

BLOOD OF SALESGIRL ENTERS 20,000 SCHOOL CHILDREN ON EVIDENCE BEFORE STATE BD. STRIKE IN SCRANTON, PA.

The taking of testimony before the Illinois Industrial board in the case of Miss Leota Topping against Siegel, Cooper & Co. closed today. She is the girl who last summer went blind in her left eye while selling hats in the millinery department of Siegel, Cooper & Co. and whose claim to damages is based on evidence that a straw driven into her eye caused poisoning.

Siegel, Cooper & Co. played their big card against the girl today when Dr. Ralph W. Webster was put on the stand. Under a few brief questions — it didn't take more than a couple of minutes — Dr. Webster set up the accusation that Miss Topping is a victim of syphilis and while she was selling hats to women customers in the Siegel-Cooper store there ran in her blood the germs of the most terrible communicable disease today known to science.

Dr. Webster is employed by the Zurich Insurance Co., which handles the personal injury cases of Siegel, Cooper & Co. He was questioned by Att'y W. J. Weldon for the insurance company and stated:

"I applied the Wasserman test to Miss Topping. I used both the sheep's blood system and human blood for tests. Both were strongly positive. I should say she unquestionably is a positive reaction."

He went into technical details of "three plus" and a "reaction of 90 per cent." No doctor ever looked more sure or delivered an expert opinion on a witness stand with more of an air of certainty than Dr. Webster in his assertion that a girl who last August was selling hats in the human maelstrom of State street, coming in contact with hundreds of other persons every day, was afflicted with a disease transferable from one human being to another by touch.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 28.—The strike of the Scranton public school children has grown until now the affairs of the whole school district are at a standstill, 20,000 children being out. Some 3,000 remain, but they do so at the risk of ostracism from their playfellows. These "strikebreakers" are very unpopular.

The strike was organized at the Central and Technical high schools and followed the refusal of the school board to grant a Christmas vacation.

MURPHY TO SUE CUBS

Chas. Webb Murphy, former manager and main owner of the Cubs, is ready to start suit against the Cub team for back rent due on the old West Side park. Murphy says he learned a few days ago that the Cub directors will attempt to break the lease on the eWest Side grounds. It still has seventy-seven years to run.

KANDIS THREATENED

Judge Landis disclosed in open court today that he has been threatened over the phone at midnight at his home unless he desisted in his attacks on the "bondsmen's ring."

BUTLER BROS. SHARE PROFITS

Butler Bros., large merchandising firm, today began the sharing of profits of last few months with employees. Means about \$500,000 will go to workers.

HUTCHISON DEAD

S. A. Hutchison, manager of department of tours of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad and Union Pacific, died at his home, 4958 S. Michigan av.

Perryville, Ind.—Four masked bandits blew safe of L. A. Morgan bank and procured \$800 in cash and valuable notes and other papers amounting to about \$1,000.