

**SEVENTH BIENNIAL REPORT
OF THE BUREAU OF
LABOR STATISTICS FOR THE
STATE OF IOWA. 1895-96**

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Seventh Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the State of Iowa. 1895-96 by W. E. O'Brien

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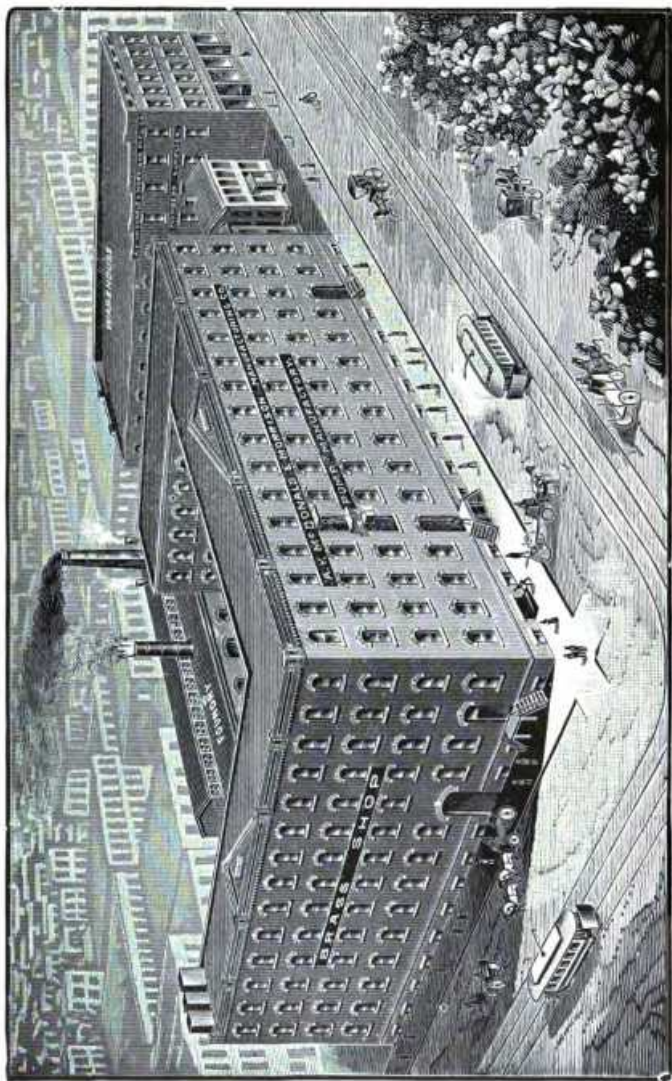
W. E. O'BLENESS

**SEVENTH BIENNIAL REPORT
OF THE BUREAU OF
LABOR STATISTICS FOR THE
STATE OF IOWA. 1895-96**

Compliments of

W. E. O'Bleness,

Commissioner for Iowa.



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SEVENTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

Bureau of Labor Statistics

FOR THE

STATE OF IOWA.

1895-96.

W. E. O'BLENESS, Commissioner.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOR STATISTICS, }
DES MOINES, IOWA, September 6, 1897. }

Hon. F. M. Drake, Governor of Iowa:

Sir—In compliance with the law creating the Bureau of Labor Statistics, I have the honor herewith to transmit to you the Seventh Biennial Report of this department.

Very respectfully,

W. E. O'BLENESS,
Commissioner.

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INTRODUCTORY.

In the report of the Bureau of Labor for 1894 and '95 some very strong recommendations were made for a new law governing the office; a law that would enable the commissioner to disseminate information and facts, not estimates. The Twenty-sixth General Assembly took the matter under consideration, and, after long and thorough investigation brought about the following law:

CHAPTER 132.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

AN ACT to Create a Bureau of Labor Statistics, and to Provide for the Appointment of a Commissioner of said Bureau, and to Define his Duties and Term of Office.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. That there is hereby created a bureau of labor statistics, to be under the control and management of a commissioner thereof, to be appointed as hereinafter provided by this act.

SEC. 2. That the governor shall, within thirty days after the taking effect of this act and biennially thereafter, with the advice and consent of the executive council, appoint a commissioner of labor statistics. The term of office of said commissioner to commence on the first day of April in each even-numbered year and continue for two years and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and said commissioner before entering upon the discharge of his duties shall take an oath or affirmation to discharge the same faithfully, and to the best of his ability; and shall give bond in the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000), with sureties to the approval of the governor, conditioned for the faithful discharge of his official duties.

SEC. 3. Said commissioner shall receive a salary of fifteen hundred dollars per annum, and shall be allowed a deputy at a salary of one thousand dollars per annum in lieu of clerk hire, payable monthly, and necessary postage, stationery, and office expenses, the said salary and expenses to be paid by the state as the salaries and expenses of other state officers are provided for. The commissioner, or any officer or employe of the bureau of labor statistics, shall be allowed in addition to their salaries their actual

and necessary traveling expenses while in the performance of their duties; said expenses to be audited by the executive council and paid out of the general fund of the state upon a voucher verified by the commissioner, provided that the total of such expenses for officers and employes shall not exceed \$500 per annum. He shall have and keep an office in the capitol at Des Moines in which shall be kept all records, documents, papers, correspondence, and property pertaining to his office, and shall deliver them to his successor in office.

SEC. 4. Said commissioner may be removed from his office by the governor for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office; and any vacancy occurring at any time may be filled by the governor by and with the consent of the executive council.

SEC. 5. The duties of said commissioner shall be to collect, assort, systematize, and present in biennial reports to the governor, on or before the 15th day of August preceding each regular meeting of the general assembly, statistical details relating to all departments of labor in the state, especially in its relations to the commercial, social, educational, and sanitary conditions of the laboring classes, and to the permanent prosperity of the mechanical, manufacturing, and productive industries of the state, and shall as fully as practicable collect such information and reliable reports from each county in the state, the amount and condition of the mechanical and manufacturing interests, the value and location of the various manufacturing and coal productions of the state, also sites offering natural or acquired advantages for the profitable location and operation of different branches of industry. He shall by correspondence with interested parties in other parts of the United States impart to them such information as may tend to induce the location of mechanical and producing plants within the state, together with such other information as shall tend to increase the productions and consequent employment of producers; and in said biennial report he shall give a statement of the business of the bureau since the last regular report, and shall compile and publish therein such information as may be considered of value to the industrial interests of the state; the number of laborers and mechanics employed; the number of apprentices in each trade; with the nativity of such laborers; mechanics' and apprentices' wages earned; the savings from the same, with age and sex of laborers employed; the number and character of accidents; the sanitary condition of institutions where labor is employed; the restrictions, if any, which are put upon apprentices when indentured; the proportion of married laborers and mechanics who live in rented houses, with the average annual rental and the value of property owned by laborers and mechanics; and he shall include in such report what progress has been made with schools now in operation for the instruction of students in the mechanic arts and what systems have been found most practical, with details thereof.

Such report when printed shall not consist of more than 600 printed pages octavo.

Five thousand copies thereof shall be printed and bound uniformly similar to the reports of other state officers as now authorized by law. Said reports when published to be disposed of as follows, viz: To the public libraries in the state, to the various trades organizations, agricultural and mechanical societies, and other places where the commissioner