

"Each of them swore that you are in the habit of cursing the girls. How about it?"

"Aw, the girls are liars," said Alexander, and the hired clique of Big Business cheered.

The commission sat silent, looking at Alexander steadily. He had the grace to flush.

"You see," he said, when the silence had become painful. "We're all for speed at our place. That's the way with every factory, ain't it?"

"That's what we're trying to find out," said Lieut. Gov. O'Hara grimly.

"Don't you feel that it is the duty of the factory to feed, blanket and shelter its help as they care for even the horses they force to work for them?" asked Senator Juul.

"No, I don't," said Alexander, stubbornly. "I tell you a foreman in a shoe factory is entitled to drink beer."

"What's that?" demanded O'Hara.

"I said a foreman in a shoe factory is entitled to drink beer," said Alexander, moving uncomfortably in his chair.

"Have you been drinking beer—before appearing before this commission, I mean?" demanded O'Hara.

"No," said Alexander.

There was another long silence. Alexander was looking still more uncomfortable.

"You see," he said, at last. "We must make boxes there as cheap as we possibly can."

"You say your salary is \$20 a week?" asked O'Hara.

"Yes," said Alexander.

"You aren't making much more than it takes to keep yourself and your wife then, are you?"

Alexander did not answer.

"Isn't it a fact that you are not making much more than it costs your wife and yourself to live?" persisted O'Hara.

Alexander shifted around in his chair for a few minutes. His face became a dull red.

"No," he stammered, at last. "I—

I guess I'm up against it just like they—just like the girls are. I never saved a red cent in my life."

The foreman who had boasted he was "going to make a goat of the commission" was broken.

Neither Lieut.-Gov. O'Hara nor any other member of the commission was the least bit dismayed by the open threats of Big Business to get him today.

"We're not nearly through with Springfield," said the lieutenant governor.

"The opposition that developed last night was not the sort we expected. We expected at least decency. But the kind of opposition we did get has roused the commission's fighting blood.

"We have uncovered some interesting facts about Springfield factories already, in particular the shoe trust's factories. We intend to uncover some more.

"Indeed, since those who are trying to crush the commission have resorted to such methods, I think the commission will stop in Springfield every once in a while and give them a probe. They seem to need it—since it hurts so much."

"Quit because a lot of roughnecks have tried to make us quit?" snapped Senator Beall. "Not on your life. We'll only go after them the harder and make it all the hotter for them. If they want a fight, this commission is right ready to give it to 'em."

There are three forces working to destroy the commission—the International Shoe Co., which has suffered worst in the eyes of the people through the low wage probe; a Chicago brewery which supplies most of the beer consumed in the houses of prostitution throughout the state, and the Springfield newspaper trust.

The shoe trust is believed to be at the head of the strong-arm tactics attempted at last night's meeting. It is not thought likely that such tactics will be used again. They only have attracted more attention to shoe