

## JUDGE SAYS DAVIS PLAYS TO THE GALLERY

"State Factory Inspector Edgar T. Davies is playing to the gallery. He is trying to get a cheap reputation by prosecuting small offenders of the law.

"Davies was criticized by several women's organizations not long ago for neglect of duty.

"He didn't like that, and so now he is out with a gun for all the small, technical offenders against the law in order to make a record.

"He knows these cases cannot be convicted in court, but he intends to flash the number of prosecutions he has started and the number of discharges the court has given in the faces of those who criticize him, and say:

"See, I did my share, but the courts wouldn't convict, so what am I to do?"

"It is just a case of his trying to shift his own neglect on to the shoulders of the courts.

"Not one of the cases he has recently brought against offenders against the women's or child's labor laws was within the true spirit of that law. They merely were technical violations of the law.

"If Davies really wished to make a real record, he would get out after the big department stores and factories."

This was the way Judge Gemmill summed up the factory inspection situation today after 18 cases had been brought before him by factory inspectors.

Saturday, Judge Gemmill criticized the factory inspectors for

prosecuting technical violations of the law when there were so many violations of the spirit of the law going unpunished.

Of today's 18 cases, Judge Gemmill fined 7; discharged 5; continued 4, and 2 were dismissed at the request of the prosecution.

As an instance of the puerility of the charges being prosecuted, Gemmill pointed to the cases of Joseph Tichy, tailor, 1117 West 18th street, and of the Chicago Haircloth Co., 3109 Market square.

Tichy employed two girls, both under 16. One of the girls brought a school certificate with her. The other did not, but the girl and her mother told Tichy she was over 16. She also told a factory inspector she was over 16.

Later, Tichy discovered that the girl was only 15, and immediately discharged her. Yet the factory inspectors had Tichy arrested. Gemmill fined Tichy \$5 and no costs.

The case of the Chicago Haircloth Co. dates months back.

During the months of June, July and August, the girl employees of the company worked 10¼ hours a day. This is a violation of the woman's ten-hour law.

But investigation of the case showed, that in return for this extra ¼ of an hour a day, the company had agreed to give the girls a half holiday on Saturday, and that during the remaining nine months of the year the girls worked only 9¾ hours a day,