

that the existing law was practically a dead letter.

As it was learned by the Conference that the W. C. T. U. had been instrumental in securing the first Shops Act, it was decided to ask for their co-operation.

A deputation of the Toronto Council having been appointed by the Conference to draw up and present this petition to the Legislature, this was done in the following week, Mrs. Rutherford, on behalf of the W. C. T. U., presenting a similar petition at the same time, while a delegation of the Trades and Labour Council endorsed the requests so made subsequently.

It is therefore particularly gratifying to be able to report not only a most courteous reception of the petitioners, but also the fact that all their requests were embodied in a bill presented by the Hon. Mr. Dryden, which has since become law.

To the thousands of women and children in shops and other places of business in Ontario, is thus secured, that none shall be employed more than 60 hours per week; (the former Act was 74 for children, and no limit for women), an hour for the noon-day meal; the enforcement of the law concerning the providing of seats and the liberty to use them; proper protection against overcrowding; ventilation, fire escapes, registration; lunch-rooms where necessary; and that no child under ten years of age shall be employed in shops, etc., even after school hours, as was the practice in some places.

It has been decided by the Legislature to place the inspection of shops in the hands of the Provincial factory inspectors, the staff to be increased if it be found to be necessary.

The London report further contains the following suggestions: That the Factory Act be amended by adding the words, "That the ten hours' work be taken between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Five hours to be the longest period of work without intermission for a meal." This because in some places, laundries for example, on slack days the work sometimes begins at 9 or 10 a.m., with lunch hour at 12 a.m., and the 10 hours is then completed without further intermission. In case of the overtime work allowed by the law for six weeks in the year, 45 minutes is set apart for the evening meal, but no such provision is made for the

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