

## ORGANIZERS SAY THE MERCHANTS WILL RETRENCH ON LABOR AS LONG AS GIRLS ARE NOT ORGANIZED

The Women's Trade Union League held the fourth organization meeting of the department store clerks in Schiller Hall last night. There was an attendance of about two hundred and fifty men and women.

Mary Anderson in addressing them stated that a great many of the clerks who recently have been discharged have not even attended the organization meetings, but that owing to dull business there is a general retrenchment in all department stores.

She said, too, that it was an admitted fact that the State street merchants had received what might be called a "general thrashing" from the Vice Commission, and they had felt its effect on the trade.

"They must retrench, because they demand the same profits on their business," she said. "And they cannot retrench on the goods, or on the rent, but they can retrench on labor, so long as you are not organized to prevent this."

Miss Agnes Nestor of the Glove-makers' Union spote at considerable length on the discouragement that organizers always meet in the beginning. She told how many girls, believing themselves skilled and well-paid, will not consider it necessary to organize, but she showed how the skilled labor of today may be the unskilled of tomorrow, when new conditions arise, new machinery is installed and the only safeguard is to unite.

Miss Nestor told how the glove-makers had signed an agreement which abolished the worst features of their trade, but had neglected to ask for Saturday half holiday. Afterward they took it up with the employers as a favor that might be granted them.

The employers replied that in the glove trade a half holiday was utterly impossible or it would have been granted long ago.

Yet when the agreement had expired and a new one drawn demanding this Saturday half day the employers just brushed by it and said: "That is all right."

"You will have to understand, girls," she said, "that you can get nothing from your employers by asking for it as a favor. You have got to demand it."

"And you must not be discouraged if you do not always have a big meeting. Today you may be weak and tomorrow some peculiar turn of affairs may bring girls in by the hundreds."

"It was that way with us. We started with about two hundred, but as we did not rapidly increase some got discouraged. And then conditions in a certain shop changed so that every worker there joined us, and we were strong enough to demand every thing that we desired."

Miss Mary Anderson and Miss Agnes Nestor went to Springfield, at the close of the meeting, to be present when the proposed eight-hour law comes up before the legislature.

### HOYNE MAKING COMEDY OUT OF VOTING MACHINE INQUIRY

Maclay Hoyne, who possibly was elected state's attorney last November, is making an utter farce out of his alleged grand jury inquiry into the voting machine scandal.

Hoyne called his first witnesses before the grand jury late yesterday afternoon. They were Howard S. Taylor, Hearst-Harrison election commissioner; William H. Stuart, Hearst-Harrison chief clerk of the election board, and Isaac N. Powell, who held Stuart's position under former County Judge Rinaker.

The next witnesses Hoyne intends to hand over to the grand jury are Charles S. Kellerman and Anthony Czarnecki, election commissioners, and Charles H. Mitchell, the Hearst-