

MARGARET HALEY FIGHTS COOLEY BILL

The people are being told that all the "prominent business men of the city" have indorsed the Cooley vocational school bill.

Many of the "prominent business men of the city" have, and that's one of the best reasons for suspecting that bill.

Two weeks ago, the Society of Criminal Law and Criminology arranged a meeting for the discussion of the bill at the LaSalle hotel.

The society invited to that meeting such organizations as the State Bankers' association, the Association of Commerce, the Hamilton club and the Civic Federation.

You'll notice that these are all organizations composed of "prominent business men."

And you'll also notice that there are none of them which could even pretend to represent the teachers nor Chicago's 2,000,000 or so plain, ordinary, everyday citizens.

Margaret Haley, business agent of the Teachers' Federation, heard about the meeting and protested to the Federation of Labor against the slighting of the plain people.

Ed Nockels, the secretary of the Federation, went to Nathan W. McChesney, Illinois commissioner of the Crime Society, and asked why labor had been slighted.

McChesney explained that it was all a mistake; that it had not been intended to slight labor, and that he would be glad to have the

Federation of Labor represented. He did not look pleased, however.

The Federation of Labor asked Margaret Haley to represent it at the meeting.

Miss Haley went to the meeting. She told the meeting that behind Cooley was Clayton Mark, the man who gave the Tribune the notorious midnight lease of school lands.

She went into the midnight and other secret leases of school lands and demonstrated that the people and the school children had been cheated in the interests of the big newspapers and the bank of which Clayton Mark himself was vice president.

These remarks were received in stony silence by the "prominent business men" there assembled. They did not seem to be interested in the stealing the school children's land, nor in the backing of the Cooley bill.

Then Miss Haley went further, and showed how the National Association of Manufacturers, the sworn enemy of organized labor, was behind the bill.

To Miss Haley's very great surprise, this revelation was cheered.

The Society of Crime and the "prominent business men" it had got together evidently felt it was among friends when the name of that notorious association of capitalistic highbinders was mentioned.

It is even as the trust newspapers which got the stolen leases