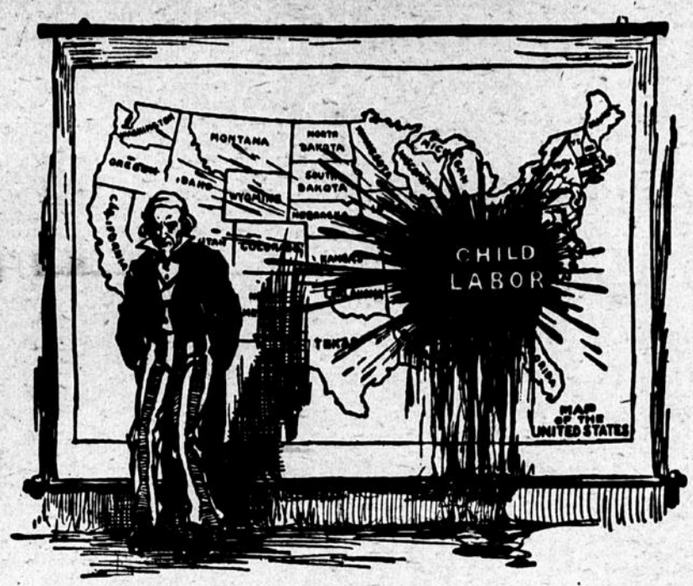
An Awful Blot



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STRIKING GAINS IN CHILD LABOR LAWS

Off Year For Legislation, but Children Not Neglected.

EDUCATION LAWS IN SOUTH.

A new compilation of child labor laws which will be issued shortly by the National Child Labor Committee contains the legislation enacted in 1915. Although this last year was a reactionary one for social welfare legislation, the National Child Labor Committee feels that there were some striking gains in child labor laws.

Two states which have hitherto defied all efforts to raise their standards—Pennsylvania and Alabama—have yielded to the pressure of public opinion. Alabama has a fourteen year limit for all gainful occupations, to go into effect in September, 1916, instead of her former twelve year limit for factories only. A sixteen year limit for dangerous occupations is included in the law, as well as a twelve year limit for boys and an eighteen year limit for girls in street work.

The striking feature of Pennsylvania's new law is the continuation school clause, which requires children of fourteen and fifteen who are regularly employed to attend continuation schools eight hours a week. Other important features are the twenty-one year limit for night messengers, physical examination and the completion of the sixth grade before a work permit can be secured, and the regulation of street work.

Michigan had an unusual experience. The age limit for common gainful occupations was raised from fourteen to fifteen AT THE REQUEST OF THE EMPLOYERS. The bill was drafted and the campaign directed by them. In addition to raising the age limit, it raises the grade which a child must complete before a work permit can be secured from the fourth to the sixth grade.

Compulsory education laws were passed by three southern states. The Florida and South Carolina laws are local option only, but the Texas law is state wide.

California and Iowa strengthened their laws by including provisions for the regulation of street work and the night messenger service. In addition to the street work clause Iowa passed an eight hour day for children under sixteen and strengthened her work permit provisions. A written statement from the employer, saying that he intends to employ the child, is now necessary before a child can secure a work permit. A similar clause was incorporated this year in the Rhode Island law and a street work provision enacted establishing a twelve year limit for boys and a sixteen year limit for girls engaged in selling newspapers or merchandise.

Nevada created the office of labor commissioner to enforce the child labor law, and Wyoming enacted a nine hour day for children under fourteen in all gainful occupations. In fact, there was a gain in every state but one of those which passed laws this year affecting children. Tennessee weakened its law by exempting canneries from practically all provisions of the law. But an attempt to repeal the Arkansas law was defeated, so that, on the whole, the National Child Labor Committee feels that the child labor legislation of 1915 represents steady progress.

Ninety-five per cent of the children in the Baltimore Truant School have been street workers. Forty-three per cent of the boys in the Maryland State Reform School For Delinquent Boys have been engaged in street work.

A recent pamphlet issued by the National Child Labor Committee states that over 17,000 children under sixteen were reported engaged in mining occupations by the 1910 census of occupations.

If we had no child labor we should have very much less tuberculosis; we should have very much less alcoholism and fewer diseases of the mind and the nervous system.—Dr. S. Adolphus Knopf.

HONEST INSPECTOR NOT ENCOURAGED

Local Juries Won't Convict, Says Mrs. Florence Kelley.

SHE WANTS A FEDERAL LAW.

Child labor laws will not be enforced until there is a federal law which the government will enforce. So Mrs. Florence Kelley told the Eleventh Annual Conference on Child Labor at its recent San Francisco meeting. During her wide and varied experience Mrs. Kelley has accumulated many examples of why a state child labor law can never be properly enforced and why the federal government must take a hand in it.

"After a state child labor law is on the statute books the difficulties of the inspectors are only a part of the obstacles that confront the state in getting that law enforced. If an inspector works very hard he is commonly removed—that is, if he works hard and honestly and ably. I have watched inspectors working hard, honestly and ably being removed for thirty-three years. One who does not work hard and ably and honestly will probably be removed anyhow when the politics of the state changes.

"While the inspector is working hard, ably and honestly it is exceedingly difficult to get a law enforced, if prosecution is required, because local magistrates are usually reluctant to enforce it and local juries to uphold it. Some years ago we were prosecuting in Chicago a certain sweater who had employed sixteen girls illegally. A dozen witnesses were subpoenaed, and they all swore cheerfully that the law had been kept, although they knew that they had been working illegally that day.

"The justice thought it a merry jest that we could not get warrants against those perjured witnesses. He said, 'If I were going to choke my office up with perjury suits against witnesses in minor cases we would not get any business done,' so those perjured witnesses went scot free."

As a further illustration Mrs. Kelley spoke of the difficulty the New York State Department of Labor has experienced in the past two years in prosecuting canners. The trouble was not with perjured witnesses there, but with local juries. The local juries would not convict because most of them were farmers who sell their goods to the canneries and had no idea of participating in the punishment of their customers. "That condition is so widespread throughout New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware," said Mrs. Kelley, "that there is no present hope of enforcing the child labor law in the canneries of those states with local jurors in local courts.

"I do not share the millennial belief that we shall in any near future have our laws obeyed by the agreement of employers and employees in industries in which the employees are unorganized. Laws are obeyed only where there are powerful organizations of workers to compel obedience. But where there is a body of helpless aliens, as in most sweated industries, or in remote villages far from the searchlight it will take a great deal of evidence to convince me that all employers will voluntarily obey the child labor law. Our immediate need is the passage of a federal child labor law to enable the federal government to enforce the law."

A federal law would not only protect people outside of North Carolina from receiving goods manufactured by children in North Carolina, but it would protect people in that state from having to buy tenement goods from New York.—Owen R. Lovejoy.

If you want to see white children in many southern communities you must go before sunrise and catch them on their way to the cotton mills. Only colored children are to be seen going to and from school.

If the eight hour day really took all children under sixteen out of the factories we should not have to work toward a sixteen year age limit.—Owen R. Lovejoy.

500 CHILDREN TO WAIT ON YOU

Much That You Wear and Eat Passes Through Their Hands.

EXHIBIT VISITOR IS AMAZED.

"Why should I be interested in the working child?" asked a self complacent lady who called at the child labor exhibit in San Francisco the other day.

"Because it touches you at so many points," replied the National Child Labor Committee's exhibit director, Lewis W. Hine. "To begin with, the flowers on your hat were undoubtedly made in a New York tenement, no matter what you paid for them. I have found four-year-old children working on such flowers.

"The 'real' imported Irish point lace you have on your collar was probably made by Italians on the east side of

Photo by National Child Labor Committee.

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD OYSTER SHUCKER WHO CAN NEITHER READ NOR WRITE.

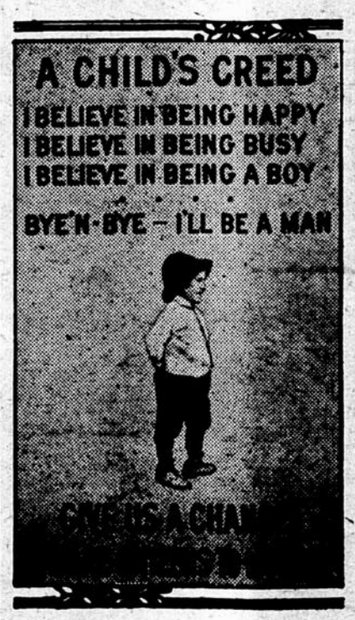
New York. Your gloves and the buttons on your dress probably passed through the hands of children. The scalloped edge around your underwear was made by children in New England village homes, and your stockings represent the labor of children from eight years of age up.

"The cotton that goes into the cloth you use may have been picked by children of five or six and was handled by innumerable children in the course of manufacture. A spool of cotton thread represents the work of from five to twenty-five children.

"As you pass on to the market to buy your food a small boy waits on you. He represents not only your local child labor problem, but indirectly the problem of the little girl who picked your cranberries and your strawberries. Even the baskets that the berries come in represent the work of children. The oysters that you have sent home from the shop were very likely dredged by boys from eight to ten up to young manhood. Some were shucked by little ones of seven or eight. The sardines you eat may have been imported or they may have come from the coast of Maine, where children do much of the cutting and canning. Canned peas represent child labor in sorting, picking and canning.

"The coal you burn at home and the glassware you use probably passed through the hands of children. The drugs delivered to you are often brought by a boy who may have come to your house direct from the red light district. The little newsboy, the 'shines' boys, the boy who sets up pins in the bowling alley and the young usher at the movie all need your protection."

The lady gasped and begged Mr. Hine to stop. "Well," he said, "if I went into it EXHAUSTIVELY I think I could find that about 500 children had contributed to your comfort in one way or another."



OUR SCRAP BASKET

The Week In History

Monday, Sept. 20.—Battle of Chickamauga, 1863.

Tuesday, Sept. 21.—Sir Walter Scott died, 1832.

Wednesday, Sept. 22.—Confederates are victorious over Federal troops, and re-enter Virginia, 1862.

Thursday, Sept. 23.—Oliver P. Morton made ambassador to Great Britain, 1870.

Friday, Sept. 24.—Monterey captured by U. S. troops, (Mexican War) 1846.

Saturday, Sept. 25.—Bread riots begin in Paris, 1853.

Sunday, Sept. 26—Fast day in Federal states, 1861.

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Old Poems Re-Writ

Up from the meadows, rich with corn,
On almost any September morn,
The farmer folk from here and there
Are motoring in to the county fair.

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Ruth is Home Again

"Oh dear, these pies!" cried Ruth's mother, as she was baking for company, shortly after Ruth returned from her vacation trip, "the juice has run out all over the crust and made them soggy! And I was so anxious to have them look so nice as well as taste nice."

"Well I'm sorry mother, that I cannot help you with these particular pies," sympathized Ruth, who had fallen into her old helpful ways, "but I can tell you how Aunt Mary prevents just this sort of thing. She takes two small pieces of macaroni, and puts them through the top crust, and lets them run down through the filling. This allows the air to escape and keeps the juice in the pie, and also keeps the crust dry and flaky."

"Oh Ruth, why didn't you come down here an hour earlier?" almost wailed her mother as she gazed ruefully at her pies.

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A Model Fan

He goes out to the ballpark just because he loves the game. And if the home team loses he enjoys it just the same. He never goes "plumb nutty" and raves and tears his hair. He's always for the umpire and declares that it was fair. He never comes home tired and hoarse with murder in his eye, because the home team had a chance and somehow passed it by. And all the boneheads that they make he's willing to forget. Who is he? Well we must confess we've never seen him yet.

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Zoological Fakers

The Clothes Horse.
The Welsh Rabbit.
The Fire Dogs
The Tailor's Goose.
The End Seat Hog.
The Gambler's Kitty.
The Weather Cock.
The Cat o' Nine Tails.
The Hair Rat.
The Card Shark.
The Base Ball Fly.
The Quilting Bee.

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Learn A Little Every Day

Henry VII of England was betrothed at the age of 12, married at the age of 17 and in the 53 years of his life was married six times.

Government reports for the fiscal year 1914-5 show a decrease of 64,529,729 cigars smoked in the United States and an increase of 320,809,776 cigarettes.

An English writer has written a book in which he describes more than several hundred forms of carriages used in every country of the world. The book takes the history of passenger-carrying vehicles from the time of Joseph until the present. It deals with all forms from the man-drawn jinrikisha of Japan to the American Pullman car. ?

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Some New Definitions

Husband—A convenience used by married women for the purpose of paying their bills.

Wife—A domestic servant who works without pay and who cannot be fired if incompetent.

Marriage—A legalized arrangement whereby a man and woman may battle with each other 'till death do them part.

Divorce—The martial declaration of independence.

Dollar—The most popular of the American idols.

Automobiles—A sensational and thrilling means of suicide.

War—A highly approved method of getting rid of the best manhood of a country and retaining the weak and incompetent.

To Polish Mirrors

Wipe off all the dust, pour a little camphor on a cloth and rub the mirror thoroughly. Allow it to dry for a few minutes, then polish, and the mirror will be as bright as new and will remain so for a long time.

ELBERT BEDE SAYS

Humility is all right for the other fellow to have.

All cats imagine they can sing—and in that respect they are like men.

A girl's castle in the air is sometimes built of bricks of ice cream.

It is easy to for a woman—if it wasn't, how would the men get married?

If you can't laugh at the story your friend has told, at least don't say, 'Well, I heard it this way."

If brain fag was the only way of dying, we know of a lot of people who would be classed with the immortals.

A woman may marry a man for his money and then find that she is getting less than the minimum wage.

Probably more than half the people in the world will be more diligently on the other fellow's row than on their own.

No matter how angelic a man may appear before marriage, after the wedding the wife will learn that a man's a man for a' that.

When you attempt to throw dust in the other fellow's eyes, be sure that the wind is in the right direction, lest it blow back and blind you instead.

We are afraid that some of these suffragettes, if woman's suffrage becomes universal, will try to take the right of suffrage away from the men.

The young lad without a ticket to the circus who wouldn't crawl under the tent if he got a chance, is lacking in some of the fundamentals of a normal boy.

The married man knows there is not the slightest truth in the old saying about a woman not having birthday anniversaries after she passed 25. He knows that he has to buy a present for her every year just the same.

A tablet supposed to have been engraved a thousand years before the writing of the book of Genesis, has been unearthed and translated. The translator claims (and few will dispute him) that the book says that it was Noah and not Eve who plucked the forbidden fruit. That's about the way it usually turns out when man tries to blame anything of this sort onto woman.

VISIT YOUR SCHOOLS

You hear a great deal about our schools, talk much about them, think some about them, and peradventure wonder not a little more about them than if they were in China. How many heads of families, parents, business men, men of minds, ever cross the threshold of the school room? How many ever offer a word of encouragement to teacher or scholar and let them know by your presence, at least occasionally in the school room that you are an interested party, really desirous that they should prosper, and that you have their best welfare at heart? How many have personally recognized the head of the school, he who has the training of the mind and the building of and establishing the character of your boy or girl? How many have kindly counseled and advised with him, showing you are with him in the great work, wishing him well, and cheering with a God speed. How few, methinks, can answer in the affirmative, and yet you often hear of the school and feel that it is not what it should be, and what you wish it was. Will it help it to be constantly finding fault, continually growling and denouncing it with almost every breath? and when some trivial or even grave mistake is made will it better matters to pompously parade the same before the public?

Things are not often just as we would like to have them, and surrounding circumstances not always as we imagine or hear they are, and very often if we know the exact condition and state of affairs our minds and opinions would be the reverse to what they were without a knowledge of facts.

Now this is merely offered as a hint and while we presume many will read it, it is hoped some will think about it, and at least a few be induced to act upon it and visit our schools at least occasionally.

It is said that when an Indian dies his surviving relatives pay all his debts. We are acquainted with a man whom we heartily wish would turn Indian and die. If he reads this it will be just like him to wonder who is meant.

REMEMBER Pe-ru-na

When You Call At Our Drug Store

Mr. Robert H. Norris, No. 1333 Henry St., North Berkeley, Cal., writes: "We have never had any other medicine but Peruna in our home since we have been married. I suffered with kidney and bladder trouble, but two months treatment with Peruna made me a well and strong man. My wife felt weak and was easily tired and was also troubled with various p[illegible] but since she took Peruna she [illegible] and strong."

"MY! HOW GOOD IT SMELLS"

Yes, and it looks good, and tastes good, too. There is no doubt about the goodness of bread baked from SILVER SHEAF FLOUR.

The beautiful crust and the rich aroma tell the story of a perfect loaf.

YOUR MONEY BACK IF NOT SATISFIED.

Grist Ground While You Wait

Our electrical driven grist mill enables us to grind your grist while you wait. When you consider this excellent service together with the low exchange rate and small charge you will find that we give you a profitable market and a service that cannot be obtained elsewhere.

WHOLE WHEAT MILLING CO.

M. S. WILLIAMS, Manager