SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL AND LABOR STATISTICS FOR THE STATE OF MAINE 1892

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1892.

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1893.

STATE OF MAINE.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF INDUSTRIAL AND LABOR STATISTICS,
Augusta, December 31, 1892.

To His Excellency, Edwin C. Burleigh, Governor of Maine:

SIR: I have the honor to present the report of the Bureau of Industrial and Labor Statistics for 1892.

Very respectfully,

SAMUEL W. MATTHEWS,

Commissioner.

INTRODUCTION.

At the National Convention of the officials of Bureaus of Labor Statistics, held in Denver, Colorado, in May last, the following communication containing resolutions adopted at a meeting of the Woman's Labor Committee of the World's Congress Auxiliary was submitted:

CHICAGO, U. S. A., April 30, 1892.

Hon. Carroll D. Wright, Commissioner of Labor, United States of America.

DEAR SIR:—At a regular meeting of the Woman's Labor Committee of the World's Congress Auxiliary, held April 24th, the following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, We, the members of the Woman's Labor Committee of the World's Congress Auxiliary, have been appointed for the purpose of holding a congress in October, 1893, which is to consider the industrial conditions of women and children: and

WHEREAS, We realize that the only effective means of obtaining the information necessary for the success of such a congress is through properly appointed channels,

Resolved, That we address the Labor Commissioners of the various states, urging them to make the conditions under which women and children are employed for hire the special topic in the next report of their Bureau.

Resolved, That in the consideration of these conditions we urge the commissioners to make the following topics the basis of their statistics:

First. Actual numbers under and over fourteen years of age.

Second. Age at beginning to work.

Third. Difficulties in way of school attendance.

Fourth. Illiteracy; familiarity with the English language.

Fifth. Work by the day.

(*a*) Wages per day or week.

(*b*) Days employed during the year.

(*c*) Hours per day or week.

Sixth. Work by the piece.

(*a*) Maximum and minimum price per piece.

(*b*) Maximum and minimum pieces per day.

Seventh. Night work; danger connected with it.

Eighth Sanitary and humane conditions in factory, shop, store.

(*a*) Ventilation.

(*b*) Seating provisions.

(*c*) Protection against dangerous machinery.

(*d*) Provision for escape in case of fire.

(*e*) Privacy and proportionate number of toilet rooms.

(*f*) Length of time allowed at noon.

Ninth. Membership in labor or beneficiary organizations.

Tenth. Amount saved during the year.

Eleventh. If mothers, what provision made for care of children.

Resolved, That we urge the commissioners to pay special attention to the condition of employment of women and children in factories and retail stores, and to those engaged in the manufacture of clothing and those in the textile and tobacco industries, and in farm, field and mines.

Enclosed is the circular letter issued by the committee, which outlines the scope of the work for which it was appointed, and will explain the need of your help and endorsement of the resolutions.

The committee prays for your approval, and earnestly desire that you enter the enclosed list of its members on your permanent list of recipients of the documents issued from your office.

Will you kindly send the list of Labor Commissioners throughout the United States at your earliest convenience, and greatly oblige

Yours truly,

ELLEN M. HENROTIN,

Vice President.

A motion that the request of the committee be complied with, was adopted by the convention, and, acting in accordance with this, several of the bureaus are making special investigations of matters relating to this important branch of the labor question. The work of this Bureau on the lines here indicated, during the past year, has been as

full and complete as the means allowed it would permit. Two special agents devoted a large part of the time during which they were employed, in canvassing the various fields of female labor in many towns and cities, quite thorough work having been done in the cities of Portland, Biddeford, Saco, Lewiston, Auburn, Gardiner, Bath, Belfast and Bangor. Investigations were made to a limited extent, in many other places. The results of these investigations are given in this report. In connection with this special inquiry, many lines of industry have been investigated, and many interesting and valuable facts obtained.

During the past year, the granite industry has been seriously affected by protracted strikes and lockouts. A history of these labor troubles is given in this report, but, as at the time when the investigations of the Bureau were completed, the general results of these strikes and lockouts could not be correctly determined, a very important part of this investigation is necessarily deferred to a later period. Settlements of these difficulties have recently been arrived at, and it is to be hoped the future relations of employers and employes in this branch of industry, may be mutually agreeable and satisfactory. No serious troubles have occurred in other industries in the State. Labor has generally been employed on full time and at fair wages.

The list of factories, mills and shops for manufacturing purposes, enlarged, completed or in process of erection, during the year, with estimated cost of the same, and number of additional hands employed, is evidence of a gratifying condition of progress and prosperity. The statistics given were obtained from the assessors of nearly every town, city and plantation in the State. Three special agents, Mellen Plummer, George E. Hathaway and T. J. Lyons, have been employed during a portion of the year, and, to these gentlemen, as well as to the efficient clerk, Major Charles J. House, the commissioner desires to express his acknowledgements for diligent and capable services rendered.