

part practical, accepting or combatting actualities rather than allowing themselves to be carried away by the glamour of ideas incapable of realization. There is amongst them a growing disposition to seek for accurate information regarding their present condition, and a deepening consciousness that their interests can best be furthered by progressive effort along lines where the necessity of reform is clearly understood. The policy of leaders in the labour movement is to seek for the justification of their aims through ascertained facts, rather than to found them upon considerations of theoretical justice. We may call them practical reformers, moving on step by step, and taking advantage of every opportunity to push their claims. I am speaking generally of course of those who most permanently continue in leadership. These, fortunately, have the ear of the great mass of the wage-earning population.

Another important fact, which must not be lost sight of, is that American employers of labour are much less secretive, and more ready to furnish information affecting their own and the interests of those they employ than in other countries. I do not claim for them, *a priori*, any credit on this ground. In the beginning they were cautious enough, but they have learned from experience that what would in many places be considered a business secret may be disclosed without any resulting harm, provided it is done impersonally, and in a way that the source of information cannot be identified. Impartiality, fair-dealing, and a respect for confidences bestowed have not only disarmed suspicion, but engendered even willing co-operation. This happy result is due in an especial degree to the tact, the fairness, and the scrupulousness of Mr. Carroil D. Wright. He was called to office at a period when the feeling in regard to bureaus of labour statistics was very different from that prevailing to-day. First in the field, and divining correctly the future possibilities of this branch of inquiry, he took care to win the confidence and inspire the respect of employers and labourers alike. Not only has this enabled him to extend his efforts from a local to a national sphere, and to accomplish really admirable statistical results, but his conduct has strengthened the hands of those who wished other States to follow the example of Massachusetts, and furnished the best answer to opposing interests and prejudices. Had his judgment been less enlightened, his sense of obligation less strong, the progress of American labour statistics might have been indefinitely retarded. In America, therefore, four factors in combination account for the wide extension indicated at the beginning of this paragraph. They are: first, the desire of the labourer to make ascertained facts the basis of his claims; second, the comparative willingness of employers to contribute information; third, the presentation of facts without any particular advocacy; lastly, the proved utility of these agencies in influencing wise legislation, and in promoting a better understanding between capital and labour.

Concurrently with the growth of the bureaus of labour statistics in point of numbers, there has been an appreciable augmentation in their resources. The commissioners of sixteen of them have kindly furnished me with data showing the annual appropriations made for the maintenance of these departments during the first year of existence and also for the present year. The figures include salaries of officials and clerks, office and travelling expenses, in fact, all items of outgo except the cost of printing the reports.