

end of it was only about a foot thick, but at the other end it sloped up to a height of three feet. On this a mast twenty feet high was erected and securely braced, and to its top a stout cable was attached. Two other cables were then fastened to the front of the float, and the queer craft was started down stream from the extremity of the dam. Another cable led out sideways to aid in directing the float. The current runs over fifteen miles an hour at this point, and as soon as the float was fairly started the water rushed over the low front of it, and bore down so hard that the float went to the bottom like a stone. This was exactly what Larocque had intended. The two cables were paid out slowly and carefully till the float had gone down stream about two hundred and seventy feet. It was found then by pulling on the cables that they would stand a strain as great as if the float were anchored to the rock at the bottom of the river. Larocque had a box attached to the cable stretched from the mast on the float to a mast on the dam, and into this he got, and ordered his men to let him slide out on the cable. The box was hung to the cable by a pulley, and the mast on the dam was higher than that on the float, so that the box would slide out. The rope attached to the box was controlled by the daring foreman's brother, Napoleon Larocque, and another man named Philip Clarmont. They were on top of the shore mast, and directed the whole operations on the dam. A life line was fastened round the waist of the man in the box, and a gang of trusty

Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. Canada was represented by the following delegates: From Ontario.—James T. Burke, Thomas Keitley, James R. Brown, Miss Margaret Carlyle. From Quebec.—James Mitchell, Miss Lousia King and Louis Guyon. In all about fifty delegates were present.

The following were some of the points noted in the reports from various quarters:

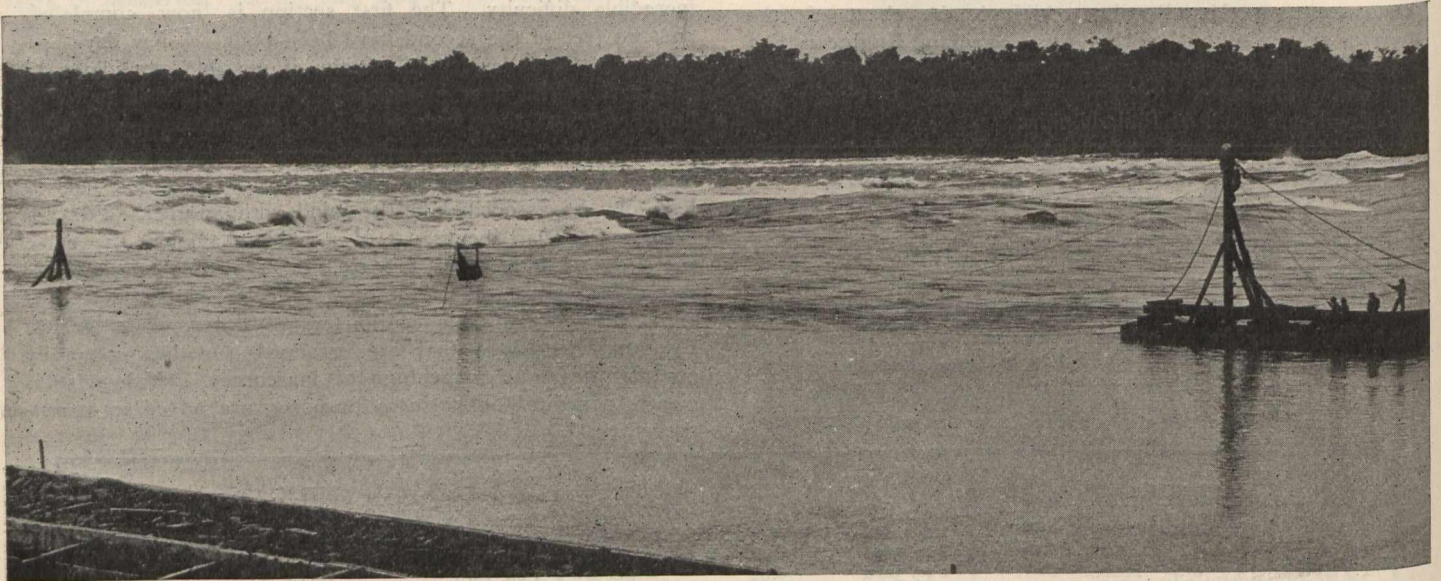
Illinois reported the passing of a stringent law against child labor. Children under 16 years of age were prohibited from working in factories, and their hours of labor were restricted to eight.

Indiana had introduced legislation touching the inspection of boilers and an inspection of steamboats and gas-line launches not sailing under United States charter.

Michigan reported that canning factories had been put under the jurisdiction of the factory inspectors.

New York's delegate reported a reduction in the hours of child labor to nine. More positive proof of a child's age was also now required. Boys under 18 years of age, and women, had been prohibited from working in metal polishing factories.

In a discussion on fire escapes a difference of opinion arose as to the best method of construction. Mr. Williams, New York delegate, favored building an enclosed stairway as a fire escape, with fire doors leading to it.



Taking Soundings in Niagara River.

men held the other end of it. Out on the thin cable, swaying to and fro in his crazy box, Larocque slid, foot by foot, till presently he signalled that the box be stopped. Then he lowered an inch and a quarter steel sounding rod into the water, till he touched bottom, and the engineers on the shore levelled their instruments and took the level. Out again went the box, and another sounding was made, and so on, again and again, until the intrepid foreman was close to the sunken float. By an ingenious arrangement he was able to lower the box nearer to the water, and once he was down within two feet of the rushing tide. No man ever went out there before and returned to tell the tale. Death in the boiling rapids and a final plunge of a battered corpse over the cataract was the inevitable fate. Larocque did not seem to realize the terrible peculiarity of his position, but went on making his soundings till all was completed. Then he gave the signal, and was drawn up to the dam without accident. A crowd of contractors, engineers, photographers and other spectators crowded forward to grasp his hand, but the Frenchman seemed unable to realize why they should make such a fuss. It was all in the day's work to him.

CONVENTION OF FACTORY INSPECTORS.

The International Association of Factory Inspectors held its first convention in Canada, at Montreal, in August. There were delegates representing the following States:

Mr. McLean, of Connecticut, read a paper on "Well Lighted Work Rooms," in which he spoke of the use of corrugated glass in large buildings. Mr. Burke, of Ottawa, said investigation had shown that headaches were frequently complained of by workmen in factories lighted with corrugated glass.

Louis Guyon, Quebec, read a paper on "Comparative Methods of Preventing Accidents." He reviewed at length the steps taken in Europe by the introduction of safeguards in connection with machinery to lessen the number of accidents. He declared his fifteen years' experience in Quebec convinced him that the greatest danger to factory employees came from machinery operated by mechanical power. Accidents arising from fires or explosions attract greater public attention, but it was only necessary to refer to statistics to show how recurrent are the risks incurred by factory workers from machinery. Factory inspectors had a great duty to perform in the introduction of safety devices. In Quebec manufacturers displayed great interest in all movements looking to the prevention of accidents.

L. S. Russell, Michigan, read a paper on "Factory Inspection Contemporaneous with the Collection of Labor and Industrial Statistics." Mr. Russell is chief factory inspector of Michigan. He set forth in detail the workings of factory inspection in Michigan, where the department of labor and industrial statistics are combined. Factory inspection and the collection of statistics he termed "twin