

TO ENFORCE THE LAW

International Association of Factory Inspectors

NOW IN CONVENTION.

Delegates Meet to Discuss the Work Day.

Mrs. Florence Kelley Reads a Carefully Prepared Paper on the Question.

About seventy persons, men and women, assembled at the council chamber yesterday forenoon to participate in the seventh annual convention of the International Association of Factory Inspectors. City Clerk Garfield had given the use of the council chamber to these delegates and Mayor Harrison had told Secretary Vail of the Chicago labor and relief committee to organize his sub-committee there. Then, too, the Tailorers' Benevolent association had a lease on the room and between them it looked as if the factory inspectors would stand a poor show. They stayed out in the hall, however, and waited. After they had waited almost an hour Mayor Vail came and gallantly agreed to have his committee to meet in the afternoon and then the janitor condescended to let the delegates disport themselves in the seats of Chicago's aldermen.

Vice President John Francis called the convention to order and delivered an address of welcome to the delegates, praising the work of the association, telling what good it had done and what good it was sure to do. Then Secretary Mary O'Reilly called the roll and found Massachusetts had 24 delegates present, New Jersey 4, Ohio 12, New York 10, Pennsylvania 2, Canada 2, Minnesota 1, Rhode Island 1, and Illinois 10.

While the committee on programs was working the other delegates decided to hold daily meetings until Saturday from 9 to 3 o'clock each day.

The program committee presented the following list of papers to be read during the sessions:

- Programs for the Week.**
"Factory Legislation in Illinois," Mrs. Florence Kelley.
"Child Labor," Mrs. A. P. Stevens.
"School Buildings as to Lighting, Heating, and Ventilation," J. E. Wernick, New Jersey.
"Women as Factory Inspectors," Margaret Finn, New York.
"Inspection Laws and the Domestic Service Problem," Isaac A. Miller, Massachusetts.
"Guarding of Elevators," Francis C. Lee, New York.
"The Removal of Dirt from Windowing Machinery," How Can It Best Be Done? Evan B. Davis, Ohio.
"Conventions on Factory Lights, with Recommendations for Shorter Hours of Labor," Harry Spaulding, Massachusetts.
"How Factory Legislation in Pennsylvania Has Been Beneficial to Factory Operators," Mrs. H. H. Moore, Pennsylvania.
"The Inspection of Mothers," Rufus P. Wade, Massachusetts.
"Labor Legislation in Minnesota," D. J. Chassey, Minnesota.
"The Ideal Mill of the Future: What It Will Be," Charles Davis, Ohio.
"Protecting Air in Factories," John Francis, New York.
"Operations of the Law in Massachusetts Relating to the Sale and Manufacture of Clothing Made to Order by Tailors," J. E. Griffin, Massachusetts.
"Has the Enforcement of Labor Laws in New Jersey Been Beneficial?" John D'Arcy.
"The Sweating System," C. A. Moring, New York.
"Devices for Guarding Elevators," J. A. Armstrong, Ohio.
"Government of Bridgework as to Heating and Lighting," W. J. McMahon, New York.
"Fire Escape Devices," A. M. Thompson, Ohio.
"Child Labor," E. H. Fuller, New York.
"Sweaters—How They Should Be Built and Arranged," William Durand, Ohio.
"Ventilation of School Buildings," J. A. Moore, Massachusetts.
"Children in Pragerous and Unhealthy Conditions," J. H. Ellis, Ohio.

Factory Legislation in Illinois.

At this first session Mrs. Florence Kelley read her paper on "Factory Legislation in Illinois." It was devoted mainly to an account of how the new law came to be passed and follows in full:

Factory legislation in Illinois is still in the earliest experimental stages; the law naming the office of State inspector having been passed by the intent legislature and signed by Governor Altgeld in June of the present year.

The Illinois factory and workshop inspection law is a sanitary measure. It has no educational feature such as characterizes the law of New York, nor does it aim to guard the employee from death by fire or from mutilation from dangerous machinery, as do the laws of several Eastern States.

The first three paragraphs of the law are designed to protect the community from the infection which is an inevitable accompaniment of the manufacture of clothing under the sweating system.

The subsequent body of the law aims to protect in some measure the health of the women and children employed in all forms of manufacture.

Two legislators who framed the Illinois factory law questioned the ing and ingenuity provisions of the Massachusetts and New York laws and decided to follow the instinct of the women's reformers, who assured them that a more effective measure would be found in the eight-hour version. The argument is simple, to the effect that a woman's shop is a small group of workers and we are not sure enough profit out of them in eight hours per day to make the shop pay. It takes fourteen women, thirteen hours per day in make the women's shop pay. Hence the enforcement of the law must lead to large shops with large groups of eight-hour employees. But each shop would not be women's shops, and the clothing trade would thus be placed on a level with the regular factory trade. But no large group of workers are subject to the sweating conditions which are accepted as necessary by large groups largely composed of children.

Differences in State Laws.

It is characteristic of Illinois that the moment manufacturers of the State have grown up so suddenly that the working-class has had little time for study of the situation, so that thousands of children have come to be employed with a recklessness and unconcern in older communities and under conditions which would not be tolerated in Massachusetts or New York. And under a corporation which in its New York factory guards its machinery, discharges its illiterate boys and girls, and obeys the ten-hour law, all in compliance with the New York legislature, have been working unlimited hours with women and their children in Illinois unrestrained by any law whatever.

This last year a respectable working girl of my acquaintance was assaulted almost on her own doorstep as she was returning from work in one of the famous bank establishments of Chicago having worked from 4 a. m. to 7 p. m.

The case of little children whom I caught in the Fifth Street night school last winter was made up of Italian boys and girls, 10 to 12 years old—children so badly illiterate that they were struggling with the beta, eta, and zeta in the opening pages of the primer. In November and December a large number of them left the night school because the candy factory in which they spent their days began to work overtime, and my pupils worked in it from 7 a. m. to 9 p. m. with a half hour for dinner and a supper, with a working week of eighty-two hours. I used to see them going home long after night-school closed at 9 o'clock.

Under the new law such atrocities as these, upon the health and welfare of women and children, are prohibited by the eight-hour section, and it is again characteristic of Illinois, that her people, who had taken as long as a long time, when the time for their action came went farther and passed a more searching law than others. The statute books of any other State.

For not only does the new law provide for detecting infectious garments, for limiting the use of child workers and thoroughly inspecting home and shop and factory, it also limits to eight hours per day and forty-eight hours per week the working time of every female of whatever age in every factory and workshop in the State.

Considering the law as a sanitary measure, it becomes the first duty of the inspectors to ap-

proceed in what trades women and children are employed, and to give immediate attention to the more injurious of these. Accordingly the manufacturers of clothing, candy, paper boxes, tobacco, cigars, and crackers, and the work of ironing and metal stamping trades were thoroughly examined.

Especially injurious to the health is the raising of sewing machines by hand power in the clothing trades. This is a common sight that I have never found a man of years of age who was able to maintain the pace required. How much worse must it be for growing girls. Yet there were last year hundreds of girls between 12 and 14 years of age employed in this way, some of them working fourteen to eighteen hours a day in the hottest months of summer.

Not only does the new law reduce to eight the hours of daily work for these unfortunate children, it further provides for allowing out the more delicate of them, by requiring a physician's certificate and prohibiting the employment of any child who cannot stand the work.

If the medical profession will do its duty, framing with the corporation and the child labor laws granting the certificate, the standard of health of employees in a dozen will be easily improved during the present year.

In Its Application to Females.

A valuable result of the new law, already to some extent obtained, is the greater uniformity of work and rest among girls and women. Formerly the custom prevailed of working overtime in many trades during a part of the year and then closing the factory outright or working three or four very long days a week. This irregularity is one of the most cruelly demonstrated experiences of the working-class life, important alike to health and to every kind of thrift and persevering effort. The regulation of the hours of work inevitably tends to distribute work over the year and so to assure greater regularity of occupation. This must prove especially beneficial in the clothing trades, in which the long wearing days have come at midsummer and the enforced idleness and privation of winter when they were hardest to bear and most costly in vitality.

In some cases the shortening of the day has been in the morning, so that women and children who have had a long walk or ride before reaching the factory at 7 o'clock, now sleep as heartily and refreshingly work at 8. The mother of the family who does not earlier to cook the breakfast and run up the lunch also profits in this saved hour of rest.

The next clause of the law is of course, the eight-hour section. This makes it a matter of course upon principle for every child, man and woman in Illinois to report at least every fraction of the law, and the same have been found everywhere and in enforcing this section.

The work of the inspectors has followed them, chiefly in way of making known the law, no previous measure having paved the way for it. In this explanation is made everywhere before the effective regulation for children between 12 and 14 years, men and women on the workroom walls, regulated on the side, and dropped where the inspectors can find them on demand. Much energy and promises are required before the eight-hour principle are fully tested, and often a factory must be visited two days before the firm decides that the proprietor means what he says and the law must be obeyed.

However, two months past we have been told that in several ways. There is now a large body of literate employees who are complying with the law in good faith, and a large and rapidly growing body of girls who not only obey the law and refuse to do work as women, but making known its provisions and making their acquaintance the duty of co-operation with the inspectors by insisting that the eight-hour limit shall be observed.

The Law Obeyed and Violated.

Upon failure of the law is confined to a few small-stamping and small-working firms, restricted to the leading sweater makers and those numerous pillars of the sweating system, the millinery workshops of the Chicago clothing trade.

Before enacting time and energy is presented to show it has seemed wise to collect the ready support of a number of law-abiding manufacturers and to show time for a body of wage-workers to experience the advantages of the eight-hour working day. It was necessary also to obtain adequate evidence and obtain a list of sufficient numbers of witnesses before making the courts to condemn those offenders under the new law.

The law, however, determined that law-abiding firms thoroughly understood, and the difficulties in the way of legal proceedings are, I believe, overcome, so that it is now my intention to take time at least every day for the enforcement of the eight-hour clause in the law which it is persistently violated.

The eight-hour section of the Illinois Factory Law is one law in a chain of measures which have been adopted during a long series of years in many countries and in several States of our own Union, all recognizing the principle involved in the restriction of the hours of work of women.

Other Kindred Laws.

Since England set the example in 1860 a legal ten hours' working day for women and Australia followed with the eight-hour day for men and women, Germany has adopted a day of nine and a half hours effective with all large firms and a day and one-half for support, Massachusetts the eight-hour law for men and New Jersey the week of fifty-six hours.

In view of this widespread movement and the variation of the length of the working day, the question whether the week shall consist of sixty hours, or of fifty-six as in Germany, fifty-eight as in Massachusetts, fifty-six as in England, fifty-five as in New Jersey, or fifty-four as in Australia and Illinois is merely one of detail. The principle is established, and it only remains for the more conservative States to emulate the example of Australia and Illinois and adopt the working week of forty-eight hours and the working day of eight hours.

Yes, we all have marveled at the beauty of the World's Fair, and we speak of this as the World's Fair year. But the Fair is an episode in a long world. A Fair here it will be only a passing memory, and ten years hence the young people will wonder at our enthusiasm.

Meanwhile this law, which commends its interest association with the conservative spirit in motion, checking the spread of disease, lessening the children of the poor and the children of the wage-workers, prolonging the trade lives of the girls and women and paving the way for a shorter day of rest for men. And the people of Illinois of another generation, looking back from a happier day, will call this our World's Fair year, but the first year of the eight-hour law in America.

After a discussion of the paper the convention adjourned to to-day.

The Republican Party in 1896.

CHICAGO, Ill., Sept. 18.—To the Editor:—Will the Republicans elect a President in '96? Yes, if the party will stand by and maintain the courage of their convictions, and stand upon justice in all sections of the country, and guard with jealous care the interests of all the industries, so there will be no conflict between capital and labor. The two should be welded as men and wife. Labor cannot be employed without capital, and capital is productive without labor. Both must work in harmony together to be productive of good results to each. No country can be prosperous that neglects to provide for and to give protection to both capital and labor. The party must maintain the election laws with all the means of enforcement. Do what they can to place coal, silver and bank notes, equal in value and legal tender, upon all banks at their request the removal of the from state banks and thereby destroy the system of the State. McKinley and his crew will. Upon these principles of the party stand, for out of them must come the party's success. Abraham Lincoln, when asked for the key of his success, said: "I go with the people." I voted for this great and good man for the Presidency in 1860. Give to the people a candidate as nearly his type as may be found and he will be the next President. Put your ear to the ground; the trend for victory may already be seen.

F. WALLACE.

Iowa Crop Bulletin.

Des Moines, Iowa, Sept. 18.—Special Telegram.—The severe drought continued through the past week. The average temperature being about 8 degrees above the normal, and the humidity thus a trace of rain is reported in any part of the State.

Corn is generally well maintained, and is practically safe from damage by frost. Late planted fields have been materially injured by the drought, but it is certain the average per acre and quality will be considerably above the average of 1895. The area planted in corn in Iowa this year is about 14 million acres. All estimates based on a general average are uncertain.

The area of wheat harvested this year was about 17,000 acres.

These figures are based upon the standard reports of township assessors for the current season.

Will of F. L. Ames.

Des Moines, Iowa, Sept. 18.—Special Telegram.—The will of F. L. Ames was filed to-day at Des Moines. The real estate and personal property in North Dakota is given to the widow, also \$50,000 outright. The residue of the estate is given, in trust, to Samuel Ames, Oliver Ames the second, and Oliver W. Ames for the benefit of the widow and children, the trust estate being first subjected to an annuity of \$50,000 to the widow.

Why Not?

CHICAGO, Sept. 18.—To the Editor:—Why not have the Chicago parade this day at 10 a. m. on Oct. 2, Chicago's day? The Fair opens to give the citizens and clerks a chance to see and witness.

A. PATTERSON.

BUCKEN DAY.

Today, Wednesday, Sept. 23 at The Tobey Furniture company. See their advertisement.