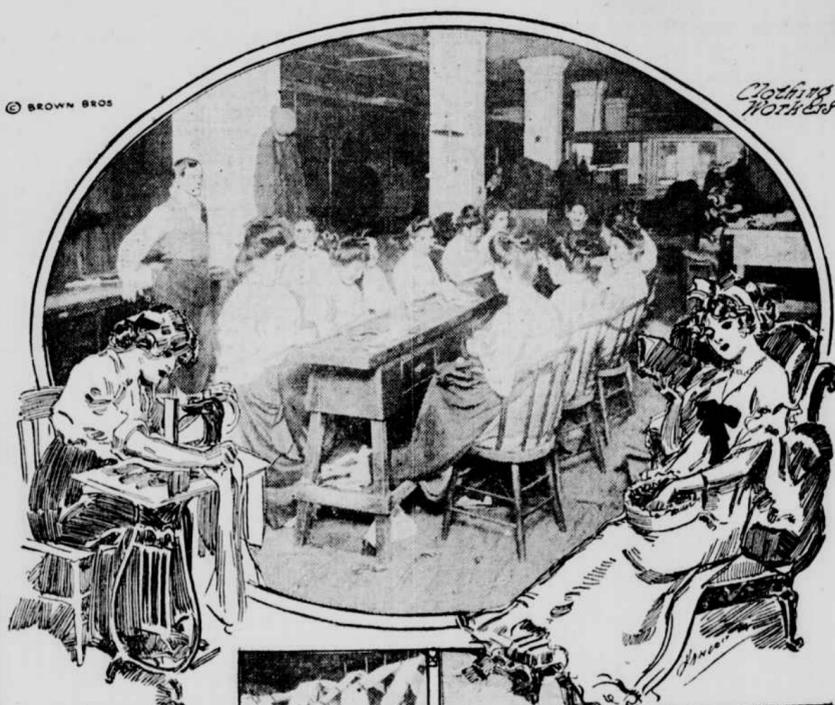


SAYS MINIMUM WAGE BATTLE IS FOUGHT ALONG WRONG LINES

Mrs. Florence Kelley, Secretary of the National Consumers League, Points Out What She Considers the Failings of Laws Enacted by Certain States and Suggests Course Which Might Bring Real, Lasting Benefit to the Wage Workers.

A FEW days ago Governor Sulzer signed a bill extending the life of the state factory investigating commission. The purpose of the extension was an inquiry into the wages of all industries and employments, with a view to recommending a minimum wage rate. Minimum wage legislation is in the air in this country. In three or four states the idea of regulating our wage system by legislative enactments so that no one shall work at starvation wages has been brought to earth and given a concrete form. In others commissions have been appointed to investigate the question of low wages and to consider to what insufficient income leads. The hearings of the Illinois commission on the subject of wages of girls in retail stores of Chicago received wide publicity because of the sensational turn they took. It looks very much as if this country were going to follow in the steps of other countries in

which control the number of competitors may be so inflexible that they continue at starvation wages year after year with no tendency toward improvement. Objections have been made to the regulation of wages even to the degree proposed in the United States because it is contrary to the spirit of American institutions and leads logically to socialism, and that a state which decrees that its citizens shall not be employed for less than the living wages that may be prescribed is logically bound to see that such citizens be given employment at such wages or be maintained in some other way. It has also been argued that minimum wage regulations will tend to level all wages toward the minimum prescribed by law. The National Consumers League was a forerunner in the effort to stimulate interest in this type of legislation in the United States. Mrs. Florence Kelley, sec-



Clothing Workshops

Exceptions Which Are Taken to the Massachusetts Statute, Upon Which the Oregon, Washington and Utah Measures Are Based, Will Have Force in Framing Bill That May Be Submitted to Legislature by Wagner Commission.

the greatest of all the English industries—coal mining and the tailoring and needle trades—are already habituated to this new form of regulation. "It is, of course a question whether in America the courts will sustain the new laws of Massachusetts, Oregon, Washington and Utah; whether they will admit that it is the right and duty of the state to establish a lowest wage level below which no woman can be asked to work, as the Supreme Court of the United States has already laid down the principle that it is the right and duty of the states to establish a maximum working day beyond which, in the interest of the public health and welfare, no woman can be asked to work. "In certain respects the new American legislation varies from the Australian and English precedent, always to the injury of the American law. In Australia and in England wage boards deal with all

so great an improvement over what had gone before that two thousand women contributed two farthings apiece to buy a watch, which they sent to Mary MacArthur, the organizer who had done the initial drudgery that enabled the illiterate women in the most swarted of all English industries to obtain this meagre pay. In the letter which they sent to Miss MacArthur they wrote: 'We send this as a token of gratitude, not only for the increase in pay that we are to have beginning in July, but for the new hope in our hearts.' "This 'new hope' in their hearts arose from their own new power to help decide, for the first time in the history of their trade, the wage that they would henceforth accept. This trade is so old that the tradition runs among the chainmakers that they made chain mail for King Arthur and his knights! "This power of electing their representatives, and through them helping to



Candy Makers



Cotton Operatives



Laundry Workers



Workers in Textiles

retary of the league, has long studied the subject and, of course, has had an important part in introducing the idea in the United States. She has pointed out for The Tribune the failings of such legislation as has already been enacted in this country, the course which might be pursued to advantage and undertaken to answer some of the objections which have been made to the adoption of this marked departure in American legislation. "The most novel legislation of the year 1913," says Mrs. Kelley, "is found in the collection of bills enacted thus far in Oregon, Washington and Utah for the purpose of establishing minimum wages for women and girls. These three bills follow the initiative taken in 1911, when the first Massachusetts Minimum Wage Commission prepared its preliminary report to the Legislature in favor of creating the present permanent state commission on minimum wage boards. The admirable modest report of that first commission will remain a model for succeeding commissions in contrast to the somewhat

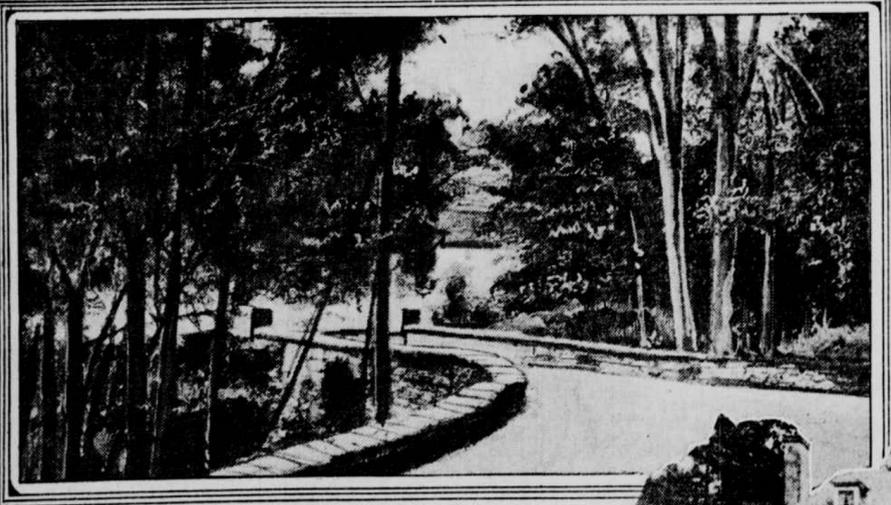
sensational methods of the investigators in Illinois and the precipitate action of the three Far Western states. Incidentally, it is characteristic of Massachusetts that this law preceded the founding of the Progressive party, in whose behalf claim is now commonly made that minimum wage boards legislation is its specialty. "Characteristic, too, of the Pacific States is their action in providing for wage boards, though they have no such poverty as afflicts the negroes in the South or the alien immigrants on the Atlantic Coast. They intend never to have poverty. "Earlier than the work of the Massachusetts commission was the unanimous vote of the International Conference of Consumers' Leagues, in Geneva, Switzerland,

in September, 1908, to the effect that "it was the duty of all persons there present to return to their respective countries and agitate for the introduction of minimum wage commissions and boards until these should be successfully at work throughout the civilized world." Following that conference, at the annual meeting of the National Consumers' League, held in Milwaukee in 1909, a ten years' programme was adopted, of which, in accordance with the international resolution, the educational campaign for minimum wage boards constituted the principal plank. "The promptest response to the resolution of September, 1908, of the International Conference of Consumers' Leagues followed, however, in England, where a

minimum wage boards law passed the Commons and the Lords before May 1, 1909, and was signed by the King, taking effect on New Year's, 1910. That was legislation at a rate of speed exceeded only on the Pacific Coast. "All these laws—English and American alike—rest on the principles established and the practice worked out in Australia and New Zealand in the period since 1886. Then the idea of creating a flexible mechanism operated by employers and employees together, under the guidance and with the backing of the state, was first introduced into industry. In that brief period of seventeen years it has circumnavigated the globe. Bills dealing with minimum wage boards are pending in Germany, Austria, France and Italy, and

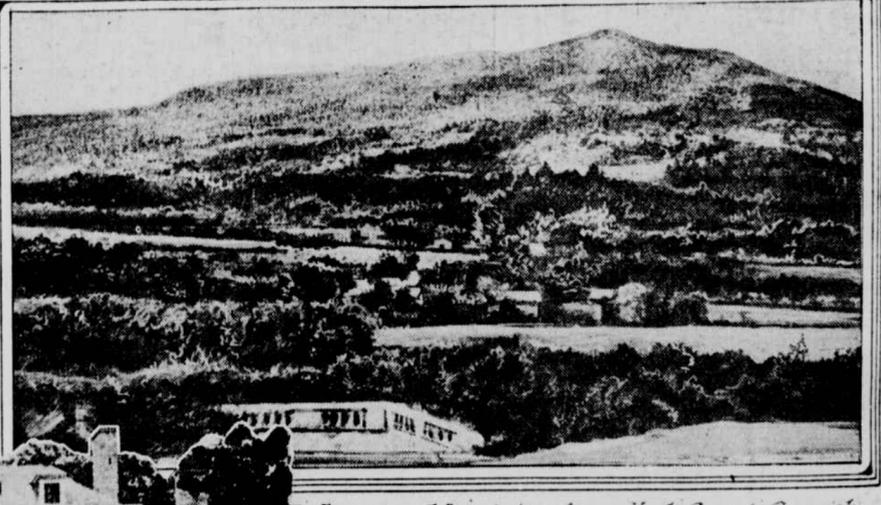
the workers in an underpaid trade—men, women and youth, alike—and the employers and employees elect their representatives. Only when either side defaults performing the duty of electing representatives does the commission appoint. In the case, for instance, of the nail and chain makers in the Black Country in 1911, the manufacturers declined to elect representatives, hoping to defeat the intention of the law. Then the Home Office appointed representatives tentatively, and the manufacturers, convinced after six months' haggling, that the government intended to proceed without them, and fix, in their absence, wages which they must pay, at last reluctantly elected representatives. "An interesting sidelight on the wages paid men and women in that trade before the creation of these boards shines from the fact that the first wage agreed upon was 50 cents a day, five cents (twelve pence) an hour for a day of ten hours, for skilled women, and 11 cents (seven pence) an hour, \$1.40 a day of ten hours, for skilled men. This represented

A REAL RETREAT, QUAIN AND CHARMING, IS NEW SUMMER CAPITAL



Blow-Ne-Down, Mill and Bridge, Windsor, Vt.

The New Summer White House!



Ascutney Mountain from High Court, Cornish, N.H. Height 3160 Feet.



THREE miles through the woods from Windsor, Vt., three miles in which one may meet a farmer going to Blow-Ne-Down grist mill or a rabbit out doing his daily foraging—this is the approach to Cornish, the new summer capital. One cannot conceive of any place more remote from the stir of official life, or—wise Mr. Wilson!—farther from the persistent sightseer. It is concealed at once that no vulgar picknicker, no profligate, no vulgar fop, ever yet had the audacity to penetrate into Cornish. Your common, or trolley car, sightseer is seldom inspired to tramp three miles to see a pine grove and this legend: "Private land; no trespassing." "WINSTON CHURCHILL." In the choice of the Cornish home of the novelist as his summer retreat, President Wilson is more successful than his predecessors in office. Oyster Bay is not inaccessible. Beverley—once beautiful Beverley—burns and sweats with the curious. President Taft's house was in plain sight from the trolley, and next door to the Montserrat Railroad station. A perpetual stream of automobiles passed his doorway on the dusty summer afternoons. If he went out for a spin on the North Shore Road, or a little game at the

golf club, even there they would snapshot him. Not that his genial soul was ever heard to complain—only to the sympathetic observer the situation seemed less charged with that repose which is supposed to be desirable in a vacation. How different the surroundings President Wilson has chosen. There are those three miles where, it is true, an occasional automobile may be found; there are the rabbits, which, as good New Englanders, will probably retreat before the presence of gasoline and Democrats. These, and the very foundation of Cornish (which is Windsor) are beyond the reach of crowds. It is a sleepy old town, which tolerates one hotel, because it shelters those necessary adjuncts to even a Vermont town, the occasional gentlemen who supply silkenee petticoats and lace jabots to the feminine population, and those things of which it is said "no metal can touch you." It is doubtful if the services of the travelling salesmen alone could justify that hotel, but Lafayette stayed there; so it is quite respectable and a recognized member of the community. Most of the houses have fan-shaped doors and Colonial fireplaces. There are three trains a day, and no trolleys within

a hundred miles. Over the river from Windsor to Cornish, the New Hampshire side of the gentle Connecticut River, there is a sleepy, shadow covered bridge, one of the two still in existence. Time was when every Vermont river town had its Siamese twin village across the river, connected by the long, white covered bridge, which was ugly, but they loved it. Windsor is the kind of town that elicits a visit to the drug store, to buy a stick of candy for the favorite baby niece, and home again to the simple midday meal in the room which Winston Churchill built to gaze out upon Ascutney. Gracious, worshipful old 'Scutney! Par-

man, he will want to walk and pay his 2-cent toll fare, stopping to pass a cheery "Good morning" with the wrinkled dame who has presided over the bridge for thirty years. Then on, in the genial, philosophic way we love, to the village store, where the morning papers have by this time arrived. If the New York train is on time; a visit to the drug store, to buy a stick of candy for the favorite baby niece, and home again to the simple midday meal in the room which Winston Churchill built to gaze out upon Ascutney. Gracious, worshipful old 'Scutney! Par-

don, that one could have written so long of Cornish without paying homage to 'Thee! What is Cornish but a prie dieu to Thee? What is the Churchill home but a window to Thee? Winston Churchill built his house with all the rooms at the front and all the accessories, like halls and doors and bookcases to the rear, so that not an inch of view should be wasted. It is a low, brick house, set on the crest of the hill, which overhangs the Connecticut Valley and the woods which creep up to the mountain side. The town is hidden. There is not a habitation or an automo-

bile road in sight. In a grove of fine old trees the literary hammock swung; in a white pillared pergola the feminine tea table invited; on the smooth green lawn the children romped with their dog—all looking westward to Ascutney. Visitors approached the house through a long winding drive between a growth of fresh young pine. The first hint that the house is at hand comes when the visitor halts before a sign reading "Look out for children." Pity a "scorcher" who disregarded that parental warning! Mrs. Churchill is a suffragist, too. Who says children are of no importance in the modern home? Now it is in sight, a two story brick house, built on three sides of a square. The enclosed space is a gravelled driveway. A wide white Colonial doorway opens into a big living room. And there you are, as the poet says. There are comfortable leather chairs, a huge real fireplace, bookcases and three big windows looking out to the mountain, of course. At the left of the living room is the dining room, and at the right a small white den which was Mrs. Churchill's sanctum. The author's workroom is beyond this in the wing. Harlakenden House is the name of the

place, so called because the mistress was Miss Mabel Harlakenden. There are neighbors somewhere over behind the hills—quite a number of them for such an innocent, rural looking hillside. Only the white pillars of Maxfield Parrish's house can be spotted from the town. On the three-mile trail to Harlakenden House one catches a prized glimpse of Norman Hapgood's cottage. The houses are there, though, and can be found if one is persistent. The natives of Connecticut Valley call it "Little New York" and show proud New England indifference to its claims to fame. What if Saint-Gaudens did live there? What if Percy MacKaye and Maxfield Parrish and Witter Byrdner devote their spare time to immortalizing it? "Huh!" say the natives, "their great grandfathers didn't cut the forests from this wonderful farm land. They didn't watch their fathers and brothers tramp across that old covered bridge in the '60s and come back in coffins. They're very nice, but they don't own Cornish." It remains to be seen whether your real Cornisher will take President Wilson to his bosom. The hotel proprietor—well, he's different. Doubtless, he will welcome the summer's political guests.

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