

*Growing Recognition of the Sacredness of Childhood*

When machinery invaded industry there was heard along with it the wail of little toilers. Children eight years old worked sixteen hours a day. Millions of them were sacrificed to feed the god of industry. But conditions to-day, while by no means ideal, as has already been pointed out, are stealthily improving. In almost all the States of the Union legislation has been secured which has brought about a material reduction in the hours of labor for children. In many States child labor has been practically abolished.

It has been generally recognized by those who have been interested in the movement for the protection of children that there must be a federal law to deal with the problem. The States which recognize the sacredness of childhood by humane legislation are compelled to compete in the open market with States that manufacture goods by childhood labor and childhood wages. The nation alone can abolish this great industrial wrong. At the time of this writing a great victory for the principle of federal control of child labor has been won. The United States House of Representatives on February 2, 1916, by the overwhelming majority of three hundred and thirty-seven to forty-six, passed a bill which forbids interstate commerce in goods made by children or with the help of children under fourteen years of age if employed in factories, and under six-