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SECOND ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
INSPECTOR  
OF  
**Factories and Workshops**  
OF THE  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY,  
1884.

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THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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IN SENATE,

JANUARY

1881

REPORT OF THE

COMMISSIONER

OF THE LAND OFFICE

1881

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# REPORT.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, }  
ORANGE, N. J., October 31st, 1884.

*To His Excellency Leon Abbett, Governor of New Jersey:*

SIR—In accordance with Section 5 of the Child Labor Law of 1883, I beg leave to herewith submit my report of the duties performed by the officers of this department during the official year ending October 31st, 1884.

The law limiting the employment age and work hours of children, minors and women, and providing for the appointment of an Inspector for the enforcement of the same, was passed by the Legislature of 1883, and approved on March 5th, 1883, by your predecessor, Governor Ludlow. This law, under which I had the honor to be appointed Inspector, was the result of many years of earnest and devoted efforts on the part of the organized wage-workers of New Jersey. Were it not for their unceasing struggles to destroy the abomination of child slavery and establish child emancipation upon the lasting basis of compulsory education, it is only fair to say that our State would still be disgraced by the hideous spectacle of little tenderlings of seven and eight years of age seeking death by toil in our factories and workshops. Civilization owes much to the thoughtful, intelligent pioneers of humanity who represent the labor aspirations of the State and lead the organized labor forces with so much skill and wisdom.

The Child Labor Law of 1883 prohibits the employment of boys under the age of twelve years, and of girls under the age of fourteen years, in any factory, workshop, mine or establishment where the *manufacture* of any goods whatsoever is carried on. It provides that no child under the age of fourteen years, shall be employed in any factory, workshop, mill or establishment where the *manufacture* of any kind of goods is carried on, for a longer period than an average of ten hours a day or sixty hours a week. It further provides that on and after the first day of July, 1884, no child between the ages of twelve and fifteen years shall be employed in any factory, workshop, mine or establishment where the *manufacture* of any kind of goods whatsoever is carried on, unless such child shall have attended, within



twelve months immediately preceding such employment, some public day or night school, or some well-recognized private school; such attendance to be for five days or evenings every week during a period of at least twelve consecutive weeks, which may be divided into two terms of six consecutive weeks each, so far as the arrangement of school terms will permit, and unless such child, or his parents or guardian, shall have presented to the manufacturer, merchant or other employer seeking to employ such child, a certificate giving the name of his parents or guardian, the name and number of the schools attended, and the number of weeks in attendance, such certificate to be signed by the teacher or teachers of such child; *provided*, that in case the age of the child be not known, such teacher shall certify that the age given is the true age to the best of his or her knowledge and belief; *provided*, that in case of orphan children, where necessity may seem to require, the guardian or others having charge of the same may, upon application to the Inspector provided for in this act, receive from him a permit for the employment of such child or children, under such regulations as the said Inspector may prescribe.

The fourth section of the law provides penalties for violations, and permits certificates of age, made by the minor or by his or her parent or guardian, to be accepted as conclusive evidence of the age of such minor upon any trial for the violation of the act. It also provides that the provisions of the act in relation to the hours of employment shall not apply to or affect any person engaged in preserving perishable goods in fruit-canning establishments. The fifth section empowers the Inspector to visit and inspect, at all reasonable hours and as often as practicable, the factories, workshops, mines and other establishments in the State where the *manufacture* or *sale* of any kind of goods is carried on, and to enforce the provisions of the law and prosecute all violations of the same.

It will be observed that the Inspector, according to the provisions of the law of 1883, was given power to prevent the employment of children under legal age in places where "the manufacture of any kind of goods is carried on," but was vested with no authority to prevent the employment of children under legal age in places where the *sale* of goods is carried on. The Inspector was given power, by the fifth section of the law, "to visit and inspect all places where the manufacture or sale of goods is carried on," but to interfere only in the case of the former. It will be further observed that the fourth section of the law permits certificates of age, made by the minor or by his or her parent or guardian, to be accepted as conclusive evidence of the age of such minor upon any trial for the violation of the act. The law contains no educational enactment except that providing against the employment of children under fifteen years of age in places where the manufacture of goods is carried on, after the 4th of July, 1884, unless they had attended school at least twelve weeks during the previous year. It will, therefore, be seen that the thousands



of little children employed in stores and places where the sale of goods is carried on, were entirely ignored, both as regards employment age and education, by the provisions of this law.

The numerous defects in the law of 1883, and the absence of adequate means for its enforcement, soon became apparent. In my first annual report, made just four months after the law going into force, I stated that the law needed ample amendment to make it effective. It was impossible to obtain a conviction from the courts so long as the fourth section of the law permitted the certificate of a minor, or a parent, or guardian to be accepted as conclusive evidence of a child's age. Under this section, parents and employers who wanted to violate the law could readily do so, without danger of punishment, by submitting false certificates. I therefore recommended that the law be amended so that parents and guardians would be compelled to swear to certificates of age in the absence of certificates from legally constituted offices of registry, and that parents and guardians swearing falsely be prosecuted for perjury. This recommendation, I am pleased to say, met with the approval of the Legislature.

The employment of children of tender years in places where the "sale of goods is carried on," and the necessity for a more comprehensive system of factory inspection, received my most earnest study and consideration. The mental, material and physical interests of the thousands of little ones who work from ten to fifteen hours a day in places which cannot be classed as manufacturing establishments, deserved, in my opinion, as much attention from our law-makers as the interests of children employed in manufacturing establishments. The future greatness, moral and material, of our State, depends upon the physical and mental well-being, not of a portion of our child population, but of all. Although the Legislature of 1884 failed to incorporate a provision in the supplementary factory law for the protection of children who work in places where "the sale of goods is carried on," I am satisfied that it was an oversight which the Legislature of 1885 will remedy.

The enactment of a more comprehensive system of factory inspection throughout the State was the most important recommendation in my first annual report. It was made after ample experience and most profound deliberation. In making the recommendation, I suggested that the field of action of the factory department be so enlarged as to require the Inspectors to enforce all labor laws on the statute book of the State, by this means providing for a long-needed want, and saving the State the expense of Inspectors for the enforcement, respectively, of each labor law. The necessity for this increase in the number of Inspectors and enlargement of their powers was pointed out by me in very plain and unmistakable language. My own personal experience proved the utter impossibility of any one man, indeed, of any three men, properly and frequently inspecting from 7,000 to 8,000 manufacturing establishments, scattered all over the State, not to speak of investi-



gating private cases, hearing applications from minors, parents and guardians, and attending to the manifold duties of such an important office. And in this, history fully bears me out. Great Britain for thirty years had laws upon her statute books for the protection of wage-labor, but they were a mockery until the statesmanship of fifty years ago provided adequate means for their enforcement. And the same can be said of Massachusetts, where, in recent years, there have not been less than five factory inspectors; and of Ohio, Pennsylvania and other States, where industry has reached an advanced stage of development, and in which public sentiment has brought about not only laws for the protection of labor but means for their enforcement. My inspection, so far as it went, impressed with the necessity for more thorough factory and workshop legislation and for a more comprehensive system of factory inspection, and I therefore recommended the appointment of at least two Deputy Inspectors, to be known as Factory and Workshop Inspectors, who should have power to enforce all sanitary, educational and other laws relating to the employment and safety of wage-laborers and minors. At the same time, I stated that I was not prepared to say that three Inspectors could perform the work as it should be done, but I knew that with less than three Inspectors the law would be evaded and could not be enforced. The Legislature of 1884 approved nearly all my recommendations but limited the term of the Deputy Inspectors to February 1st, 1885. My recommendations were also approved by the Legislative Committee of the Trades and Labor Unions of the State and were embodied in the supplementary act which the committee introduced in the Senate, and which passed both Houses, after considerable amendment, in the following form:

**A** Supplement to an act entitled "An act to limit the age and employment hours of labor of children, minors and women, and to appoint an inspector for the enforcement of the same," approved March fifth, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three.

1. BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey*. That the title of the Inspector under the act to which this act is a supplement, and the Deputies hereinafter provided for shall be respectively "Factory and Workshop Inspector" and "Deputy Inspectors," and it shall be their duty to enforce the provisions of this act, and all other laws relating to the sanitary condition of factories and workshops, and to the employment, safety, protection and compulsory attendance at school of minors, and to institute all suits or actions in the name of the Inspector, as in the fifth section hereof provided, for the violations of any of the provisions of this act, or the act to which this act is a supplement; but no action shall be begun by any Deputy Inspector without the written direction of the Inspector, and in case of judgment for the penalty in any such suit so instituted, the same shall be paid into the treasury of the State, to be used to defray the necessary expenses of the Inspector and his Deputies.

2. *And be it enacted*, That the Inspector appointed under the act to which this act is a supplement, and his successors, shall have authority to appoint, with the approval of the Governor and Comptroller, two suitable persons,



who shall be residents and citizens of this State, as Deputy Inspectors, who, when appointed, shall hold office until the first day of February next, unless sooner discharged by the said Inspector, and which Deputy Inspectors shall each receive, while acting as such, a salary at the rate of one thousand dollars, to be paid monthly, and shall have like power as the Inspector under this act, but shall be governed by and be subject to the control and direction of and be liable to be discharged at any time by the Inspector, and the salary of said Inspector shall hereafter be eighteen hundred dollars, and said Inspector and assistants shall have like right to free passage on all railroads in this State as other State officers now have by law.

3. *And be it enacted*, That the Inspector and his Deputies shall have power to demand a certificate of physical fitness from some regular practicing physician in the case of minors who may seem to them physically unable to work, and shall have power to prohibit the employment of any minor that cannot obtain such a certificate.

4. *And be it enacted*, That any parent or guardian, when so required by the Inspector or one of his Deputies, shall furnish to such Inspector or Deputy a certificate from the office of registration of births, or, in the absence of such certificate, an affidavit or affidavits of the age of such minor, and if any one shall knowingly swear falsely in any such affidavit, the person or persons so swearing shall be guilty of perjury, and liable to indictment and punishment accordingly.

5. *And be it enacted*, That section four of the act to which this is a supplement shall be amended to read as follows:

[4. *And be it enacted*, That every manufacturer, merchant or other employer employing any person contrary to the provisions of this act, or who shall be guilty of any violation hereof, shall be liable to a penalty of fifty dollars for each offense, to be recovered in an action of debt in any district court in any city, or before any justice of the peace having due jurisdiction, and that any parent or guardian, who knowingly permits the employment of such child or children, shall be liable in a like action to a penalty of not more than fifty dollars, as the court shall fix; that such action shall be prosecuted in the name of the Inspector; the trial shall proceed as other actions of debt, and the first process shall be a summons returnable in not less than five days or more than ten after issue, and it shall not be necessary to endorse the same as in *qui tam* actions; the finding of the court shall be that the defendant has or has not, as the case may be, incurred the penalty claimed in the demand of the plaintiff, and judgment shall be given accordingly; in case an execution shall issue and be returned unsatisfied, the court, on application, after notice to the defendant, may award an execution to take the body of the defendant, and in case such defendant is committed under such an execution, he shall not be discharged under the insolvent laws of the State, but shall only be discharged by the court making the order for the body execution, or one of the justices of the Supreme Court, when such court or justice shall be satisfied that further confinement will not accomplish the payment of the judgment and costs; an affidavit of the age of any minor made by its parent or guardian, at the time of its employment, shall be conclusive evidence of the age of such minor, upon any trial against a manufacturer or employer for the violation of this act, but any parent or guardian that shall knowingly swear falsely in such affidavit shall be guilty of perjury, and the Inspector or Deputy Inspector shall be authorized, in case they shall find any minor employed under any false affidavit given as aforesaid, to order and compel such minor to desist from work; the provisions of this act in relation to the hours of employment shall not apply to or affect any person engaged in preserving perishable goods in fruit-canning establishments.]

6. *And be it enacted*, That section six of the act to which this is a supplement, be amended to read as follows:



[6. *And be it enacted*, That all necessary expenses incurred by said Inspector in the discharge of his duty, shall be paid from the funds of the State, upon presentation of proper vouchers of the same; *provided*, that not more than one thousand dollars shall be expended by him in any one year.]

7. *And be it enacted*, That all acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act, be and are hereby repealed.

8. *And be it enacted*, That this act shall take effect immediately.

Passed April 17th, 1884.

Under the foregoing supplement I submitted the names of two citizens of New Jersey, as Deputy Inspectors. The nomination of Mr. J. P. McDonnell, of Paterson, who was strongly urged for the position by the trades and labor organizations of the State, was promptly approved, and Mr. McDonnell commenced the performance of his duties on the first day of last May. The popularity of his appointment was made manifest by the numerous editorial notices of approval which appeared not only in the leading papers of different political views in this State, but in other States, and by the resolutions of approval passed by labor organizations. The nomination of a second Deputy was not approved until October 1st, when Mr. John C. Craigie, of Newark, entered upon the duties of Deputy Factory Inspector. Mr. Craigie's nomination was urged by the Trades Assembly of Essex County. The wisdom of both appointments remains unquestioned, Inspectors McDonnell and Craigie, during their brief term of office, having performed their duties to the satisfaction of all concerned. Having regard to the peculiar circumstances and delicate nature of the work, and the large area to be covered, they are entitled to great credit for the ability and fidelity they have displayed. The manner in which they have acted is sufficient proof that the advocates of labor interests are fitted to fill the highest labor offices, and that they can serve the State with strict impartiality and justice toward all concerned. The following resolution, passed by the Sixth Annual Congress of the State Federation of Trades and Labor Unions, held in Newark, on the 6th of October, 1884, at which delegates were present from all parts of the State, is further evidence of the popularity of the appointments:

*“Resolved*, That this Congress expresses its warm approval of the appointment of J. P. McDonnell and John C. Craigie as Deputy Factory Inspectors, and instructs its Secretary to so inform Governor Abbett, Comptroller Anderson and Inspector L. T. Fell.”

On the 1st of June, 1884, I issued the following circular, five thousand copies of which were mailed to manufacturers throughout the State:



STATE OF NEW JERSEY.  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, }  
ORANGE, N. J., June 1st, 1884.

*To Manufacturers, Wage-Workers, and all Citizens whom it may concern :*

The State Legislature of 1883 passed an act entitled "An Act to limit the age and employment hours of children, minors and women, and to appoint an Inspector for the same." To this act the Legislature of 1884 passed a supplement, a correct copy of which, together with the law of 1883, accompanies this circular. The law of 1883 prohibits :

First.—The employment in any manufacturing establishment of boys under twelve (12) years of age and girls under fourteen (14).

Second.—The employment in any manufacturing establishment of children of either sex between twelve (12) and fifteen (15) years of age, after the 1st day of July, 1884, without a certain prescribed attendance at day or night school.

Third.—The employment in any manufacturing establishment of children under fourteen (14) years of age for more than ten (10) hours per day.

The supplementary law provides for the appointment of two additional Inspectors, and empowers said Inspectors to enforce the provisions of the act relating to the employment of children, and the provisions of all other laws which are on the statute book of New Jersey, and which relate to the sanitary condition of factories and workshops, and to the employment, safety, protection and compulsory attendance at school of minors.

The supplementary law further empowers the Inspector and his Deputies to prohibit the employment of any minor who cannot obtain a certificate of physical fitness from a recognized physician.

Amongst the laws which this department is required to enforce, we beg to draw special attention to the following :

1st. The Act limiting the employment hours of women and minors and prohibiting the employment of children.

2d. The Ten Hour Act.

3d. The Compulsory Education Act.

4th. The Act to protect children from neglect, etc.

5th. The Act to protect the health of boys and girls, etc.

6th. The Act for the punishment of cruelty to children.

7th. The Act prohibiting the sale of cigarettes or tobacco in any of its forms to minors.

8th. The Act for the punishment of crime.

9th. The Act for the better protection of the health of females.

The Supplementary Law of 1884 in its first section expressly provides for the enforcement of the foregoing laws and all other laws relating to the sanitary condition of factories and the employment and protection of children, and it is to be hoped that all concerned will render a ready and cheerful compliance with their provisions and so prevent the necessity of legal proceedings.

The provisions of the laws which come under the jurisdiction of this Department of the State Government are eminently wise and just, and we, therefore, trust that all good citizens will assist in their enforcement.

Respectfully,

L. F. FELL,

*Inspector.*

Please post this legal notice and accompanying laws in a prominent part of your establishment.



In response to the foregoing circular, numerous communications were received from manufacturers and others, requesting the fullest possible information respecting the nine laws referred to. In nearly all cases those correspondents expressed an utter ignorance about the ten-hour and other acts, thereby giving further proof of the uselessness of labor laws without adequate means for their enforcement. Some of these laws have been on our statute book for years, and some are of more recent enactment, and yet few had any knowledge of them and their observance was the exception. These laws cover a most extensive area and are of the highest importance to the health, training, morals and general welfare of the rising generation, but their enforcement calls for the most unremitting and liberal form of inspection, as they relate not only to children in factories and workshops but to the general protection and education of children everywhere throughout our State. In order to remove, as far as possible, all cause of ignorance about these laws, I had one thousand copies printed in pamphlet form, all of which have been furnished to applicants and others.

Knowing the magnitude of the duties to be performed, there being, doubtless, over 8,000 factories in the State, and possibly 15,000 youths and children in employment, not to speak of all the concomitant labors resulting from the various provisions of our laws, we proceeded with our work in a systematic and conservative way. It was apparent from the beginning that not half the factories and workshops in the State could be inspected during the official term; and further, that a great deal of time would be necessarily devoted to the examination of children, parents and guardians. In order, therefore, to produce the best possible results, I commenced by devoting special attention to those districts which had been reported as being most in need of factory inspection and child examination. For the promotion of this work I had the following blanks printed:

STATE DEPARTMENT OF FACTORY INSPECTION.

City.....  
 Name of child.....  
 Age    "    " .....  
 Sex    "    " ..... Birth-place.....  
 Residence of child.....  
 Health    "    " .....  
 Has child worked before?.....  
 Where?... ..  
 How long?... ..  
 Occupation.....



Where can child now get work?.....

Nature of proposed employment.....

Can child read and write well?.....

How long has child attended school?.....

Has child attended school twelve weeks during the past year?.....

Nature of education received by child.....

Name of child's parent or guardian.....

Are both parents dead?.....

Condition of parents or guardians.....

Habits.....

Average earnings. ....

Character of locality in which they live.....

Has child any brothers or sisters?.....

Their ages?.....

Do they work?.....

Where? .....

Occupation.....

Earnings.....

Can a certificate be obtained respecting the child's attendance at school?

Will parent or guardian make affidavit that child is of legal age?.. ..



## FACTORY AND WORKSHOP DEPARTMENT.

City..... Name..... Date.....

1. Business .....
2. Number of employes... ..
3. Number of children under 16 years.....
4. Number of children under legal age.....
5. Work hours per day. .... Per week. ....
6. Work hours on Saturdays.....
7. Overtime. ....
8. Time allowed for dinner.....
9. Time allowed for supper during overtime.....
10. Are any of the minors or women allowed to eat their meals in rooms  
where manufacturing or handicraft is carried on?.....
11. Are minors allowed to clean any part of the mill gearing while the  
same is in motion, or to work between the fixed and traversing  
part of any self-acting machine while in motion by action of  
mechanical power?.. ..
12. Are the hoists, fly-wheels, mill gearing and other machinery properly  
fenced or in such positions as to be equally safe to every employe?  
.....
13. How many accidents have occurred during the past year?.....  
From what cause?.....  
Are such cases promptly reported to the City Physician?.....
14. Is the factory or workshop ventilated so as to render harmless, so far  
as is practicable, all gases, vapors, dust or other impurities gen-  
erated in the course of the manufacturing process, that may be  
injurious to health?.....
15. Is dust generated and inhaled by the workers to an injurious extent?  
.....  
If so, can it be prevented by a fan or other mechanical means?.....



16. Is the factory or workshop so overcrowded as to be injurious to the health of the employes?.....
17. Does any effluvia arise from any drain, privy or other nuisance?.....  
How often are the walls, ceilings, etc., painted or limewashed?.....
18. Are the female employes furnished with seats?.....
19. Are the stairways used by female employes properly screened?.....
20. Are special places provided for female employes to dress, wash, etc.? .....
21. Are there separate water-closets for male and female employes?.....  
Their sanitary condition.....
22. Are the workers provided with drinking water?.....
23. General appearance of the female employes.....
24. General appearance of the male employes.....
25. Do many appear physically unfit for work?.....
26. Is the building provided with adequate fire-escapes?.....
27. Means of egress in case of fire?..... How doors open.....  
Are they kept locked?.....
28. Are the employes paid weekly, or fortnightly?.....  
Are wages paid in cash?.....
29. Is the factory or workshop under the personal supervision of the owners?.....
30. Intellectual condition of employes.....

The result of my circular of June 1st became apparent immediately after July 4th, upon which day the educational section of the law of 1883 went into operation. Children under legal age and children under fifteen who had not complied with the school provision, or who were unable to produce certificates of school attendance, were sent home in large numbers in all our manufacturing districts. The result of this was that the Inspectors were besieged with applications for permits, and the greater portion of the official year had to be devoted to the examination of children and their parents and guardians. The Inspectors have power to grant permits for the employment of children under prescribed regulations, but it is obvious that such permits should be granted only after proper examination. The



examination forms aided us very considerably in this respect. Through our examinations we have been able to obtain much useful and interesting information about the schooling, years of employment, health, wages and general knowledge of children, and the social condition of their parents and guardians. A great deal of time has been consumed by this work, but the necessities of the law, as well as of the children and parents, called for it, and the Inspectors have been enabled, through it, to unearth the most astounding facts relative to the ignorance of children and the indifference of some parents. Were it not for this system of examination the granting of permits would become a farce. Through it the ages of applicants, as near as it is possible to get them, their physical fitness for work and the social condition of their parents, have been and are being obtained. Almost every day hours have been occupied investigating cases in order to ascertain the truth or falsehood of statements made by parents and guardians, and the labor has been well paid by the result.

The examinations we have made in the leading districts of the State dishearten and distress. Nothing short of personal experience would have led us to believe in the frightful amount of ignorance which exists. The number of children who are being reared in ignorance, fitted for injuring society, in whom the natural feelings are destroyed and who forget all the good they have ever learned, whose homes are too often habitations of wretchedness, and who seem to have no hope, is appalling. The condition of these children appeals to all who desire to save society from lawlessness and ruin, and who prefer prevention to punishment. The children of the toiling poor are not naturally disorderly or lawless. They were not born thieves, liars, prostitutes or murderers. They are as capable of good as the children who are more favored, and, with proper care and protection and nurture, they would make honest, honorable and intelligent citizens. With their wan faces and dwarfed forms and stunted minds, these little ones of our State outstretch their arms and appealingly implore the law-makers of New Jersey to afford them the mental pabulum and physical protection which they so much need.

Large numbers of children have been examined in all our manufacturing districts. The examinations were held either in factories or in private places selected for the purpose by the Inspectors. They were conducted with a view to reach correct conclusions in the interest of the State, the child and society generally. Almost all the children examined were between the ages of twelve and fifteen. The average age at which these children went to work was nine years. As a rule, they had been sent to school about their sixth or seventh year, and taken away about two years later, for the purpose of being put to work. All of them had been accustomed to work ten hours a day, and many of them thirteen and more hours a day, through overtime. One of the latter, a pale, worn-out child of fourteen years, said, when asked if she liked to work overtime, "No, but I am used to it now."



But I don't feel well." A boy just turned twelve years of age, when asked did he play, said "No;" and another, when asked did he ever laugh, answered like an old man, "Not much." Such replies were not unfrequent. The general appearance of these children is worthy of note. Children who had been set to work at an early age were, as a rule, delicate, puny and ignornant; they knew the least, having forgotten the little they had been taught before going to work. The most healthy and intelligent were those who had attended school till their thirteenth or fourteenth year. The boys in the glass works, who do no overtime and work about eight hours a day, looked stronger, livelier and healthier than any others. Many of these children, when questioned, answered that they did not remember when they first went to work, the time was so long past. Children of thirteen years, with little, old faces, said they were satisfied with work, and that they didn't care for school or play. Fourteen hours a day was, in some cases, the service rendered by children of thirteen years, the excuse for this being that the extra day time was allowed off their Saturday labor. Many of these children complained that they could not attend night school through having to do overwork, and others said that they were unable, after ten and a half hours labor, to attend night school. The average weekly wages of the children examined would not amount to \$2. Wages are generally paid either every month or every two weeks, but young persons in some of the best employments in the State are paid weekly. The work at which some of the children are engaged is, in very many cases, dangerous to life and limb, and is suited only for persons of mature years. This is proven by countless mutilated hands and by numerous "accidents," some of which have found their way into print, but most of which have never been publicly heard of. Our examinations brought out the important fact that some employers send agents to Castle Garden, in New York City, to hunt up poor Europeans, with children, who cannot speak the English language, the object being, of course, to get the labor of parents and children at a nominal price, and to bring both into competition with our own citizens. Amongst the complaints made by children under fifteen (15) years of age, it was stated that a full dinner-hour is not given; that only fifteen or thirty minutes is allowed for supper during overtime; that children who have long distances to go home, work overtime; that boys and girls in stores and similar places are compelled to work twelve, fourteen and more hours a day, to their great mental and physical detriment, and that they are too tired after working ten or ten and a half hours to attend night school. As an illustration of the evils of overtime for young persons, I may cite the case of a small girl under fifteen years of age, but who looked no more than thirteen, whom I found at work, with others, at 10 P. M., in a badly ventilated factory where the thermometer stood above 100°. This child, after her thirteen and a half hours' toil, had to walk two miles over a country road before reaching home. The evil in such cases is



not at all lessened by limiting the hours to sixty per week, or reducing the hours on Saturday. The great evil consists in working more than reasonable hours each day. Cases of this kind were found to be the rule, not the exception.

The examination of children who applied for permits to work, and of those questioned in the factories, showed that little or no regard had been paid to the school provision of the law of 1883, which went into force last July. Children who had been discharged from work through not being the legal age in 1883, had, for the most part, attended schools, but those amongst them who attained the legal age this year quitted school and returned to work. These children had, of course, learned very little, but in many cases the short term of school attendance had brightened them and created a longing for more instruction. In Passaic one of these latter children came under special notice. She was a little over twelve years of age and of Dutch parentage. When she was sent home from the mill a year before, she was a pale, wretched-looking little being. One year's school and play had not given the child one-tenth of the instruction she should receive, but it had given the glow of health to her cheek and of ambition to her mind. Her little brother had been killed by the machinery in a mill, and the little one acted as interpreter during the investigation. She said that she was glad at having been sent from the factory to the school and that she desired to remain at school. Her mother admitted that she was getting along just as well without the child's labor.

The announcement that the school provision of the law would be enforced after July 4th, 1884, fell upon both parents and children like a thunderbolt. They were not prepared for it and they did not expect it. It is to be regretted that, in too many cases, it was not in the power of this department to enforce it. Indeed, if it had been rigidly enforced in some districts it would have stopped the wheels of industry almost entirely. The fault, however, did not, in the majority of cases, rest with the employers, the parents or the children, the real cause in such cases being the absence of adequate school accommodation. In some districts the schools were not able to accommodate one-third of the school population; in other districts there were no night schools. Under such circumstances it was not thought advisable to punish the children or their employers, and permits were granted on condition that these children should attend school when opportunity to do so presented itself, and that the employers should, under no circumstances, employ any more children who had not complied with the school provision of the law. Many of the largest employers in the State, to their great credit, promised to aid the law in every possible way, and, in some cases, have undertaken to provide evening schools for their youthful help until such time as the State makes proper provision in this respect. Of course cases were found where the parents had neglected to send their children to school when they could have done so, and when the parents claimed that they could get



no good of their children and that they would not attend evening school. And other cases presented themselves where the boys complained that being overtaxed by work they had been unable to attend evening school; also, cases where they stated that they had been sent home from the evening schools, owing to their overcrowded condition. There is, however, reason for congratulation. The work of the Factory Inspectors has crowded public and private day and night schools to repletion, thus making it necessary to provide more school-room and teachers. The employers, parents and children have awakened to the fact that the law relating to the employment and schooling of children will be no longer a dead letter, and the State itself is aroused to the necessity of taking prompt action for the education of its heretofore neglected children. The Factory Inspectors have left no effort untried to promote the object of the educational provision of the factory law. They have communicated with school boards, private schools, employers, trades unions, and all others who profess an interest in the education of the young, and they have rigorously enforced the law wherever it was possible to do so. It now only remains for the State to provide the needed accommodation and the Factory Inspectors will see that no child in the State of New Jersey will be allowed to grow up without schooling, and that no employer will be allowed to employ boy or girl under fifteen years of age, unless the law has been fully complied with. This, in itself, will be a herculean work, but it can and will be performed.

The investigation into the educational qualifications of children between the ages of twelve and fifteen, in all parts of the State, brought to light some shocking facts with reference to their mental and physical condition and their dense ignorance. Nearly all the children examined were naturally bright and intelligent, but neglect, years of work and their general surroundings had left sad traces upon their youthful forms and minds. It is not possible in this report to enter into the details of every case, either of factory or child examination; to do so would be to fill the largest volume that the State has ever published, and with facts which are pregnant with danger to our social and political progress. At this time it may be sufficient to draw general attention to the state of ignorance that prevails amongst the young who toil in our industrial districts. There is no exaggeration in saying that three-fourths of the work-children know absolutely nothing. The greatest ignorance exists on the most commonplace questions. Most of these children have never been inside of a school-house, and the majority have either been at school for too short a period to learn anything or have forgotten the little instruction they received. Not two per cent. know anything about grammar or have ever been taught any. One of the few children who professed to know something about grammar said that the word "boy" was "a comma," when asked what part of speech it was. The vast majority could not spell words of more than one syllable, and very many could not spell at



all. About ten per cent. could answer questions in simple multiplication. Of the remaining ninety per cent., the majority could not add up the smallest numbers. At least ninety per cent. know absolutely nothing about simple geographical and historical questions. The number able to read and write, in a distinguishable way, was shockingly small, and very many could neither read nor write even their own names. Very few of these children, the large majority of whom were born in the United States, ever heard of George Washington. Amongst the answers given about Washington, by those who heard of him, were the following: "He is a good man." "He chased the Indians away." "He died a few years ago." "He is President." "I saw his picture." "He is a high man in war." "He never told a lie." "He discovered America." "The best man who ever lived," and so forth. Over ninety-five per cent. never heard of the revolutionary war, Abraham Lincoln, the civil war, Governor Abbett or President Arthur. At least sixty per cent. never heard of the United States or of Europe. At least thirty per cent. could not name the city in which they lived, and quite a number only knew the name of the street where they housed. Many who had heard of the United States could not say where they were. Some said they were in Europe and others said they were in New Jersey. Many big girls and boys were unable to say whether New Jersey was in North or South America. Girls were found in Jersey City and Newark who never heard of New York city. In Newark and Jersey City this was, of course, the exception, but in other parts of the State it was the rule. Some who had heard of New York said that it was in New Jersey, and others answered that Pennsylvania was the capital of New Jersey. Not ten per cent. could tell what an island was. Very few had heard of the city of Washington, and not three per cent. could locate it. A girl aged fourteen years said Europe was in the moon. A few were found who never heard of the sun, or moon, or earth, and a large number who could not tell where or when they were born. A boy born in New York and living in Paterson said that New York was in Jersey and Jersey was in Paterson. This boy had been at work from his eighth year. It was the opinion of some that Europe was an ocean. Ninety-five per cent. could answer no questions about other States or cities of the United States. Children who had been brought to this country before their sixth year, in some cases, never heard the name of their native country, and others could not locate them. Some children born in Holland never heard of that country, and some children born in Ireland said that Ireland was in America. Boys and girls who had been brought to this country from Great Britain, Ireland and Germany, between the ages of twelve and fifteen years, were better educated and knew more about the geography and history of America than children born and reared in the State. Many of the children examined had never attended school until the winter of 1883, when they did so through the operation of the Child Labor Law. Several of these



expressed a desire to go to school and learn. It was observable throughout our examinations, all over the State, that the greatest illiteracy distinguished those who had been put to work between the ages of nine and twelve years and who were accustomed to work overtime. This sad tale of illiteracy is not overdrawn in the slightest degree. It is, alas, too true. A leading newspaper of New Jersey, referring to the ignorance of our children on the history of their country, says that "This alone is evidence of an amount of ignorance which our State should do all in its power to eradicate." That American children should know less about America than children born abroad; that our industrial establishments should be filled with children in mental darkness, who are on the verge of manhood and womanhood, is a disgrace that the State of New Jersey cannot afford to suffer from any longer. And it can and should be wiped out by the enactment at once of a comprehensive compulsory education law and the provision of adequate school accommodation.

Children applying for permits have been generally accompanied by their parents or guardians. In all cases the parents have been subjected to a searching examination by the Inspectors, and in many cases their homes have been visited for the purpose of getting at bottom facts. Children who have sought permits were generally the offspring of widowed mothers; mothers deserted by their husbands; mothers whose husbands were unable to work through sickness; mothers who had more regard for their own pleasure than their children's well-being; parents with low wages and irregular employment; parents of dissipated habits, and ignorant parents of a low, greedy disposition, who could live without their children's earnings, but in whom the parental instincts were dead. It is worthy of study by the statesmanship of to-day that only in three instances were permits sought by parents who belonged to trades unions, and in these cases the circumstances were very exceptional. Experience proves that wherever intelligent organization exists amongst the wage-laborers, the latter are steady, reliable and good citizens, who try by all legitimate means to maintain their independence and respectability.

The examination of parents and children shows that the employment of children has increased with the reduction of wages, and that the employment of adults has decreased with the employment of children. It shows that there are thousands of children in the State who know no change but from the workshop to the bed, and from the bed to the workshop. It shows that even ten hours' labor in a factory for children is itself an overwork. It shows that overwork in the factory, tread-mill for women, not to mention children, is destructive not alone to their lives, but to the lives of their offspring. It shows that while the poor and even the criminal are responsible for their bad acts, they are not alone to blame, and that society which neglects and ignores their interests should not be acquitted of all responsibility. It is true that very many of those who drive their



children to work at tender ages, and who try to get them at work on some pretense, are unthinking, unscrupulous, debauched parents, who have little regard for the mental, physical and moral interests of their offspring. But it is also true that those same persons have been neglected in their youth and adolescence, and that the rights which we claim for the children of to-day were denied them. Therefore, our aim should be to save the youth of to-day from the ignorance and training through which so many parents have been ruined. Many of the worst kind of parents and guardians complained bitterly of the law. "They did not see what business the State had interfering with their children. What right had the law to compel their children to attend school? They themselves got no schooling and they did not see what more their children wanted! When they were little children they had to work, and why should not their children work? Their children knew quite enough!"

In some cases respectable mothers sought permits because their husbands "act foolishly by spending their wages in drink." As an excuse for this conduct they said their husbands were discouraged by hard work, irregular employment and unpleasant surroundings; also, that they were poor through the monthly or fortnightly system of getting their wages, having to pay extra prices for all goods bought from storekeepers on credit. The numerous cases of greedy and inhuman parents and guardians which came under our observation received prompt investigation, and steps were at once taken to prevent them trafficking upon their children's toil. Permits were granted in all cases where the circumstances and spirit of the law permitted the Inspectors to issue them, and always after the fullest investigation. The deceit practiced by mothers and guardians made it very difficult for the Inspectors to decide in many cases, but the amendment to the law of 1883, giving power to the Inspectors to demand affidavits of age, had the result in most cases of making parents and guardians tell the truth. The majority of parents seemed conscientious enough not to swear falsely, but there can be no doubt that many false certificates have been registered and oaths taken by parents whose children were born in distant countries or States, and of whose falsehood or perjury it is almost impossible to obtain evidence. The following, which appeared some time ago in the *Paterson Daily Guardian*, speaks for itself:

"ONE INSTANCE OF MANY.

"A poor woman this morning applied to Mr. McDonnell, Deputy Factory Inspector, for a permit for her little girl, aged fourteen, to work in a mill. 'But that child is never fourteen,' was the exclamation of the astonished officer. 'Oh, yes; she is, sir,' replied the mother. 'She is very small for her age,' she added, apologetically, and no one could doubt the truth of the latter, if he believed her



former statement. In fact, the poor, thin, half-starved child looked not a day older than ten years at most, and the more likely guess would have been eight or nine. The mother said she wanted to get the child work at the Barbour mill, and she thought she could do so now that the company had started on full time, if only she had a permit. 'I can never give it to you!' was the reply, 'not for that child—unless she is a half orphan; is her father living.' The mother said he was, bad luck to him; but the fact of his living did her and her eight little ones no good; it was rather a hindrance, for had he been dead the child might have been set to work. Eight children, and the shriveled-up being that looked as though a good strong puff of wind would blow her away the oldest of the flock—it seemed a hard case. The poor mother was told that if she made an affidavit that the child was fourteen there would be no risk in her employment by a manufacturer—she might do that. 'Well, then, if the truth must be told, she's not yet fourteen, but soon will be,' the troubled woman confessed; but the child had worked in a mill for years already; ever since she was nine years old—which doubtless, in part at least, accounted for her pinched appearance."

Visits of the Inspectors to the residences of some applicants for permits resulted in the discovery that in many cases widowed mothers were at work for \$4 and \$5 a week while their baby children were either locked up in their rooms or were running around unprotected. In one of these cases, only a few months ago, a child was badly burned and will be a cripple for life. It is to be hoped that at no distant time the State will consider the necessity of affording some special protection to children whose parents are either unable or unwilling to give them proper care. Another discovery made by the Inspectors in their visits was that parents, through having to perform overwork, had been unable to look after the school attendance of their children. And perhaps one of the worst discoveries was that grown-up young men and women were found idle while their younger sisters and brothers were at work for a mere pittance.

The inspection of factories and workshops was necessarily limited to a small percentage of the eight thousand and upwards which are in New Jersey, owing to the extensive examinations of children and parents, and the multifarious duties calling for the attention of the Inspectors during their brief official term. But special effort was made to reach these districts and industries in which there was good reason to believe the factory laws would be largely violated. It is gratifying to be able to state that the employers of labor as a rule met the Inspectors courteously and afforded them all reasonable opportunity to make proper inspection. In some cases, however, owners of factories expressed doubt about the indentivity of the Deputy Factory Inspectors, as they bore no certificate of authority from the State, and for this reason I beg to suggest that hereafter the Inspectors be furnished with a proper State certificate. In nearly all the factories visited the cir-



cular letter from this Department, bearing June 1st, 1884, and the laws of 1883 and 1884, were posted in conspicuous places. The owners of factories and workshops inspected were in many cases quite ignorant of the provisions of the factory laws, but, upon explanation, they generally expressed satisfaction and promised a cheerful compliance. Many of these gentlemen were, no doubt, quite sincere in their promises, but there is good reason to believe that there are some who will violate the provisions of the law whenever they get a chance to do so. Many factory owners were well acquainted with the provisions of the laws, and a minute examination showed that they had complied with them, especially with the age provision. On the question of education the manufacturers visited spoke emphatically in favor of children being compelled to attend school, several of them expressing their readiness to establish night schools for their own employes until such time as the State provided the necessary accommodation. Dr. Gordon, of Lorillard's works, in Jersey City, commenced work in this direction at once, and Mr. Whitney, of Glassboro, took such a happy view of the law that he promised to aid its enforcement in every possible way, and even suggested to the glassworkers the advisability of having a resolution of approval passed by the Glassblowers' League, a suggestion which was at once acted upon by Branch No. 5 of the League. The inspection of some large factories was conducted with considerable difficulty owing to the intricate construction of the buildings, and the facilities afforded for children to be hidden or to escape. There is good reason to believe that in some of these factories children were either stowed away with the knowledge of the overseers or owners or had concealed themselves to avoid examination by the Inspectors. In all the factories examined the owners had armed themselves with certificates of the children's ages, but the examination of the children made it manifest that many of these certificates were false, and that the children were under the legal age. Manufacturers were of this opinion in many cases, but they claimed that the children had been forced upon them by their parents, and some of them added that so long as the certificate protected them it was not their business to object. The children themselves were evidently well posted, and, it is most remarkable, most of them were *just above* the legal age. The parents of many of these children were looked up by the Inspectors, and many of them, when told they should swear to these certificates, admitted that they were not correct. In all such cases the children were sent home, but owing to the great amount of time consumed in inspecting the factories and examining the children found in them, it was not possible to look up all parents whose certificates were considered false. This will be readily understood when I state that the proper inspection of one mill and the examination of from thirty to forty children occupies not less than an entire workday. In some of the factories inspected, children were found who were employed by the help and not by the firm, and more were found moving about



whom the employers declared not to be in their employment. This was doubtless true in some instances and false in others, but it suggests the necessity of a legal enactment to the effect that all children found in factories and workshops, except during meal hours, shall be deemed to be employes.

Many of the employers, amongst them some of the largest in the State, who expressed an earnest interest in the Factory Laws, declared that under no circumstances would they employ children under fifteen years of age were it not for the wholesale manner in which other manufacturers in their line of business employed little ones at nominal wages. It was claimed that these latter manufacturers were by this means unable to undersell the more liberal and better class of manufacturers. Some manufacturers also drew attention to the necessity of having similar laws enacted in those States where they do not exist, and expressed much satisfaction when informed that ere long every industrial State in the Union would probably have them. Overtime was found to be the rule in many factories, where young girls from fourteen to sixteen years of age worked, in some cases, as late as 11:00 P. M., in a temperature of over one hundred degrees. Investigation brought out the fact that where the overtime of children amounted to about two hours a day, the extra compensation for the week only averaged from nineteen to thirty cents—a sum surely inadequate for the loss of vital force and education. Many of the manufacturers, however, condemn the overtime system, and have entirely abandoned it. One of these manufacturers said that the workers themselves naturally disliked the overtime system, and that they were played out the next day and unable to do the ordinary amount of work; furthermore, that the most and best work was done during the early hours of the day, before the workers grew tired. Whatever may be said by the friends of long work hours in favor of overtime by men, surely nothing can be advanced in favor of overtime for women and children. Under the present law, overtime cannot and will not be stopped, and a legal enactment is therefore required, making it illegal for any employer to employ any minor or woman more than ten hours a day. Business being business, and having little humanity in it, the majority of employers try to employ the youngest, because the cheapest, children; but that there is little wisdom in their course is proven by the statement of one of the largest manufacturers in the State, who pointed with pride to young men and women who were engaged at higher wages instead of children whom he had discharged, and who turned out far better work. This manufacturer said that he found that adult labor, at fair wages, paid him far better than child labor at low wages. The system of paying wages monthly and fortnightly was condemned by many employers, prominent amongst them being Mr. Fisher, of New Brunswick, of the Consolidated Fruit Jar Company, an accomplished gentleman of the broadest and most humanitarian views.



It cannot be said with truth that our present system of factory life is calculated to improve the moral or physical condition of our young. Very little regard is paid, *as a rule*, to the laws of health and morals. The sanitary condition of the factories and workshops is in many instances most defective and perilous to the health of the employes. Many of these places have not been lime-washed or painted in years, and are little better than breeding places for disease. These buildings, in which various manufactures are carried on, are the worst in this respect. The laws of cleanliness are ignored. In some factories, where hundreds of both sexes, young and old, are employed, there is only one water-closet for the use of all, but this is not so common in the large factories as in buildings where several businesses are carried on. In many of the large factories the owners are most particular in this regard, and have had water-closets provided for the sexes at different parts of the buildings. The public health demands the best sanitary conditions for these places where work-people are confined during the day. The places where too many of them exist during the night are, alas, standing invitations to cholera and other dread diseases. Minors and women in many cases eat their meals in the rooms where they work. This should be prohibited by law. In most of the factories it is stated that minors are forbidden to clean any part of the mill gearing while in motion, or to work between the fixed or traversing part of any self-acting machine while in motion by action of mechanical power, but it is nevertheless singular that minors are frequently killed or maimed by doing so. A law is needed to prevent this cruel risking of child life. The hoists, fly-wheels, mill gearing and other machinery are fenced in very few cases, and the result is that accidents are frequent, although the public hear nothing about them, as they are never reported to the city or district physicians. The expenses of fencing would prove inconsiderable even in the largest factories, and the saving to life and limb, and even to the owners themselves in the shape of damages, would be more than compensation for the outlay. Many manufacturers promised to fence their machinery, upon the suggestion of the Inspectors, but the vast mass will never do so until the law compels them, as in other States and nations. The ventilation in most of the factories and workshops is very poor, and the workers in too many cases are compelled to inhale dust and other impurities where it might be prevented by the erection of fans and ventilating shafts. The workers in such places become physical and mental wrecks after a few years, and pass away prematurely.

The absence of dressing or cleaning rooms for females in factories where dirty work is carried on, is sadly apparent. Young women should not be compelled to dress and undress in the midst of men and boys. All factories and workshops should be compelled, by law, to provide suitable places for female employes to dress, wash, &c. The law passed this year through the efforts of the State Trades



Unions, compelling employers to provide seats for the use of their female employes, is one of the best on our statute books, and has been approved by men of all classes, especially by the medical fraternity, many eminent members of which have testified that it is destructive to the health of women to keep them standing for hours in mills or stores without an opportunity to rest. This law is being gradually obeyed, but three-fourths of the mill owners and store-keepers profess ignorance of it. The Inspectors have notified all persons whose places they have inspected to comply with the provisions of this law at once, and in the event of violation after such notice, will prosecute. Few factories and workshops in this State are provided with adequate fire-escapes. It is safe to say that in the event of fire in any of these places, the chances are that many lives might be sacrificed. Some of the factories are well provided with escapes, but they are few. The press of this State favors a law requiring the erection of fire-escapes, not only on industrial establishments, but on halls, theaters, schools, colleges, seminaries and other establishments having more than two floors, and occupied by more than a certain specified number of people. In connection with this, it is proper to note that nearly all the doors of our factories and public buildings open inwardly, and that many of them are kept locked during work hours. Complaints made by parents respecting the treatment of their children in stores are numerous. The hours are in some cases from 7 A. M. to 9 P. M., and Saturdays to 11 P. M. These children complain of exhaustion, but the present law offers them no protection. In many places they are "docked" for nominal offenses, and it is a common thing for them to lose a day's pay in the week. In some of the small factories children are given employment on condition of signing an agreement not to hold the firm responsible if they meet with any accident. Amongst the small workshops the condition of bake-houses calls for special attention. The sooner a comprehensive factory and workshop act is passed covering the points referred to in this report, the better will it be for the interests of our commonwealth.

The laws relating to the protection of labor, which come under the authority of this department, are only efficacious when the means of their enforcement are provided. Few think of obeying the cigarette law, the pool law, the law providing seats for female employes or the laws relating to the employment of children, unless they have the dread of legal authority before their eyes. Laws of this kind without adequate means of enforcement always fall into desuetude. They are in the interest of the poor and toiling, and unless enforced by the authority of the State they fail to fulfill their mission, and only help to create disrespect for law. Countless sums of money are spent for the protection of property and the punishment of crime, and there is therefore no reason why a great State like New Jersey should hesitate to spend an adequate amount of money for the protection of human beings, and the prevention of crime. It is safe to say that every



dollar spent on enforcing the law for the protection of children, or for their education, will yet prevent the expenditure of ten times the amount in the erection of jails and reform schools.

In my first annual report, I showed clearly the necessity for more Inspectors and frequent inspection, and the Legislature passed a law permitting the appointment of two Deputies. One of the Deputies has been in office six months, the other one month. Since the 4th of July, when the most important provisions of the law went into force, factories have been inspected in all parts of the State, children have been examined in all our chief cities, permits have been granted after minute investigation, many children have been released, the schools have been filled, the cause of education has been promoted in various ways, the law has been made widely known and enforced; store-keepers whom it was possible to reach have been duly warned about the provisions of the pool, seats and cigarette laws, cases of accidents have been fully investigated, and every legitimate effort has been made by the Inspectors to make the law respected and obeyed. And yet, notwithstanding that every day, and sometimes parts of nights, have been devoted to this work, thousands of factories remain to be inspected and thousands of children to be examined. It must, therefore, be clear to every experienced person that a permanent force of Inspectors is needed in this State, as in Massachusetts and elsewhere, and that the force should not consist of less than four, including the chief. Without frequent and careful inspection and examination, the labor and educational laws will become dead letters, and frequent and careful inspection and examination can never be made without a sufficient force of Inspectors, who should hold office not for a few months, but for a reasonable term. New factories and workshops are springing into existence every day, and children are daily attaining the age at which they are allowed to go to work on certain conditions. With these facts before us, it is clear that a proper force of Inspectors is absolutely necessary for the enforcement of the labor laws of our State. In support of this view, I submit the following resolution, passed by the representatives of the organized workingmen of New Jersey, at the sixth annual congress, in Newark:

*“Resolved, That in order to secure the proper enforcement of laws passed for the protection of wage-labor and the education of the young, this congress instructs the legislative committee to urge the appointment of an additional Factory Inspector from the southern part of the State.”*

The evils of child labor, child ignorance and female labor for long hours in factories are so well known that it is unnecessary for me in this report to enter into a review thereof. New Jersey has, by its laws of 1883 and 1884, declared against child slavery, and recognized by its education provision that “Ignorance is the curse of God, knowledge the wings wherewith we fly to heaven.” But, in order that our State may not take too much credit for its benign legislation, and



believe that it has done enough, it may be proper for me in this report to quote the opinions of some eminent persons and papers on children, child education and female labor.

Speaking of the education and employment of young persons, Col. Carroll D. Wright, of the Massachusetts Labor Bureau, in his report of 1874, said: "Personally, we believe in the extremest legislation in this direction, and, could we have the power given us, we would not allow a girl under sixteen years of age to be employed in any kind of a factory or workshop. If she could be free until the age of twenty, mankind would be the gainer."

In 1875 Governor Gaston, of Massachusetts, cordially approved of the law limiting the work hours of minors and women to ten per day, and, towards the conclusion of an elaborate address, said: "In manufacturing communities, instruction cannot be properly or safely neglected. The necessity of the pupil and the public interests alike demand that those whose inheritance is that of labor shall have both the time and opportunity for instruction which shall give to labor intelligence, and consequently increased value and compensation."

Governor Washburne, of Massachusetts, in his address in 1874, said: "The State claims the right and responsibility of providing a good common school education for every child within her borders at the public expense. She starts them all upon the highway to useful and honorable manhood. That she advances and maintains this theory is one of the crowning honors of our good commonwealth." Speaking of women in the mills, he said: "That they are losing the vitality requisite to the healthy employment of social opportunity, no candid observer will deny."

Dr. Robert Collyer, of New York, says: "Children and women have rights under the Declaration of Independence that the home and the Church are bound to respect. The first of these rights is the birthright claim to the wisest and very best training the parent can give. The second, right to enjoy rest and recreation."

The National Federation of Trades and Labor Unions of North America and Canada declares that "Children should be kept from manufactories, workhouses and mines. Our children should be superior to the present generation."

The Newark *Daily Advertiser*, speaking of the necessity of factory inspection in this State, says: "One man cannot do all the examining and pass upon all the work done between Cape May and Paterson, and it is but just such relief should be afforded him as may seem to be needful and which will more fully carry out the purposes and intentions of the act."

Senator Titus, of New York, says: "It is the just duty of the State to give its child-citizens such a moral and intellectual education as will fit them to intelligently discharge the duty which devolves upon every member of a free republic."

The *Christian Advocate* says: "No citizen of this country can



shift from his shoulders his share of responsibility for the proper shaping of the conscience of the next generation."

The New York *Herald* says: "More and more the education of the people must command the attention of governments and enlist the sympathies of genuine reformers."

A leading labor paper says: "The movement for liberty to-day is educational. Whoever opposes the education of the people is a traitor to his country and his fellow-men."

Dr. John Yeats, LL.D., in a work on commerce, says: "Children of the tenderest years have been put into factories for a mere pittance, at the sacrifice of health, growth and school."

Jules Simon, in his "Workmen of France," ascribes the immorality of France to the necessity which drove the wife and mother from the home.

In 1836, the Hon. James G. Carter, chairman of the Committee on Education in Massachusetts, in a report to the Legislature, spoke of the constant inducement to manufacturers to employ female labor and the labor of children, to the exclusion of men's labor, because they can be had cheaper.

In 1840, the Hon. Horace Mann, of Massachusetts, wrote earnestly in favor of the school laws and of the necessity of limiting the greed of heartless employers and unnatural parents.

In 1866 the legislative committee appointed to investigate the condition of the industrial classes, recommended the adoption of either the half-time school plan or an increase of the school time and the appointment of inspectors to see after the enforcement of the labor laws and look after apprentices and others bound to service by the State, to see that they were properly cared for.

The Trenton *Times* says: "To cause the youthful brain to assimilate and store away the fundamental principles of the various branches of knowledge is mental growth."

The Trenton *True American* opposes overwork of mind. It says: "Cramming of children is ruinous to them mentally."

The Newark *Sunday Call* says: "The instruction of the young for the purpose of making good citizens of them is a high State consideration, and should be a salient feature of the policy of its government. When the State demands that every child shall receive education, it should see to it that facilities exist for carrying out the law, either by an adequate increase of the State appropriation or by making it an obligation upon the localities to furnish such facilities."

Sir Robert Rawlinson, president of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain, says: "In the world there is no value but in human life, and human life has the greatest value when healthy and moral. The strength and glory of a nation is not in standing armies and ironclad fleets, but in the health, well-being and contentment of the people."

Dexter A. Hawkins, chairman of the Committee on Education of New York city, said, in 1873: "The canal interest, the railroad



interest, the manufacturing interest, important as they are to material progress, are yet small compared with the education of our million and a half of youths. In New York city it costs more to support police and police courts to restrain and punish a few thousand criminals, nearly all of whom became such from want of education, than to educate 230,000 children." Again, he says: "A well-educated commonwealth, however narrow its borders or poor its soil, soon becomes rich and powerful, while an ignorant one, even under the happiest circumstances of land and sky, falls a prey to anarchy, poverty and despotism."

Augustus Jacobson, in his work on "Manual Training," says: "Instead of going for a mere pittance into the coal mine, the mill or the factory, to be dwarfed physically, mentally and morally by long hours, overwork and evil associations, the children of the very poor, for like wages wherewith to buy bread, would gladly crowd into the schools. Getting them into the schools and keeping them there throughout the public course, would bring to the front, trained, all the brains and ability born in the community. It would bring capacity to the front from the Five Points as well as from Murray Hill. It would light up, with bright hopes and aspirations for the children, the poorest hovel. More than ever would it make of this land for struggling humanity an earthly paradise."

Again he says: "The American remedy for ignorance is not a curtailment of rights and privileges, but an enlargement of intelligence. As it pays for a well-to-do man to give his children the best possible education, so it pays for a nation to do it. What would be thought of a wealthy man who should leave his children in ignorance?"

Mr. C. L. Brace made the following statement in *Harper's Magazine* of the causes which led to the English factory acts: "At length a band of devoted reformers and philanthropists who were determined that this burning shame of their country (uneducated and overworked labor) should be wiped out; who felt that the wealth and culture of England rested on a hideous foundation when the labor of oppressed children built up the structure. They began an incessant agitation against the over-labor of factory children. They wrote for the press, printed documents, held public meetings, petitioned Parliament, and sought in every way to raise the public feeling and conscience. After incessant discussion and a long contest, the English Factory bills were carried through Parliament, were repeatedly amended, improved and enlarged, until they form now a ponderous blue-book. These acts have been rigorously executed, and their effect has been that hundreds of thousands of little white slaves have been redeemed from slavery, saved from premature death and sickness, and that a new class of English laborers is growing up, better educated, healthier, happier, and of more value to their employers. The reform was one of the most glorious and beneficent ever carried out in Great Britain."

The *Labor Tribune*, of Pittsburgh, Pa., speaking of the Child



Labor Law, says: "All the better for the future of these youngsters and of the State. They should be at school. If they are too poor to go to school they should be maintained at public expense. It looks cruel to have youngsters, who are helping to support families, forced from work; but surely the future of these same youngsters is entitled to consideration. They will become drudges, nobodies, perhaps dangerous persons, if allowed to grow up in ignorance, their minds cramped and their strength stunted by confinement at labor, when they should be growing, mentally and physically, for their own good and the good of the State. When it shall be definitely determined that children may not be put to work before a certain age, careless, negligent and lazy parents will know what to expect, and the probabilities are they will have their children attend school. If it shall be found they are too brutal to do this, compulsory school attendance should be enacted by every State Legislature."

Mr. Elbridge T. Gerry, in an article on Cruelty to Children, in the *North American Review*, says: "From a political standpoint, the future status of the nation will largely depend on the proper physical and intellectual training of these children, yearly increasing in number, who, before long, will constitute the sovereign people of the republic. \* \* \* One of the worst evils to which the children of the laboring classes are subjected, is their employment at a very early age in occupations destructive to their health, and positively injurious to their vitality and moral growth. The temptation to parents to utilize their children for the purpose of enlarging their scanty means of subsistence, regardless of the injury to the morals, the intellect, or the physical health of the child, is so strong that the latter consideration rarely enters into their thoughts. The evil, in this respect, is a growing one, and, if allowed to continue, will endanger the welfare of the community by impoverishing the material out of which the American mechanic—so justly relied on as the mainspring of the nation's wealth—is made. Factories are crowded with children of very tender years who are compelled to work at starvation wages, frequently over ten hours a day, in close, confined rooms, until at last the physical system falls into premature decay, and consumption, with its attendant and kindred diseases, ensues. According to the census of 1870, the whole number of children of both sexes, between the ages of ten and fifteen years, pursuing 'gainful' occupations, was 739,164. The last census of 1880 enlarges this number to 1,118,356—an increase of 379,192 in ten years. \* \* \* Thousands of children yearly die from diseases contracted in unhealthy employments. \* \* \* The law does not authorize the utilization of the child at the expense of its health merely for the purpose of putting money in the pockets of a parent."

In concluding this report I have the honor to submit the following recommendations;



That the provisions of the Child Labor Law shall be extended to children employed in all places where the sale of goods is carried on.

That children while attending night school shall not be employed over eight hours a day, and their employment shall cease each day during the prescribed term of school attendance not later than 4 P. M.

That three Deputy Factory Inspectors shall be appointed for a regular term.

That education be made compulsory, with means for the enforcement of school attendance, and that the school books used in all the public schools of the State be uniform.

That the State shall, from some of its revenues, provide means for the erection of adequate school accommodation in all parts of the State.

The enactment of a comprehensive factory and workshop law, containing provisions for the following :

1. Sanitary regulations for workshops and factories.
2. The fencing of all dangerous machinery.
3. Separate water-closets for the sexes in manufacturing, mercantile and mechanical establishments, where persons of both sexes are employed.
4. Against the overcrowding of factories and workshops.
5. For the ventilation of factories and workshops.
6. Against the employment of minors in employments dangerous to health, without a certificate of fitness from a reputable physician.
7. Suitable places for female employes to dress and wash in all establishments where unclean work of any kind is carried on.
8. The screening of stairways used by female employes in factories and workshops.
9. Against the cleaning of mill gearing while in motion, by minors or women.
10. The erection of adequate fire-escapes on all buildings of over two stories high, in which work-people congregate or are employed.
11. No woman or minor to be employed more than ten hours a day.
12. At least one hour to be allowed in all employments for dinner, and in case of overtime not less than one hour for supper.
13. No woman or minor to be allowed to remain during meal hours in any room in which handicraft is carried on, unless under exceptional circumstances and with the consent of a Factory Inspector.
14. All legal holidays to be allowed to the employes of every factory and workshop.
15. All accidents in factories, mines and workshops which prevent the injured from returning to work in two days, or which result in death, to be reported at once by the occupier to the nearest Factory Inspector, and the city or district physician, under a penalty.
16. That it will be illegal for any one to delay the Factory Inspec-



tors in the exercise of their duties, or to conceal or attempt to conceal children from examination by the Inspectors.

17. That every Inspector be furnished with a certificate of authority, and present the same if so required by any occupier of a factory, workshop, &c.

18. That it shall be illegal for any one to personate an Inspector or forge his certificate of authority.

19. That every person shall notify the Factory Inspectors within one month after he begins to occupy a factory or workshop, that he has done so.

20. That persons found in any part of a factory or workshop where any manufacturing process is carried on, unless there during the regular meal hours for the purpose of bringing food to persons employed in the factory, shall be deemed to be employes in the factory.

21. That an abstract of the factory and workshop laws shall be affixed at the entrance of every factory and workshop.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

L. T. FELL,

*Inspector of Factories and Workshops.*







