

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
STATE BOARD OF
ARBITRATION OF ILLINOIS, 1-2,
MARCH 1, 1896 - MARCH, 1897**

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VARIOUS

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
STATE BOARD OF
ARBITRATION OF ILLINOIS, 1-2,
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FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

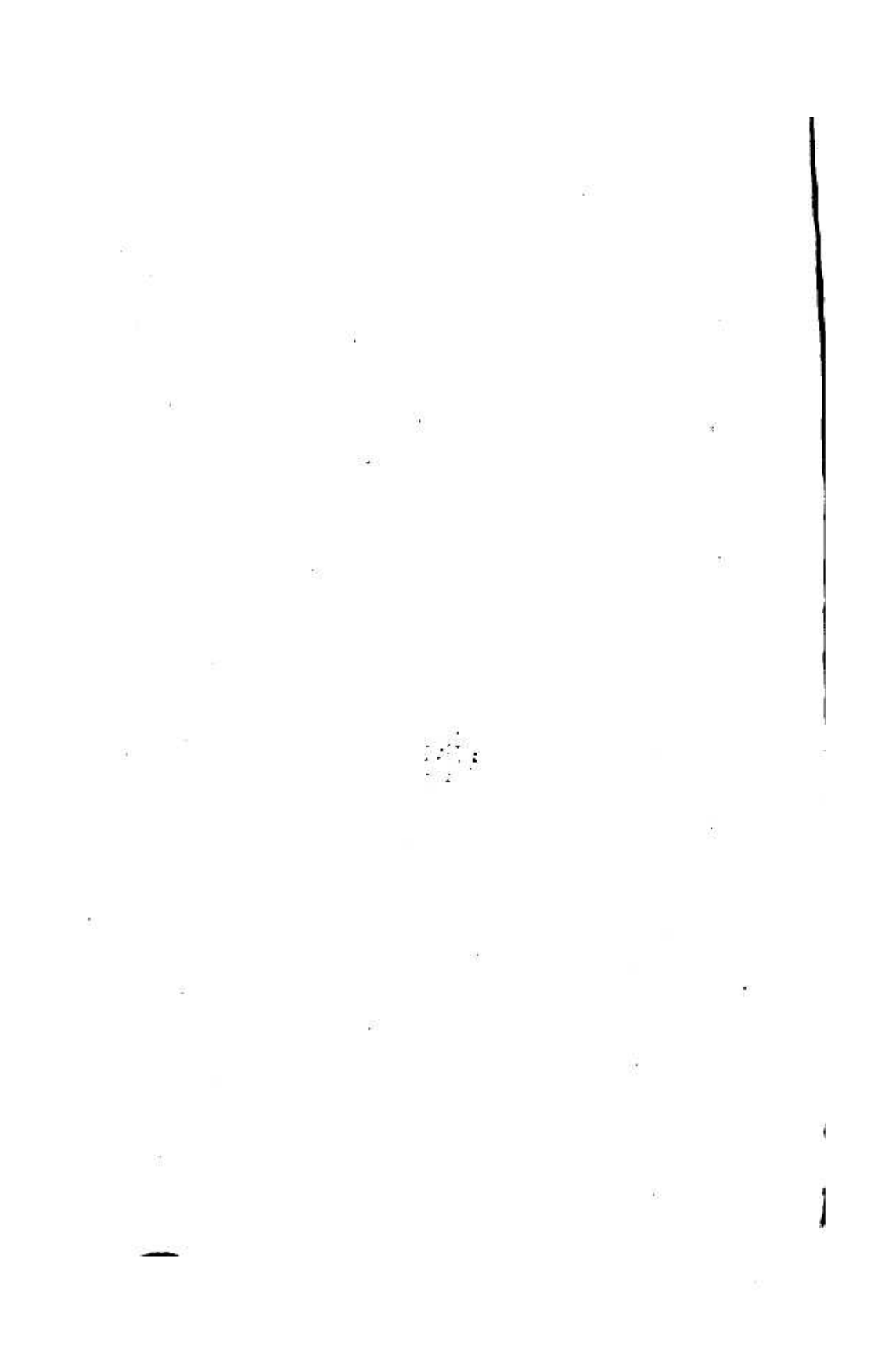
STATE BOARD OF ARBITRATION

OF

ILLINOIS.

March 1, 1896.

SPRINGFIELD:
PHILLIPS BROS., STATE PRINTERS,
1900.



BOARD OF ARBITRATION.

ANTHONY THORNTON, *Chairman*, Shelbyville.

W. P. REND, Chicago.

CHARLES J. RIEFLER, Springfield.

JAMES MALCOLM, *Secretary*, Springfield.



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

SPRINGFIELD, MARCH 1, 1896.

To the Honorable, JOHN P. ALTGELD, Governor of Illinois:

SIR:—In compliance with the law creating the State Board of Arbitration, we have the honor to submit herewith our first annual report.

Very respectfully,

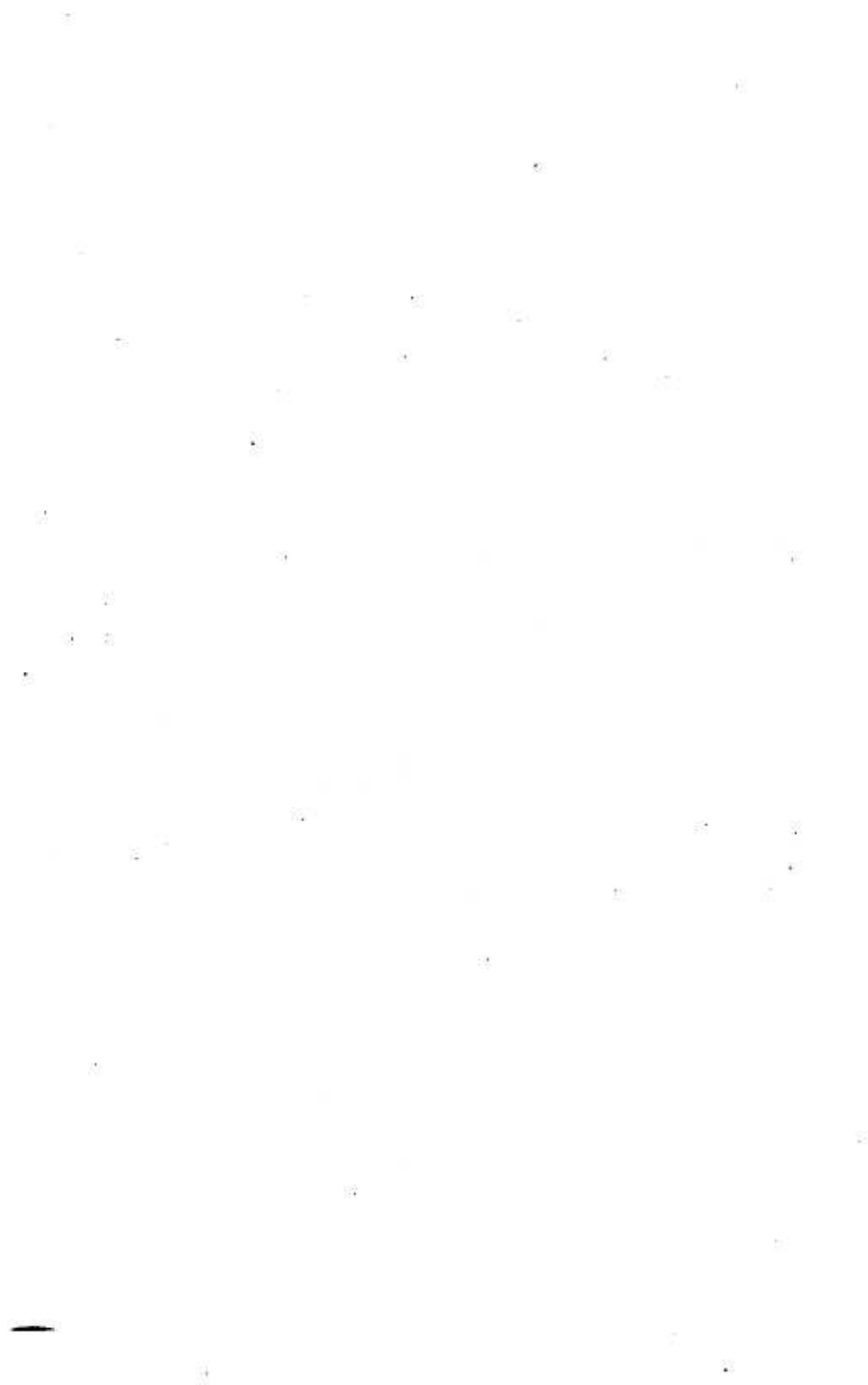
ANTHONY THORNTON,

W. P. REND,

CHARLES J. RIEFLER,

Board of Arbitration.

JAMES MALCOLM, *Secretary.*



FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE BOARD OF ARBITRATION.

INTRODUCTION.

During the closing years of the century no promise of a higher civilization is more manifest than the growing disposition of mankind to settle disputes by arbitration, rather than by the old plan of expensive litigation or destructive warfare. This is as true of international controversies as of conflicts in the industrial world. When it is considered that these courts of inquiry seek to establish not merely peace, but a rule of equity to govern hitherto warring interests, their far-reaching influence for good will be evident.

Arbitration, as a means of adjudicating differences between employer and employé, appears to have had its origin in France. Early in the present century Napoleon Bonaparte, at the request of the workingmen of Lyons, established courts of arbitration and conciliation. These courts, with slight changes, have continued until the present time. They are known as councils of experts composed of from eight to sixteen members, half of whom are employers and half employés. Each important trade center has its own council directly controlled by the Chamber of Commerce, under the authority of the Minister of Commerce. Arbitration is compulsory upon the application of either side, and the decisions can be enforced the same as in any other court of law.

The last official report summarizes the utility of the French councils of experts as follows:

"People are certainly right in attributing to the institution of councils of experts the relative tranquility which industry in France has enjoyed during the present century. They have prevented many partial strikes by assuring to work-people a competent adjudication, speedy and inexpensive. The last point is especially essential. Indeed, many small difficulties would never have been submitted to the councils were the cost greater than it is. But who does not know that the repetition of small disputes, without adjustment, in the long run produces the irritation which ends in strikes? If justice is too far removed and too costly the workman resigns himself temporarily, but his rancors accumulate to burst forth one day, probably in the discussion of an affair of purely secondary interest."

In 1892 a law was passed in France providing for conciliation and arbitration of collective disputes. This law assumes that the trades unions only resort to strikes after they have exhausted every means to bring about conciliation. It was also framed on the assumption