

WHAT GOV. LOWDEN'S CONSOLIDATION BILL MEANS—THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

This is the third of a series of articles by the staff correspondent of The Day Book on Gov. Lowden's commission consolidation bill.

Springfield, Feb. 21.—Probably no parts of the existing state government needs revision and consolidation as badly as do the different boards and commissions dealing with the labor problems.

Though closely associated in motives and aims, the different bodies of the state government dealing with these questions always have operated separately and most inefficiently. The consolidation bill allies these different boards into one concrete organization, every aim of which will be to solve the labor problems which are constantly coming up. That such a department will give the highest efficiency is a foregone conclusion.

Though the industrial board comes under the head of the department of labor, it will proceed with the administration of the industrial act, "without any direction, supervision or control by the director of labor." The industrial board also will administer the arbitration and conciliation act and the board of arbitration and conciliation is abolished.

The duties and powers of the department of labor follow:

1. To exercise the rights, powers and duties vested by law in the commissioners of labor, its secretary, other officers and employes.

2. To exercise the rights, powers and duties vested by law in the superintendents and assistant superintendents of free employment offices, general advisory board of free employment offices, local advisory boards of free employment offices, and other offices and employes of free employment offices.

3. To exercise the rights, powers and duties vested by law in the chief

inspector of private employment agencies, inspectors of private employment agencies, their subordinate officers and employes.

4. To exercise the rights, powers and duties vested by law in the chief factory inspector, assistant chief state factory inspector, deputy factory inspector and all other officers and employes of the state factory inspection service.

5. To exercise the rights, powers and duties vested by law in the state board of arbitration and conciliation, its officers and employes.

6. To exercise the rights, powers and duties vested by law in the industrial board, its officers and employes.

7. To foster, promote and develop the welfare of wage earners.

8. To improve working conditions.

9. To advance opportunities for profitable employment.

10. To collect, collate, assort, systematic and report statistical details relating to all departments of labor, especially in its relation to commercial, industrial, social, educational and sanitary conditions, and to permanent prosperity of the manufacturing and productive industries.

11. To collect, collate, assort, systematize and report statistical details of the manufacturing industries and commerce of the state.

12. To acquire and diffuse useful information on subjects connected with labor in the most general and comprehensive sense of that word.

13. To acquire and diffuse among the people useful information concerning the means of promoting the material, social, intellectual and moral prosperity of laboring men and women.

14. To acquire information and report upon the general condition, so far as production is concerned, of the trial interests of the state.