

## **CHILD LABOR IMPROVED.**

### **National Committee Gives Statistics Showing Better Conditions.**

Great progress has been made in the last year in improving the working conditions of children, according to the annual report of the National Child Labor Committee, which will be published probably this week. Thirty States have passed legislation lightening the burden in hours which child workers in these States have had to carry. The report says:

The eight-hour day for children under 16 was established in Colorado, Missouri, and Wisconsin. In California and Washington the eight-hour day was established for women and girls. Other States made important reductions in the hours of labor for children: Massachusetts, a fifty-four-hour week for males under 18 and all females in manufacturing and mercantile establishments; Missouri, an eight-hour day and fifty-four-hour week for all females; Utah, a fifty-four-hour week for boys under 14, girls under 16.

North Carolina and Georgia both reduced working hours from sixty-six to sixty per week, and Indiana established an eight-hour day for children under 16, with the exception that upon application of parents children may work a nine-hour day and fifty-four-hour week. There are now ten States and the District of Columbia which forbid the employment of children under 16 for more than eight hours a day.

Colorado, Indiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, South Carolina, and Wisconsin passed laws forbidding the work of children under 16 at night. California made the prohibition extend to 18, and Vermont excluded children under 16 from work at night in hotels and bowling alleys.

The employment of young boys in the night messenger service was still further restricted by the enactment of laws forbidding such employment under 21 in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Wisconsin, and Utah. Four States established the 18-year age limit for night messenger service: Michigan, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Tennessee.

California by a general law forbids such employment under 18, and Indiana under 16. The first law to eliminate minors from the night messenger service was in New York last year, following revelations made by the National Child Labor Committee.

While this much was accomplished, the report recites that the committee's efforts met with defeat in many directions.

"In North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama," says the report, "all important measures were defeated through the opposition of cotton manufacturers."