

Child Labor Condemned

(By a Regular Contributor.)

The Industrial Committee of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs has prepared a new child-labor bill, for which it asks federation indorsement. It is designed to prevent the employment of children under fourteen, to prevent night employment of children, and to reduce illiteracy.

Here is a serious problem that confronts the people of Chicago and other large Western centres of industry. We have but slight idea, here in Canada, of the extent to which white slavery exists in the United States. The picture presented both by the report, upon which the bill in question is based, and by the addresses in support thereof, is one that is calculated to make the serious citizen pause and look steadily into the future.

"The child who wraps caramels for two weeks before Christmas," says the report, "carries uppers a month in a shoe factory, delivers telegrams a season or drifts to the stockyards for a few weeks, acquires no real trade skill or knowledge. Working in half a dozen branches of industry in as many months, and this is by no means rare in Chicago, the child is the worse for every change, because he is taught by this experience that cheapness is the one quality desired."

Some of the details, learned from observation and experience, of the lives and occupations of these children-workers, are most surprising when seen with the eyes of philanthropy. We do not hesitate reproducing a few of the instances presented by a contemporary, for, in a lesser degree, and in a naturally more limited proportion, not a few of them are to be found in this very city. The general reader is not acquainted with the nature of the work performed by children in factories and such-like establishments, nor do we dream of the multitude of dangers to which thousands or the rising generation are exposed. Read the following carefully:—

"Many occupations are found to threaten mutilation and disease. In cigar factories the boys and girls employed become saturated with nicotine, and during some processes are obliged to stand in rooms into which no fresh air can be admitted. There are frequent accidents among the children employed around the dangerous machines used in paper-box making. In paint works, soap works, chemical works, rubber works and photograph shops absorption of poison through the skin is unavoidable. Many young boys in sweatshops are buttonholers, and every one develops curvature of the spine sooner or later. Those who run foot-power machines develop tuberculosis of the lungs or intestines. The little "hand girls" develop crooked backs over their hemming, felling and sewing on of buttons, or tuberculosis or other disorders over the foot-power machines. Mutilations are common in the stamping industry, in which the fingers must be used to push the tin under the descending die.

Children who work steadily in laundries are reasonably sure of life-

long invalidism. The girl stands all day with her back curved and her weight thrown on her left foot, while she starts and stops the machine with her right. Mangle accidents are not uncommon. A peculiarly diabolical assortment of dangers is possible in the glass factories, rising from flying particles of broken glass and the rapidly moving long handles of the carriers. The proportion of blind and partially blind children is unusually large in glass factory communities. Night work is customary. The children are obliged to keep on foot when staggering with sleep, and collisions are frequent. Children work in the excessive heat of the ovens all night, and go home half clad, tired, hungry and sleepy in the winter dawn. New York, Ohio and New Jersey all have laws preventing the night work of children. Illinois also permits children to work who cannot read in any language, who have never attended any school. She demands no educational test before beginning work, such as is demanded in twenty other states. The number of child laborers has doubled since 1897. There are now 20,000 children under fourteen working in Illinois factories, mainly in Chicago."

Is not this a fearful state of affairs? Do we not here detect a savor of that barbarism which clings to the skirts of purely material civilization? Of old, in pagan days, Saturn devoured his own children, and children were sacrificed in the altar of Moloch. But in our enlightened twentieth century, and with all our Christian teachings, children are immolated at the shrine of Mammon, and the gigantic inventions of the scientific world are converted into so many instruments of child-murder. And if the bodies alone were maimed and ruined, if the lives alone were shortened and crushed, the matter would not be so terrible; but when we contemplate that the mind is darkened and the soul is killed, the spectacle becomes one that might well awaken the sympathies of the charitable and the horror of the religious.

In the last paragraph of the above-mentioned report, there is another important point raised. It says:—

"What is the popular objection brought against legislation which limits child labor? It is that the family or widowed mother needs the wage of the child. The factory inspector and the charitable agencies agree that this necessity is very largely overestimated and that the majority of children are put to work merely to add to the family income. But even if the necessity exists, is it an intelligent and economic method of procedure for the state to allow the sacrifice of so large a number of its future citizens for the support of a few needy families?"

All that we have written in former issues, concerning parents depriving their children of going to school, on account of a supposed necessity of keeping them home to work, applies with ten-fold force to the case of child-labor in the factories and industrial establishments of the land.

branch of industry, it may appear strange that with an increase of 101.8 per cent. in the total number of manufacturing establishments between 1880 and 1900, and with an increase of 142.2 per cent. in the total value of products during the same interval, the proportion of manufacturing establishments reporting the use of power was the same in 1900 as in 1880—about one-third. In 1880 the use of power was established by 85,923 out of 253,852 establishments, or 33.8 per cent. In 1890, 100,735 out of a total of 355,415 establishments reported the use of power, or 28.3 per cent. of the aggregate. The reduced proportion was doubtless due to the more thorough canvass and the consequent inclusion of a larger number of small plants. In 1900 the proportion of establishments using power increased again to 33.1 per cent., or 169,409 out of a total of 512,254.

This indicates that while the substitution of power-driven machinery for hand labor has unquestionably taken place to a very great extent—which can be demonstrated by a study of many branches of manufacture—at the same time the increase of hand-labor shops and small factories using some machinery but no mechanical power has also been continuous, with the result that at the present time the numerical proportion of manufacturing establishments operating without any mechanical power is as large as it was twenty years ago.

How small a proportion the products of this class of establishments are of the total value of manufactured products for all industries is shown by the fact that the group of industries classed as "hand trades" in 1900 contributed only \$1,183,615,478 to the total of \$13,004,400,143, the value of the products of all manufacturing industries. Although there were 215,814 establishments classed as "hand trades" out of a total of 512,254, or 42.1 per cent., the value of the products of such establishments was only 9.1 per cent. of the total for all establishments. The classification of "hand trades," however, does not embrace all establishments operating without mechanical power, nor do all establishments otherwise classified use power, but this illustration suffices to show the minor importance of the industries which do not use power, as compared with those that use power in some form.

In 1890 the number of gas engines in use in manufacturing plants was not reported, but their total power amounted to only 8,930 horsepower, or one-tenth of 1 per cent. of the total power utilized in manufacturing operations. In 1900, however, 14,884 gas engines were reported, with a total of 143,850 horsepower, or 1.3 per cent. of the total power used for manufacturing purposes. This increase from 8,930 horsepower to 143,850 horsepower, a gain of 134,920 horsepower, is proportionately the largest increase in any form of primary power shown by a comparison of the figures of the eleventh and twelfth census, amounting to 1,510.9 per cent. Within the last decade, and more particularly during the past five years, there has been a marked increase in the use of this power in industrial establishments for driving machinery, for generating electricity, and for other kindred uses. At the same time, internal combustion engines have increased in popularity for uses apart from manufacturing, and the amount of this kind of power in use for all purposes in 1900 was, doubtless, very much larger than indicated by the figures relating to manufacturing plants alone.

The statistics relating to the use of water power for manufacturing purposes in 1900, compared with corresponding figures for 1890, 1880, and 1870, are significant of an interesting phase of power utilization, particularly during the past ten years.

The total amount of water power reported as used by manufacturing establishments in 1900 was 1,727,258 horsepower; 1,263,343 horsepower in 1890; 1,225,379 horsepower in 1880; and 1,130,431 horsepower in 1870. The increase from 1890 to 1900 was 463,915 horsepower, or 36.7 per cent. From 1880 to 1890 the increase was 37,964 horsepower, or 3.1 per cent., while from 1870 to 1880 there was an increase of 94,948 horsepower, or 8.4 per cent. In 1900 water power constituted 15.3 per cent. of the total, as compared with 21.2 per cent. in 1890, 35.9 per cent. in 1880, and 48.2 per cent. in 1870. Apparently the use of water power for manufacturing purposes has decreased relatively in thirty years from nearly one-half of the total motive power to less than one-sixth.

While the number of water wheels in use has decreased from 55,404 in 1880 to 30,182 in 1900, a loss of 16,222 wheels, or 29.3 per cent. of the number in use in 1880, the ag-

gregate power of the wheels in use increased during the same interval from 1,225,379 horsepower to 1,727,258 horsepower, a gain of 501,879 horsepower, or 41 per cent. This very large decrease in the number of wheels and great increase in the aggregate power points to the large increase in the size of the units, which in 1880 averaged only 22.1 horsepower each, but which in 1900 was 44.1 horsepower, or twice as large. This is due to the abandonment of many small wheels of antiquated type, and the substitution thereof of fewer units of larger size and greater efficiency. In many instances, too, it has been necessary to abandon entirely the use of water power, either because of failing supply or the larger requirements of expanding industry, and this has removed a considerable number of wheels, mostly of small size.

The use of water as a primary source of power has undergone a complete transformation during the past decade, both in the methods of its utilization and in the manner of transmitting and applying the power. Prior to 1890 the largest use of water power was in its direct application to machinery in manufacturing establishments at the immediate points in development. During the past ten years, however, the use of electricity as an agency for the transformation and transmission of the energy developed by falling water has entirely changed the conditions under which such primary power can be utilized to advantage. The practical possibility of transmitting power thus developed over long distances has removed the necessity for building mills immediately adjacent to water powers, often so located as to present serious physical obstacles to the economical arrangement and construction of manufacturing plants. This has rendered available many water powers which otherwise could not have been utilized to advantage, and thus has largely increased the industrial possibilities of many localities where a limited or expensive fuel supply has made the use of steam power impracticable.

The most notable phase of the application of power to industrial uses during the decade 1890-1900 is the use of the electric current for the transmission and subdivision of power. This form of power transmission and distribution is almost wholly a development of the past ten years, although the principles involved were known and their practical utility demonstrated at a much earlier period. Prior to 1890 the census returns did not state separately the number of motors in use or the amount of electric power utilized in manufacturing establishments, such power being merged in the group of "other power."

In 1890 the number of motors in use was not reported; the only information on this point was embraced in the quantity of electric power used, which amounted to 15,569 horsepower. In 1900 the amount of electric power reported was 311,016 horsepower, showing an increase of 295,447 horsepower, or nearly ninefold. The number of motors reported in 1900 was 16,923, giving an average of 18.4 horsepower per motor. In 1890 electric motors represented only 0.3 per cent. of the total power, while in 1900 they constituted 2.7 per cent. of the total.

RETURNED TO THE FOLD.

Some twenty years ago a canon of the Vatican Chapter, belonging to one of the most ancient families of Rome, suddenly abandoned the Catholic Church and became a Protestant minister, taking the position of officiating clergyman in a little Evangelical chapel in Rome. It is now announced that the erring Canon has been readmitted to the Catholic Fold by Mgr. Lugari, Assessor of the Holy Office, who received his solemn abjuration. It is further stated that the convert will shortly enter the Society of Jesus. —Liverpool Catholic Times.

Fear is the greater pain than pain itself. Oh, thou of little faith, what dost thou fear? God will not let you perish while you are steadfast in resolution. Let the world be turned upside down, let it be in utter darkness, in smoke, in tumult, so long as God is with us.

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SOME HAPPENINGS IN ST. ANN'S PARISH.

(By a young Subscriber.)

MANCHESTER MARTYRS.—St. Ann's Young Men's Society celebrated the anniversary of the Manchester Martyrs by a dramatic entertainment in their hall on Ottawa street. Among those present were: Rev. Father Flynn, C.S.S.R., spiritual director of the society; Rev. Father Girard, C.S.S.R.; the Rev. Father Fortier, C.S.S.R., and Rev. Father Rietvelt, C.S.S.R.

Mr. Casey, president, in opening the proceedings, made a neat speech, in the course of which he gave a gratifying account of the work of the organization during the past year. His remarks were received with applause.

A capital three-act drama, "The Fratricide," admirably translated from the French, was presented by the Dramatic Section of the society, the following being the cast of characters:

- Don Philip or Alvarez, F. J. Hogan.
- Don Harold, J. P. Kennedy.
- Abraham, Chs. Killoran.
- Norbert, J. J. Fitzpatrick.
- Alcad, J. O'Brien.
- Marquis del Purgos, P. Kenehan.
- Count San Bastiano, F. Brown.
- Don Henriquez Albucaute, J. Strachan.
- Prince D'Estella William, Ed. O'Brien.
- Clayton, M. O'Donnell.
- Edgar, J. Harvey.
- Edmond, M. O'Donnell.
- Herbert, P. Ryan.

All acquitted themselves very creditably in their respective roles, and sustained the high standard of histrionic excellence already attained by the Dramatic Section of the society.

The orchestra, under the able management of Professor P. J. Shea, rendered several beautiful selections between the acts, which were deservedly applauded.

REMEMBERED THE DEAD.—On Sunday morning last the members of St. Ann's Young Men's Society, under the direction of Rev. Father Flynn, C.S.S.R., spiritual director of the society, received Holy Communion in a body, offering up this act of piety in behalf of the souls of deceased members of the organization, as has been their meritorious custom for many years past. Rev. Father McPhail, C.S.S.R., whose recent appointment to St. Ann's parish was announced by the "True Witness" sometime ago, occupied the pulpit and delivered a short instruction. He advised his young hearers to take advantage of the facilities offered for participation in the First Friday Communion.

THE PROGRESSIVE CADETS.—That St. Ann's Cadets have a first-class fife and drum band and bugle corps has long been known; but the beautiful strains of their brass and reed instruments at the great A. O. H. Church parade on Sunday last conveyed to their numerous friends the hitherto unknown fact that they have also a brass band section, the members of which are as follows:

- CORNETS:** M. Fennell, G. Gummorsell, W. O'Brien, J. Green, J. Mullins, W. Gannon and F. Brown.
- ALTOS:** F. Healy, T. Nolan and J. Clancy.
- BARITONE:** J. O'Brien and D. Wester.
- TROMBONES:** E. O'Brien and W. Foley.
- BASS:** D. Hughes and D. Barnes.
- PICCOLO:** J. Sheids.
- CLARINET:** R. Dancy and J. Olsen.
- DRUMS:** F. McEntee and T. Young.
- BANDMASTER:** J. McDermott.

The directors and the cadets themselves are to be congratulated upon this important development. The efficiency of which they gave proof on Sunday last is an additional testimony of that love of music which is innate in the Irish temperament.

CONDOLENCE.

At a recent meeting of Branch No. 2, C.M.E.A., Grand Council of Quebec, a resolution of condolence was passed with the family of the late Mr. Patrick Galley.

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BELLS,
In the general summary they say
that the aggregate motive power em-
ployed in manufacturing establish-
ments in the United States during
the census year was 11,800,653
horsepower in 1890, 3,410,837 horse-
power in 1880, and 2,346,142 horse-
power in 1870. The increase from
1890 to 1900 was 5,345,426 horse-
power, or 89.8 per cent.; from 1880
to 1890, 2,543,818 horsepower, or
74.6 per cent.; and from 1870 to
1880, 1,064,695 horsepower, or 45.4
per cent. Of the total power used
in manufacturing during the census
year, steam engines furnished 8,742,
416 horsepower, or 77.4 per cent. of
the aggregate; water wheels supplied
1,727,258 horsepower, or 15.3 per
cent.; electric motors, 311,016 horse-
power, or 2.7 per cent.; gas and
power, or 2.7 per cent.; and other forms
of power, or 1.8 per cent.; and other forms
of mechanical power 54,490 horse-

WITH THE SCIENTISTS.

power, or five-tenths of 1 per cent. In addition to the above power, which was generated by the establishments by which it was used, rented power was used to the extent of 321,051 horsepower, or 2.8 per cent. of the total. Of this rented power 183,682 horsepower was electric, and 137,369 horsepower was other power.

A few decades ago the use of power in any considerable quantity was limited practically to manufacturing operations. Within the past twenty years, and more particularly during the last decade, the use of electricity for lighting and for the operation of street railways has developed enormously, and has resulted in the utilization of power in an entirely new field to an extent that exceeds many of the larger manufacturing industries. The modern office building, often housing a population equal to that of a small town, is almost wholly a creation of the past ten years, and the power required in these great structures, not only for lighting purposes, but for the operation of elevators, pumping water, compressing air, and operating refrigerating and ventilating machinery, forms a large item when the

number of these buildings in the United States is taken into consideration. As illustrative of this, the power plant of one sixteen-story modern building, containing 560 offices, may be of interest. In this building there are 4 engines, 3 of 150 horsepower each and 1 of 75 horsepower, which are used to drive dynamos. Four small engines connected to ventilating fans represent about 50 horsepower. For the hydraulic elevator service there are 5 pumps, 1 of about 150 horsepower, one of 105 horsepower, 1 of 100 horsepower, and 2 of 40 horsepower each. Altogether, the engines and pumps in this one office building represent an aggregate of about 1,000 horsepower. A considerable part of this equipment is duplicate machinery, provided for emergencies, but not less than 700 horsepower is used continuously in the building. From this may be judged the importance of this use of power, which has developed almost entirely since 1890.

In view of the generally prevailing belief that mechanical power has been and still is very largely supplanting hand labor in almost every