

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
LABOR LEGISLATION, PUBLICATION
NO. 10: FIRST NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL
DISEASES: CHICAGO, JUNE 10, 1910**

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VARIOUS

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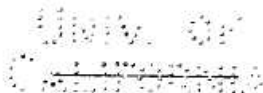
*The fundamental purpose of labor legislation is the conservation
of the human resources of the nation.*

PUBLICATION No. 10.

American Association for Labor Legislation

First
National Conference
" ON
INDUSTRIAL DISEASES

Chicago, June 10, 1910



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UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

Committee on Memorial

As an expression of the spirit of those, who, from widely separated parts of the United States, attended the first American conference on industrial diseases, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"RESOLVED,

By the first National Conference on Industrial Diseases, that the President of the American Association for Labor Legislation be asked to appoint a special committee of five, with power to add to their number, to call upon the President of the United States and present to him at an early date a carefully prepared memorial of facts and conclusions, emphasizing the urgent necessity and practical expediency of a national expert enquiry into the whole subject of industrial or occupational diseases,—their relative degree of frequency in various trades and occupations, the causes responsible for their occurrence, the methods desirable and practicable for their prevention or diminution, and all other matters having a relation thereto including methods of amelioration and relief."

In accordance with this resolution, Professor Henry W. Farnam of Yale University, as President of the American Association for Labor Legislation, appointed the following members:

HENRY BAIRD FAVILL, M.D., President Chicago Tuberculosis Institute.

FREDERICK L. HOFFMAN, Statistician Prudential Insurance Company of America, Newark.

DAVID L. EDSALL, M.D., of Philadelphia.

FREDERICK N. JUDSON, of St. Louis.

CHARLES R. HENDERSON, University of Chicago, Secretary Illinois Commission on Occupational Diseases.

PROGRAM

First National Conference on Industrial Diseases

Auditorium Hotel, Chicago

Friday, June 10th, 1910, 8:00 P. M.

Prof. Henry W. Farnam

Yale University, President American Association for
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President Chicago Tuberculosis Institute, and Chairman
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Secretary American Association for Labor Legislation,
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UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.

HENRY W. FARNAM.

In opening this First Conference on Industrial Diseases in the United States, I shall content myself with explaining briefly why it is that the American Association for Labor Legislation has called you together. Our Association is, as you know, one of the national sections of the International Association for Labor Legislation. At the meeting at which the formal organization of this society was adopted in 1900, the subject of industrial diseases was given a prominent position and has been studied and discussed at every meeting held since that time. It has a special Commission on the subject and in addition to detailed studies of particular poisons, the commission has framed a valuable list of industrial poisons. The results of these studies have been embodied in important pieces of legislation. The most remarkable of these was the treaty entered into in 1906 by seven of the principal states of Europe, which united in absolutely prohibiting the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches. These states have since been joined by two others, so that this particular poison is under the ban of nine states. Not only the International Association but the other national sections have devoted a great deal of attention to the subject.

Our country is just beginning to appreciate the importance of industrial hygiene and the best work done in this field, has been done by members of this association. Among them I may mention particularly, Dr. George M. Kober of Washington, who has published a book upon the subject from the point of view of the physician; Mr. Frederick L. Hoffman of Newark, who, from the point of view of the statistician, has published valuable studies of certain diseases in Numbers 79 and 82 of the Bulletin of the Federal Bureau of Labor; Dr. John B. Andrews, the secretary of our

Association, who has just issued, in Number 86 of the Bulletin of Labor, a careful and intensive study of the subject of phosphorus poisoning, which we hope will lead to federal legislation on the subject.

But while a beginning has been made, we cannot expect to secure legislation that will stand and be effective without a more careful and detailed study of the individual facts in our own industries. The present situation of our Association is like that of a watchman on a high tower. He does not know exactly how the attack is to be made but he knows enough to justify him in giving the alarm and in advising that scouts be sent out to ascertain more precisely the strength and the position of the foe. In this warfare against industrial diseases we need the coöperation of many different people and one of the purposes of this Association is to facilitate this coöperation in order to prevent a waste of energy. This is a warfare in which science, labor, business enterprise, and the government must all unite. In science, we appeal especially to medicine, mechanical engineering, chemistry, statistics, and economics, to furnish us with the facts and to supply the methods of investigation and of prevention. But we equally need the help of labor, which, though it has the greatest immediate interest in the matter, is often handicapped by lack of scientific knowledge or by lack of the means of making itself heard. The trade unions and benefit societies may be of great service in pointing out fields of investigation. We also need the help of business enterprise. The manufacturers have in many cases already shown a commendable interest and a high degree of intelligence in dealing with the matter. The insurance companies have also contributed their quota and have much to gain by an improvement in the conditions. But, if we are to secure progress all along the line, which shall be uniform and not simply sporadic, we shall need the government in all three of its departments. We need the legislature to enact the laws. We need the administration, above all an honest administration, based upon merit, to secure their execution;

and we need a judiciary to interpret them according to broad principles. The recent decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois upholding the Ten Hour Law for Women is an encouraging sign of the times which this Association cordially recognizes. Our part in the matter consists in securing accurate and reliable data and putting them before the legislature and the other organs of the government.

Our Association began its study of this subject some two years ago, by the appointment of a national commission on industrial hygiene, and early in 1909, we issued a special leaflet, outlining the proposed investigation of occupational diseases. The present conference is the continuation of that line of work. The present occasion seems a particularly fitting one, for industrial accidents and industrial diseases are but two different forms of industrial risks, and every country that has thus far successfully dealt with one, has felt itself obliged to deal with the other. We are, therefore, glad to hold the Conference on Industrial Hygiene in connection with the Conference on Accidents. Equally fitting is the place, for Illinois is the first of our states to appoint a State Commission on Occupational Diseases, and Chicago is known throughout the world for its progressive spirit. The Chairman of our commission on industrial hygiene is a Chicago man, and in turning over to him the task of presiding over this meeting, I need make no formal introduction, for you all know and esteem Dr. Favill, the President of the Tuberculosis Institute.