accordingly, at the beginning of the onion season last year nearly every onion raiser in Westport took his children from the public schools and put them in the onion beds. There, from early morning till late at night, these boys and girls, some of them not older than eight and ten, were to be seen crawling along on their hands and knees between the long rows of onions.

It looked for a time as if the school would be closed entirely, for the onion raisers happened to have considerable influence, and they reasoned that the children were theirs, and they had a right to their services if they pleased to keep them out of school. The town took sides in the controversy, with the result that after two or three weeks of bitter fighting the school authorities won, and the onion raisers employed Italians to weed their onions and sent their children back to school.

FOREIGNERS THE WORST.

The foreigners who settle on farms in Connecticut are the most relentless "child drivers," and it is no uncommon sight to see an Italian or Russian boy of ten following the plough or mowing grass, while his little sister of eight or nine is covering corn in an adjoining field with a monstrous hoe that is too heavy for any but a man.

The child labor laws of this State are less favorable to the girl than the boy. Although they prohibit the employment of children in factories and stores who are under fourteen years of age, they permit both boys and girls to go to work for long hours after reaching that age. Factory life, however, tells more severely upon the girls than the boys. Their work is so exacting that it makes them prematurely old. In any of the manufacturing cities of Connecticut, at 6 o'clock in the evening one may see hundreds of young girls with faces of thirty. In the opinion of many in Connecticut this employment of girls, especially in factories, before they are sixteen, has a tendency to lower the standard of womanhood among the working classes. The environment of the factory life is the same on the girl of fourteen as it is upon the girl of sixteen and the effect is not believed to be conducive to a higher standard of womanhood. While there is not likely to be a change of the child labor law to sixteen years this session of the legislature, it is almost certain that in a few years the age will be raised, for girls at least, making the age for boys fourteen and for girls sixteen.

There are three factors in Connecticut which make it difficult for children under fourteen to evade the law. They are public sentiment, organized labor and the State Board of Education. Throughout Connecticut the people will be found to be proud of their school system, though in some of the country districts there is still much room for improvement. There is a general feeling, however, that illiterate children are an extravagance which pulls heavily upon the purses of the taxpayers, for such children are not self-supporting after they grow to maturity, and the towns are obliged to provide for them. The motive of the labor union, which its leaders acknowledge is for self-preservation, is generally accepted as justifying the means. To the union child labor means, of course, the lowering of wages. With the constant introduction of machinery into fields of manual labor, children are more and more in demand, and the number employed is ever increasing.

In parts of the State where the factories are not unionized inspectors of factories have reported instances where the wife and children who are barely over fourteen years of age work to support the family, while the father, unable to obtain work, remains idle or performs the menial work at home. This reversal of the order of nature is one of the evils of the factory system. Children become old before their time, and also independent of parental control.

ONE MILL FINED.

A recent case of prosecution for the illegal use of child labor was in the Rossie Velvet mill, at Greenmanville, in the town of Stonington. The child was Lillian Weimer, who lived in Mystic with her parents. According to the reports that reached Henry O. Nichols, assistant factory inspector of Norwich, and W. A. Simmons, of Plainfield, the girl had been taken out of school by her parents and ordered to go to work in the Rossie Velvet mill. While she worked at the mill the little girl contributed all she earned to the support of her parents. The girl was taken from the mill and placed in school, while her father was brought before the Stonington court and fined $50. The Rossie Velvet Mill Company was also fined.

No one of the State's institutions takes as prominent a part in the enforcement of the child labor laws as the State Board of Education and its local boards. In the cities of the State there are truant officers, and, as the registration of children of school age is complete, the absentees are readily found and truant officers are detailed to look up the case. In the country districts there is not as strict observance of the law, but whenever a case is reported to the State Board of Education one of the State agents looks it up and there is usually no further trouble in that particular quarter. Charles D. Hine, secretary of the Connecticut State Board of Education, in speaking of child labor, said:

"Connecticut has a strong law against child labor, and there is little chance to evade it with the present surveillance of the Board of Education. The manufacturers enter into the spirit of the law, and we have their almost undivided support. The greatest trouble comes in those textile industries where the French-Canadian and Polish people are employed. They sometimes falsify the ages of their children in order that they may get labor certificates for them from the Board of Education. As many of these children are foreign born, there is no way of ascertaining from the records when they were born. There is no doubt but that there are children working in the textile industries in Connecticut who are under fourteen years of age, but who, by reason of their parents' false swearing, obtain certificates.

"We do not have a great deal of difficulty with the better class of farmers, but we are obliged to watch the foreigners who buy little farms in some thinly settled regions and, in order to keep expenses down to the minimum, put their little children to work."

CHILDREN KEPT IGNORANT.

A school teacher in Norwich said:

"My school is made up principally of children of foreign parentage, who will, if possible, evade the law. Recently many Russians have come into the vicinity. The children know scarcely a word of English. Consequently, when a child twelve years old comes to the United States he has a very limited education when he leaves school at fourteen years to enter a factory. A part of the first year has been spent in learning English, and all his recitations have necessarily been with primary children."

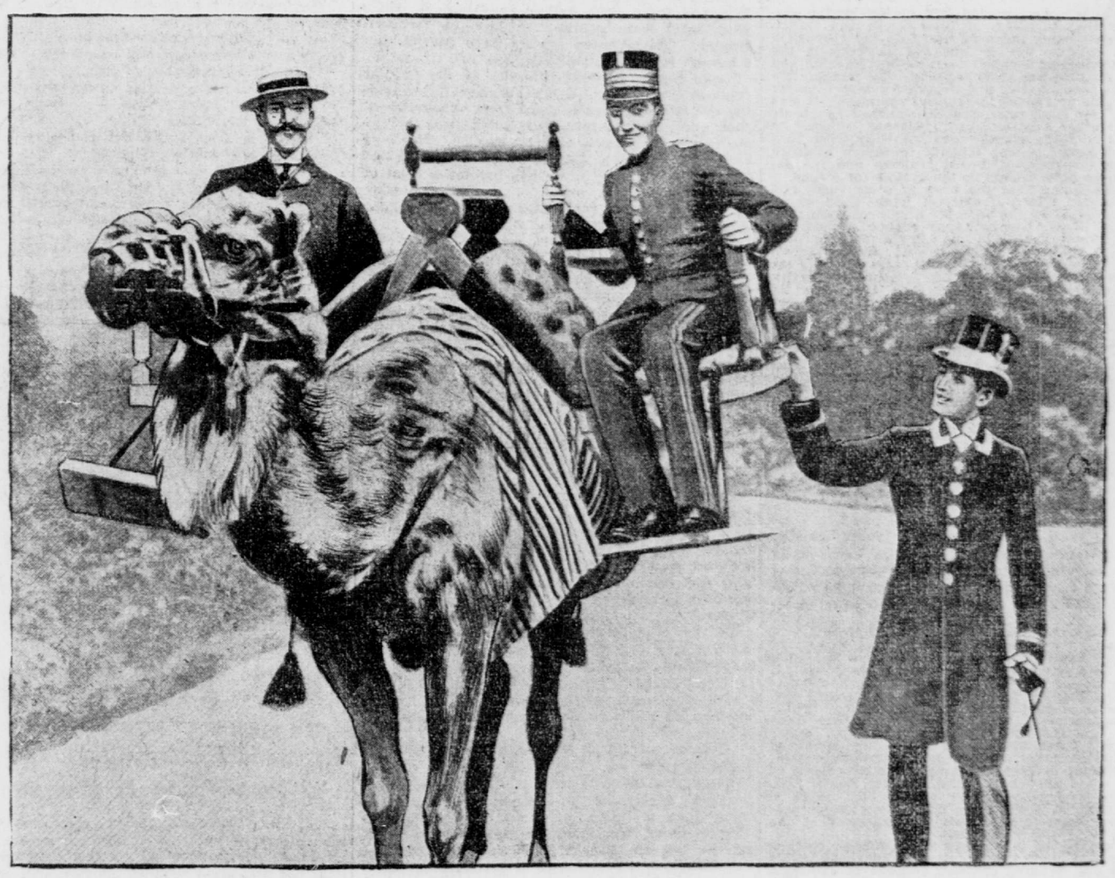
It is to meet this sort of cases that a law was enacted which gives local school boards the power to keep children in school till the fifth grade, no matter what their age.

That a great many of the boys who leave school as soon as the law allows are sadly deficient in education is shown in this note from a New-Haven school teacher, who said:

"I know of a boy who is assisting his mother in keeping a little store in a nice neighborhood. The other day the boy printed a sign, and displayed it in the window, 'Homade Pies.'"

There are frequent cases of child labor under the legal age, which are hard to reach with the arm of the law. Giles Potter, a State agent, tells of a case where a child under thirteen years of age was living in a family and taking care of two younger children for board, and perhaps some other slight compensation. She was not attending school, and if forced to attend must return to her parents, where there was sickness and a home not suitable for her. The truant officer who found this case asked Mr. Potter what to do, and the agent said:

"Persons who will take a child of her age for services and will not send her to school are not suitable persons to have control of the child, and another home should be provided for her. To allow such a child to work in a family for her living



KING ALFONSO XIII OF SPAIN RIDING A CAMEL. THE ATTENDANT HAS HIS HAND ON THE CHAIR OF THE KING.

—(The Graphic.

Alfonso is getting to be a big boy now, so big, indeed, that the problem of marrying him is becoming almost acute. Here is a king of eighteen years of age, of excellent family, amiable disposition and reasonably good prospects, yet still a bachelor. The absurdity of the thing has been keenly felt by Europe, and circumstantial accounts of His Most Catholic Majesty's betrothal to one lady or another have been furnished to the newspapers of the world in late years almost as often as Port Arthur has fallen in the course of the present war, or as De Wet used to be captured in the closing period of that polite difference of opinion in South Africa, which we, in our innocence, believed to have been a war until the real thing appeared in the Far East. The Duchess Marie Antoinette of Mecklenburg-Schwerin has been nominated; so has the daughter of the Spanish Princess of Bavaria, and at least two other highly suitable arrangements have been described. The king, it is understood, takes a personal interest in the question, and fully agrees with his eighteen million subjects that it is time the matter was seriously taken in hand.

—(The Bystander.

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