

London clearly show that the existing laws which prohibit the passage of certain papers and periodicals through the mails in Canada are not observed. Some of these papers, the *Police Gazette*, for example, and others, have been offered for sale in certain shop windows in various places. The Toronto Council also report the fact that part of this objectional reading matter is brought into Canada by news agents on the trains coming from cities in the United States, and they ask that this matter be fully investigated by the National Council.

The outcome of the discussion upon this subject last year has been the formation of branches of the Home Reading Circles, details of which will be heard in the report of the Montreal Local Council.

Sub-Committees having been formed in several Local Councils, at the request of National Council at its last meeting, to further consider and report upon the laws concerning the work of Women and Children in Shops, Factories and other places of business. Your Secretary has received reports upon this important matter from the following Local Councils, namely: Toronto, Yarmouth, London and Halifax in the order here named.

The exhaustive report from the Toronto Local Council, sent to the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council in January, clearly proved the necessity for the amendment of the Shop Act of Ontario, in order to give the same protection to women and children working in shops that those enjoyed who sometimes under the same roof whose work comes under the excellent Factory Act, and, as the Ontario Statutes were to be consolidated shortly, the report asked that a Conference of Ontario Local Councils be held, in order that a joint petition might be made to the Legislature in the matter. The consent of the Executive having been obtained, this Conference was called by the Vice-President of Ontario, and met in Toronto in February, when it was unanimously decided to petition the Legislature to amend the Shops Act by incorporating all suitable clauses in the Factory Act, and by placing the appointment of the Inspectors in the hands of the Legislature rather than with Municipalities, only one Municipality in fact having appointed a Shop inspector, so