

**SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
FACTORY INSPECTION OF
THE STATE OF INDIANA 1898**

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Indiana Dept. of Factory Inspection

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INDIANA DEPT. OF FACTORY INSPECTION

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OF THE

Department of Factory Inspection

OF THE

STATE OF INDIANA.

1898.

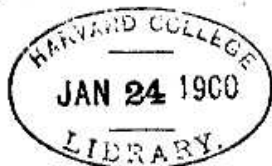
D. H. MCABEE, Inspector.



INDIANAPOLIS:

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1898.

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THE STATE OF INDIANA,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
INDIANAPOLIS, January 4, 1899. }

Received by the Governor, examined, and referred to the Auditor of State for verification of the financial statement.

OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE,
INDIANAPOLIS, January 4, 1899. }

The within report, so far as the same relates to moneys drawn from the State Treasury, has been examined and found correct.

A. C. DAILY,
Auditor of State.

INDIANAPOLIS, January 5, 1899.

Returned by the Auditor of State, with above certificate, and transmitted to Secretary of State for publication, upon the order of the Board of Commissioners of Public Printing and Binding.

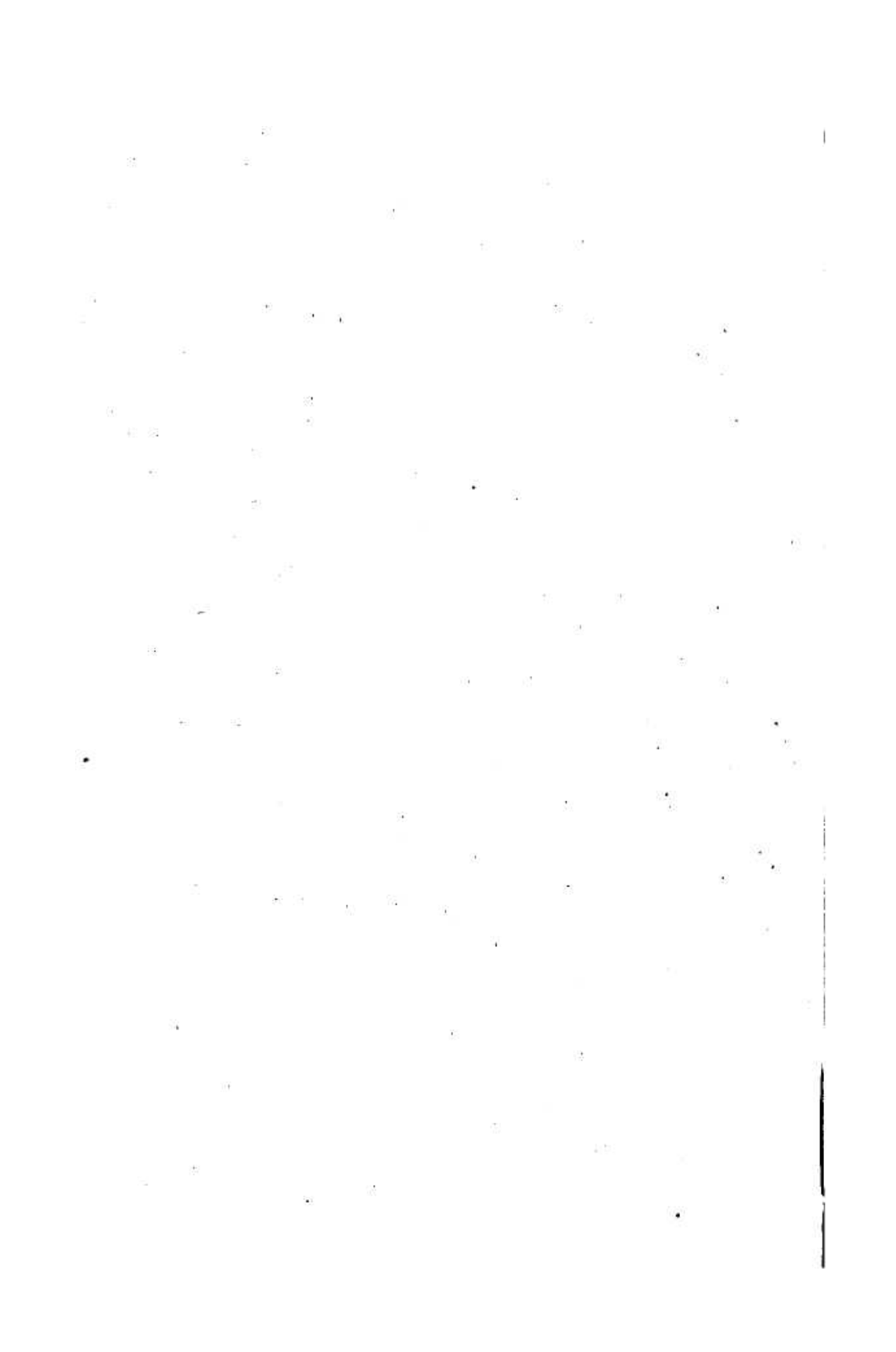
CHAS. E. WILSON,
Private Secretary.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State of the State of Indiana, January 6, 1899.

WILLIAM D. OWEN,
Secretary of State.

Received the within report and delivered to the printer this 6th day of January, 1899.

THOS. J. CARTER,
Clerk of Printing Bureau.



State of Indiana.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

STATE FACTORY INSPECTOR.

1898.

OFFICE OF STATE FACTORY INSPECTOR,
INDIANAPOLIS, IND., JANUARY 3, 1899. }

Hon. James A. Mount, Governor of Indiana:

Sir—I have the honor to submit, herein, my second Annual Report as State Factory Inspector, being for the year ended December 31, 1898. I am gratified to be able to place such an exhibit in your hands of what has been accomplished, as it demonstrates the practical utility of the Factory Act and its public benefit. It is but another step in the great development of society now in progress in our country, under our free institutions, whereby all classes are enabled to better their condition and reach the highest state of which they are capable.

The Act under which I am operating is so new and of such unusual character in this State that I have deemed it unwise to proceed hastily or harshly in its enforcement, especially so since its defective title would probably make futile a resort to the courts, except as it relates to women and children. I have been, therefore, cautious and conservative, and am glad to be able to say that I have been met in a law-abiding spirit by both employer and employed, and that, by their co-operation, the condition of labor has been greatly improved, as will

appear in this report. There has been, also, a general improvement in business, since I assumed the office in 1897, as is shown by the increase in the number of employes, made in the interval between my first and second visits to many establishments.

In very few cases has there been any attempt to evade or obstruct the law. On the contrary, both capital and labor, when they once become familiar with its workings, are glad to come within an influence that is so wholesome and so powerful for good. Operators of factories, who feared, when the Act was passed, that their business would be interfered with, to their annoyance or loss, have learned by experience that such is not the case. They know, now, that it is not the purpose of this department to "run" their establishments, nor to interfere with them in any improper way. But, sometimes, the operatives have been less appreciative. Having become familiar, after long years of service, with machines destitute of safety devices; and, having become used to the frequent loss of fingers and thumbs, they are prone to view such things as guards with contempt, and as a reflection upon their ability to take care of themselves. But, in time, even these learn to know and appreciate the value of such devices, after which there is no trouble regarding their use.

The department has been at the disadvantage of having no register of the factories throughout the State that are subject to the law, in consequence of having ten or more persons employed, except the incomplete one made in this office last year; but the enrollment is now proceeding with such satisfactory progress that the work of inspection will not be retarded so much, hereafter, from this cause. The Factory Act makes provision, only, for an Inspector and an Assistant Inspector to perform the work in a field so vast as to embrace the entire State; and, as the clerical work required the presence of the Assistant in the office, the active work of inspection devolved entirely upon myself. In consequence of this limitation of its resources the department has not been able to reach every factory during the year, in a domain of such wide extent; but I have visited and inspected as many as time and circumstances permitted, the results of which are shown herewith in Exhibit A. Some of the establishments visited, proving not to have the requisite number of employes, could not be officially inspected; but, in some cases, the proprietors were anxious that informal examinations be made and any existing defects pointed out, and I was pleased to be able to comply with their requests.

The effects of the first inspection, made last year, have been very much in evidence as I have made my second round, and it is gratifying to find that some proprietors have not only carried out my sugges-

tions for the improvement of their establishments, but have gone further, often at considerable expense, in providing exhaust-fans, fire-escapes and other safeguards beyond my requirements. At the same time it developed that many carry "liability insurance," and, in some such cases, so much reliance is had upon this insurance for indemnity against loss, that precautions are not taken to the same degree against accidents or for the welfare of employes as might otherwise be done.

Details of the orders issued to proprietors, after inspections, with notes as to their compliance, are given herewith in Exhibit B.

ACCIDENTS.

The feature of the Act with which I have found the most difficulty, is that one requiring accidents to be reported to this office, by the employer, within forty-eight hours from the time they occur. It has usually taken a formal request from me to secure the first report; but, after one experience of this kind, in which the proprietor learns what is expected of him, it is hoped that he will not again wait for me to take the initiative. We endeavor to keep all factories supplied with blanks on which to make such reports.

The requirement that accidents shall be reported is one of the most valuable features of the Factory Act, as it is a constant reminder that the hand of authority is over the establishments where they occur, the effect of which is to cause greater watchfulness and care on the part of all concerned. As a rule, proprietors have complied with requests to provide safety devices to shield their employes and others from injury, but it is yet too early to say what the effect of the law will be in decreasing accidents. In other States, however, where a similar law has been in force for years the decrease has been satisfactory and shows what may be accomplished in Indiana.

The methods of transmitting power, whether by belts, rods, steel cables, ropes, endless chains or electric wires, come under the supervision of this department, and in some cases it has been found necessary to cover them to prevent contact with persons in their vicinity. It is here that accidents will occur, no difference how careful the workmen are, from master mechanic to oiler, unless guards are provided; and, with all this precaution, they will continue to occur too frequently until workmen are educated to exercise more care. The danger most prevalent is projecting set-screws upon shafting and near floors, as, by becoming entangled in the clothing they draw the victim into the machinery, often with fatal consequences. Such set-screws I have required to be covered or countersunk, as the law directs.