

The Battle Against Child Labor Still On

District of Columbia Measure Designed as a Model For Subsequent Use by the States. President Roosevelt Taking Great Personal Interest In the Matter of Child Labor Reform.

NOWADAYS it is an exceptional session of congress which does not agitate some measure designed to affect child labor. There are two before the present congress. One of them is so weak that the president decided against it at once and declared that he should veto it if the opportunity were given to him.

Until recent years it was held by many persons in and out of congress that the general government could legislate for the whole country in the matter of the regulation of child labor. It is now the opinion of the leading lawyers of the senate that congress has no power to enact a law regulating child labor in all the states. Senator Beveridge, who has been the eloquent advocate of this reform ever since he went to the upper house, does not agree with the majority in this belief, but he has been obliged to yield to superior numbers.

As the matter now stands, child labor legislation by congress is supposed to apply only to the District of Columbia and is designed to serve as a standard for state legislation. At the present time a restrictive measure is not especially needed in the District on account of the absence of mills, factories and other large industrial establishments. Both the president and Senator Beveridge have been anxious to have some measures passed which would furnish a good example for state legislatures to copy, and for the states they are actively opposed to the house bill placing the prohibitive age limit at twelve in the District of Columbia. This is the measure which the president declares shall never become operative with his consent.

In nine southern states the age limit for working children is twelve years, in thirty-five other states the limit is fourteen years. President Roosevelt is not willing to follow the example of the minority states in this matter and does not hesitate to affirm that it would be a disgraceful backward step.

The other measure, which is regarded by the advocates of restrictive legislation as a model, provides that no child under fourteen years of age shall be employed in any factory, workshop, mercantile establishment, business office, telegraph office, hotel, apartment house, theater, bowling alley or in the distribution or transmission of messages. It also insists that no child shall be employed in any work performed for wages or other compensation, to whomsoever payable, during the hours when the public schools of the District are in session or before the hour of 6 o'clock a. m. or after 7 o'clock p. m.

It is further provided that no child under sixteen years of age shall be employed in any of the establishments named in the foregoing unless the employer shall have secured age and school certificates from the school authorities. These certificates must state that the child in question is at least sixteen years of age and has had a stipulated amount of schooling. The school certificate must show the ability of the child to read and write simple sentences in English, that the child is normally developed, is in sound health and is able to perform the work required and, in addition, has attended the public school for not less than 110 days during the school year previous to arriving at the age of fourteen.

Punishment by a fine of not more than \$50 is provided for persons employing children under sixteen years of age contrary to these restrictions. A similar fine is provided for the parents. Lesser punishments are provided for violation of the minor restrictions. The senate bill authorizes the employment of special inspectors to make the round

of workshops and other places of employment to see that the law is not being violated.

The same measure also limits employment of children under sixteen

years of age to eight hours per day and forty-eight hours a week. Employers are also to be required to post in a conspicuous place in every room where youthful employees are at work a printed notice stating the number of hours' work required of them on each day of the week, the hours of commencing and stopping work and the hours when the time allowed for dinner and for other meals begins and ends.

Last year the census bureau issued a bulletin which gave statistics relating to the employment of children as breadwinners in this country. It was prepared very carefully by competent experts and furnished pertinent and very interesting data in regard to child labor, a subject that has become of national moment. This report defines child breadwinners as those earning money regularly by their labor, contributing to the family support or assisting appreciably in mechanical and agricultural industries.

It was found that the total number of children between the ages of ten and fifteen engaged in actual labor was 1,750,178. This is the showing, it seems, in spite of restrictive legislation. At first sight it is a startling proposition, but when it is explained that of this million and three-quarters over a million children are working as agricultural laborers the situation becomes less thrilling. The same objections that may be brought against the employment of children in factories and sweatshops cannot be urged against farm labor. As a rule, also, farm labor does not absolutely prohibit all schooling.

According to the latest estimate there were 688,297 children under fifteen years in the United States who were earning money for their own support and for that of their families. Of these 138,965—the largest group—were in domestic service. The next largest group contained the unclassified child workers, numbering 128,617, of whom all but 17,059 were boys. Of the total number of breadwinning children 72.2 per cent were boys and the remainder girls. More than half the entire number were between fourteen and fifteen. In a special group for which statistics were gathered it was found that 75.9 per cent of these little workers lived with their parents and that at least one-fifth of them were fatherless. There were 11,622 employed as messengers and office helpers, and of all these but one-tenth were girls. In all occupations the children of foreign parentage were in the majority. The cotton mills continue to furnish em-

ployment to children to a greater extent than any other manufacturing or mechanical industry. Of the total number of 44,427 children in the cotton mills of the country 80.4 per cent are to be found in two comparatively small areas. The New England states—North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia—have 49.5 per cent. In these last mentioned states the age limit is twelve years, so that there is no apparent violation of the law. America's mines and quarries employ

prevailing child labor laws in the various sections. In the south public opinion has not yet made child labor so objectionable as it is in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, as is made evident by the present age limitation and the more or less lax observance of the law as it stands. While admitting that a more rigid restriction and supervision are sound in theory, there are many well-meaning persons who are of the opinion that further interference with child labor in the south would work positive hardship; that under the con-

ditions existing in the south the prohibition of child labor in factories is readily possible simply by excluding any child from the factory building and making it impossible for him to enter without being observed, within the home the permanent separation of the child from the work is practically impossible, for the child's employment may easily be concealed. Legislation regulating industries carried on in dwelling places is seen clearly to con-

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LITTLE TAILORS OF THE TENEMENTS

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JUVENILE TOILERS IN THE SWEATSHOPS

24,299 children who should be at school, the textile trades, tailors, seamstresses, dressmakers and milliners 35,070, the cigar and tobacco factories 11,462 and the glass workers 49,988. More boys are employed in mines, quarries and glass workers than girls in tobacco and cigar factories, cotton and silk mills and in the textile trades.

In the northern states about one cotton mill operative in ten is a child, and in the south there are three children among every ten operators. The difference may be accounted for by the

conditions the system has been more of a benefit than otherwise.

In the larger cities the problem of doing away with child labor has been complicated by the home work scheme—the converting of squalid and insanitary dwelling places into hives of industry in which every member of the family, even children of tender age, is kept at work at all hours and under the most revolting conditions. This satanic device—the joint production of the employer in search of cheap labor and the occupant of the tenement deprived by law of the co-operation of

stitute a problem quite distinct from legislation regarding conditions within the factories.

This form of manufacture profits no one but the employer, to whom it offers an escape from factory responsibilities. Instead of organizing a regular staff of workers, he utilizes the labor of unskilled foreign born workers and their children. He locates his shop near their homes and during the busy season finds at his very doors a sufficient force of workers willing to toil all night to finish a hurry order. Next week the "boss" may have no work to

SLATE PICKERS AT A COAL MINE

New York state has tested fairly its ability to deal with home work along lines of regulation. Its present law, in form, at least, is a wise and far-reaching measure. It aims to prevent manufacture under unhealthy conditions. Licenses are not to be granted until the records of the board of health and the tenement house department and the report of a factory inspector agree in declaring the house free from infectious, contagious or communicable disease and from any defects in sanitation. Inspections are to be made at least once every six months, and licenses may be revoked at any time when unhealthy conditions are found. In each workshop there must be at least 300 cubic feet of air for each worker and only members of the family living therein may be employed.

It is due largely to doubt to the manufacturers' gains from home work that past attempts to meet its baffling problems have been so effectually obstructed. The present attempt to regulate home work in New York state is the result of a long fight against those conditions of employment familiarly described by the term "sweating."

Distressing as is the inability to forbid immediately and effectively the work of children in tenement manufacture, their continued employment ought to be a spur to unremitting effort against a system of industry which makes child labor possible in New York state, where public opinion years ago demanded its prohibition.

JAMES R. BENTLEY.

A ROYAL SHAKESPEAREAN.

The Grand Duke Constantine of Russia is said to be the most cultured Romanoff now living. He has translated a great number of Shakespeare's plays into Russian and has also acted the part of Hamlet. The grand duke and his wife, who was a princess of Saxe-Altenburg, have seven children, and they are all being brought up to be keen and clever Shakespeareans. His imperial highness owns a library entirely composed of editions of Shakespeare and references to the British Bard of Avon. Needless to say, he speaks English as well as he does his native tongue.

POLICE DOGS OF THE WORLD.

The latest sensation in Vienna is a wonderful detective dog which has just been put on the strength of the police force there. The animal is a big brown collie, and marvelous tales are told concerning his strength and sagacity. This is said to be the first known in-

A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW.

A well known scientist has been making an intelligent prophecy as to what sort of a place the world will be in 100 years. The animals are of the Newfound variety and cost \$100 apiece. They wear nickel plated collars engraved with the words "Prefecture de Police—Brigade Fluviale," and the force in its entirety is known as "Les Chiens Fluviaux."

In New York, again, are dog police, which are maintained for the special purpose of seeking out lost children. New Orleans, Mobile and Galveston have regular packs of bloodhounds to act as four footed detectives when occasion calls for their services.

Coal will be superseded by electricity derived from natural forces, such as the tide and the sun, and the smoke and dust of our cities will be gone forever.

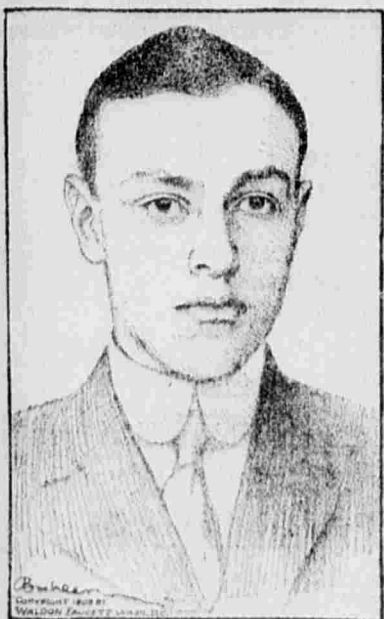
Crime will be unknown, for the influences and conditions that cause it will be wholly removed by needed reforms. Trains will travel at four times their present speed, and ships will not cut the waves, but glide along the surface and be propelled wirelessly by electric currents from the shore.

So far, so good. But when the same authority tells us that ladies will cease to wear high heels and pretty frocks we begin to doubt whether he has studied the human race so deeply after all.

THE COWBOY.

The cowboy was a man of few wants and simple tastes. As the type did not always pose for the artist, let us take a glance at him in everyday life. That he was self reliant there is no doubt. His loyalty to his employer was only equalled by his independence. Being amenable to kindness and consideration, it was not uncommon for him to spend the best years of his life in the employ of one man, sparing all offers of promotion or advance in wages from other quarters. On a northern range and at the close of a hard summer's work a soulless cattle company discharged the greater portion of its men and reduced the wages of the others. Among one of the few retained was an ungrateful Texan. When notified of the company's proposed action by the superintendent he replied: "That's all right, Mr. Blank. You can cut my wages in the mouth of winter if you see fit, but I'll give you notice right now that I'll give up of green grass I see in the spring I'll quit you." And he did.

New Honors For Some Already Distinguished Persons; Instances In Which Fortune Continues to Smile



ROBERT A. TAFT is the bright and good looking nineteen-year-old son of the big secretary of war, and he seems to have inherited the Taft ambition to distinguish himself. On his entrance to the freshman class at Yale year before last he won two prizes for his examinations, and he has kept up the same standard of excellence to the present time. He is as popular among his fellows as was his father during his undergraduate days, and he has made it clear to all that he expects to stand on his own merits. Young Taft has already chosen his profession and expects to follow in the footsteps of his brilliant father and quite as eminent grandfather, the famous attorney general of General Grant's administration.



REV. WILLIAM T. MANNING, D. D., who has recently succeeded the late Dr. Morgan Dix as rector of Trinity parish, New York city, is a native of England, born in Northampton, 1866. He came to America at the age of twelve and was graduated from the University of the South, at Sewanee, Tenn., in 1890. Ordained in 1891, he served three years in California and Tennessee and then accepted a call as vicar of St. Agnes chapel, one of the nine churches belonging to Trinity parish, New York city. Here Dr. Manning was very successful and became so popular that he was twice elected bishop, the sees of Kentucky and Harrisburg being offered to him and declined. He was made assistant rector of Trinity in 1904.



THOMAS L. HISGEN, who is a remarkable example of the self-made man of affairs, is prominent nowadays on account of his connection with the political organization known as the Independence league—by which he may be chosen as a presidential candidate—and his ability as an independent vote getter. He is of humble German parentage, but by sheer force of character, coupled with an unflinching uprightness, he has made himself a citizen of wealth and position. With his three brothers he began the manufacture of axle grease, and in time the concern known as the Four Brothers' Axle Grease company developed into an industry for which the Standard Oil offered \$600,000. This was refused, and the trust is a rival



THOMAS H. BARRY, recently promoted to the office of major general in the United States army, is a native of New York city, born 1855. He was a student at the College of the City of New York and afterward went to West Point. General Barry has seen a good deal of actual service. In 1891 he won distinction in the China relief expedition. Previous to this he had made an excellent record in the Philippines and had been made brigadier general. Last year, when it was necessary to send troops to restore order in Cuba, General Barry was given command of the army of pacification. The general's recent promotion was over the head of his senior of the same rank, General Funston, commanding the department of California.



JOHN MORLEY, recently promoted to the house of lords, is the British secretary of state for India, one of the most responsible offices in the cabinet. Mr. Morley, who at present enjoys the distinction of being England's "grand old man," is in his seven-eighth year, but is still active and energetic in the discharge of his numerous and exacting duties. He did not enter politics until he was forty-five, but in the quarter of a century which he has devoted to public affairs he has been an eloquent and forcible exponent of all that makes for good government. As a literary man and journalist he is known everywhere. He it was who was chosen to be the biographer of the late Mr. Gladstone, his lifelong friend and adviser.



HORATIO HERBERT KITCHENER, Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum according to his new title conferred five years ago, is once again a subject of public comment on account of the recent attempt to assassinate him made in India. General Kitchener has been commander in chief of the British forces in India since 1902 and is the empire's most distinguished soldier. He has been prominent in all of Great Britain's military operations for the last quarter of a century, has engineered most of England's north African projects, took an active part in the campaign against the Boers, received the thanks of parliament, was raised to the peerage, put at the head of the army and given large sums of money, \$250,000 at one time.



JOHN HAYS HAMMOND is the American citizen who is being paid \$500,000 per annum for his services as expert mining engineer by the Guggenheims, five brothers who are conducting mining operations on a scale never before attempted in this country. Mr. Hammond, however, is used to such things. He was consulting engineer for Garnett, the diamond king of South Africa, and afterward connected with Cecil Rhodes in the development of his great undertakings. He was in the Transvaal at the time of the Jameson raid and was arrested and condemned to death. He escaped, paying a fine of \$125,000. Mr. Hammond is a native of California and an alumnus of Yale and of the University of Freiberg, Saxony.

ODDS AND ENDS.

There were 125,652 births in London during 1906—64,261 boys and 61,391 girls. Machinery exported from Great Britain in 1906 was valued at \$17,361,825 more than in the preceding year.

The problem of rust is of economical importance to railway systems not only because of such losses, but also because of the expense involved in repainting iron and steel structures in order to

preserve them. Thus a sum of \$1,000 a year is spent in painting the great Scotch bridge over the Forth. Late experiments indicate that pure iron in the presence of pure oxygen does not rust. The rapid rusting of iron in railroad stations is ascribed to the presence of sulphuric acid derived from the smoke of locomotives.

It is stated that a locomotive and train, weighing 288 tons, ran from Munich to Augsburg at an average speed of eighty-one miles an hour.

Regarding the world's consumption of paper the United States claims the largest share, with an annual figure of 38.6 pounds per capita, England coming next with 24.3, Germany 22.9, France 20.5, Austria 19, Italy 15.4, Serbia showing the lowest European figure, 11. India shows only 2.7 and China 1.1 per capita. Nearly half of the paper manu-

factured in the world is used for printing purposes. Twenty per cent is absorbed in the trading and industries. Almost an equal proportion is applied for official and school purposes. The remaining 10 per cent serves the demand for private use.

New York has twenty-two journals printed in foreign tongues, including Chinese, Japanese, Croatian, Finnish, Slovak, Lithuanian and Welsh. Chicago comes second with fourteen, Bos-

ton publishes five newspapers in Armenian, while New Bedford, a Massachusetts seaport, with a population not far exceeding 50,000, has a constituency for as many as three journals in Portuguese.

Dr. David Gill recently communicated to the Royal Astronomical society a paper by Joseph Lint, in which the author shows that the rare chemical element europium is represented by strong lines in the spectra of the

light from the stars Arcturus and Polaris. Mr. Lint also confirms the previous conclusion of Professor Dyson that europium is one of the elements represented in the lines of the spectrum of the chromosphere of the sun.

When a Montreal woman named Quinn was arrested for being intoxicated she was found to have a chain tightly padlocked around her body. In consequence of what she told the police her husband was arrested. He admitted that he had kept the unhappy woman chained to the bedpost in her room for a month in order to prevent her obtaining intoxicants.

The three turbines of the Carmichael central station, 1,250,000 blades and those of the Lulland approximately 3,000,000.

English climbers are much more careful than those of other nations. German tourists head the list in Alpine accidents, and Swiss come next.