

out of their employes' envelopes—giving back to them through the medium of so-called charitable societies.

"If men who are held up as models by the daily newspapers as Marshall Field was while he was alive can pay their girls starvation wages its only perfectly natural that the smaller merchants will.

"When we started out we wanted to find out mostly how much a girl should receive that she might be able to live and clothe herself.

"So we brought forty of Chicago's model citizens and philanthropists. They were acknowledged leading merchants and we had read they were philanthropists who were interested in the effects of poverty, so we thought they might tell us something we needed to know badly in our work.

"We didn't abuse them when they went on the stand. We simply asked: 'Have you ever investigated conditions in Chicago and the lowest possible salary a girl can possibly live on?'

"And most of them said they had found that a girl could live on \$8 a week.

"One of the men who represented a corporation which had paid out over \$7,000,000 in dividends the year previous admitted on examination that he was paying more than half the girls that worked at his plant less than \$8. And the next witness, one of his former employes, told us the employes were charged 10 cents a week each for drinking water. That statement has never been refuted.

"Why don't you pay your girls enough to live in a decent American manner and enable them to have a little happiness out of life?" we asked him, and we haven't yet obtained a satisfactory answer.

"And the only justification this man could give for himself was this: 'I give money to hospitals, churches, the Y. M. C. A. and the United Charities.'"

Lieut-Gov. O'Hara was citing the case of Julius Rosenwald.

"One of the greatest curses of the day I know of is false, mocking charity.

"The average man who gives so liberally to charity usually gives it to get himself a reputation that he has no clear right to. He literally drags the money out of the life blood of the little girls to whom he pays starvation wages.

"And the newspapers fawn upon him and hold him up to the world as one of our model citizens. In the meantime the advertising contracts keep coming into the office. Some of the papers even go so far as to fight his battles for him.

"Take the Inter-Ocean for instance. During the vice investigation it kept up a continual fire at the commission in an effort to discredit the work.

"I have no use whatsoever for the United Charities. The only good they do is to pay a fat salary to some officials who may happen to have a family to support.

"The United Charities spends 90 per cent of its money on investigation, possibly because they are afraid some poor down-and-out may abuse their charity and ask for something he doesn't need.

"No one who knows the United Charities will appeal to that organization for aid unless he is absolutely driven to the wall. The whole system is degrading to the beneficiaries.

"By their extensive investigating system they show they are afraid of human nature. I wonder whose human nature they are really judging, their own or their brothers?

"Must they trust every one because they distrust themselves?

"I believe in only one thing—the principle of equality of humanity.

"But the time has arrived when we must insist that the men who have station, position and wealth recognize the less fortunate of us as brothers.