

CHILD LABOR DISCUSSION

Bill Pending Before Nebraska Legislature the Topic of Debate.

VICTOR ROSEWATER EXPLAINS POSITION

Not Opposed to Child Labor Legislation, but Points Out Objections to Some Portions of the Pending Measure.

The Child's Labor bill and the juvenile court were the topics of discussion at the Lyric theater Tuesday night with Dean Beecher, Victor Rosewater, Judge Kennedy, Judge Sutton and W. H. Penock as the speakers.

"We as a community and state are deeply interested in these subjects," said Mr. Rosewater in calling the meeting to order. It has always been a question, what will be done with our boys.

Dean Beecher spoke entirely on the subject of the juvenile court and said: "The juvenile court as it exists today is practically the chief safeguard which the state has thrown up against the rapidly increasing forces of crime which threaten our welfare and safety."

Judge Kennedy took up the discussion of the child labor law and spoke of the good the law would do for the children if passed by the present legislature.

"This is a materialistic age, certainly a time of unprecedented prosperity, and the danger is at such times to think of things only as we see them," said Judge Kennedy.

"The bill at Lincoln was drafted after laws in other states. The bill is not perfect, but it is a good bill and we think it the best bill we could have passed at this time."

"Children under 16 years shall not be employed more than eight hours a day or more than six days a week and shall not work before 6 a. m. or after 5 p. m."

"The objection that this law may work a hardship upon some family dependent upon them is not borne out by statistics and there are other avenues open. The burden should be put on the parents rather than on a 12-year-old child."

"The chairman next presented Hon. Victor Rosewater, editor of The Bee, who spoke, in part, as follows:

"When I was asked to speak here this evening the invitation was to enter into a joint debate on the question of child labor legislation, and I refused point blank, because I was not in favor of child labor, though I thought that the present proposed bill pending at Lincoln was open to serious criticism."

"At the outset I want to present respectfully the imputation which the speaker just before me has put out. He noted some exceptions, but with the evident purpose to prejudice the audience, that anyone who would criticize this bill was trying to grind down poor, innocent children and make some personal pecuniary profit out of it. I say I resent that because while I criticize the bill I say that of all the young men who have ever worked for the institution with which I am connected not one ever worked but who received good pay for his work or who was ever harmed or injured by it."

"I will make my position more clear by referring to some correspondence. I was invited among others to become one of the Nebraska child labor committee organized to promote the cause of child labor legislation. I received that invitation from Mr. Owen R. Lovejoy, assistant

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secretary of the national child labor committee, about a month ago, and in reply this is what I wrote to him:

Replying to your letter dated February 17th, I am sorry to hear that the Nebraska child labor committee, of which I believe it would be better for me not to serve, is in sympathy with the movement to prevent children from working in harmful pursuits, but do not regard all gainful pursuits as harmful."

"I received another letter from Mr. Lovejoy which I will read in part, because I think it will give light upon the subject, and also show that what Judge Kennedy thinks is a bill which should not be changed in any particular is not entirely satisfactory to the national child labor committee."

"I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 4 regarding the Nebraska child labor committee and am writing to correct what I fear is a misapprehension on your part. Let me first say that the members of the national child labor committee and the various state committees represent a wide variety of opinion on details of legislation."

"Referring to the misapprehension implied in your letter, let me say that the child labor bill now before the Nebraska legislature is not one which we 'had prepared and presented to the Nebraska legislature.' We did not see the bill until it appeared in the printed form, after being introduced and had nothing to do with its preparation."

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hits children under specified age from being on the streets or in public places after 9 o'clock at night.

"With that showing from our statute books, while I do not say that it is all that should be done, I am sure to maintain that we have done considerably already, and are not to be classed with Russia in these matters." (Applause.)

Good and Bad Features. Mr. Rosewater then took up the proposed bill section by section and called attention to the good and bad features. He endorsed unequivocally the first section prohibiting the employment of children under 14 years of age, and the thirteenth section prohibiting the employment of children between 14 and 16 in any work dangerous to life or limb, or injurious to health or morals.

"It seems to me," he declared, "that in the certificate some things are required which ought not to be required. It should not be required in any place outside of Russia. In the first place it must give the date and place of birth, and describe the color of the hair, the height and weight and any distinguishing social marks of each child. That is what we should measure, height and weight, and we note whether they have a wart or a mole at any place on their bodies." (Applause.)

"We are to have a record placed in the school of every child who has a wart on his nose to prove that he is fit to earn some money to help support his family. The color of his hair, his height and weight, too. If you take the height and weight at 18, I do not know what you would find at 15. I do not believe they would correspond very well. It is ridiculous. If we cannot identify them by some more polite and civilized way we ought not to identify them at all."

"As to the hour limits for employment provided in the bill, I suggest that the present law governing the labor of women was at variance with the new provisions for children, and would require a readjustment all around. I presume some of them are under 16 years of age," he added, "but under this bill the apprentice cannot work the same hours that the journeyman works. If the journeyman works nine hours he will have to work one hour without the apprentice."

The speaker picked up a large book issued by the census bureau, on child labor statistics, and called attention to the fact that Nebraska was mentioned in it but three or four times. While it covered all the main employments of child labor of the enumerated list, Nebraska contained not a single cotton mill, silk mine or quarry employing child labor, and not enough cigar factories to be noted separately. Nebraska figured only in children employed in agricultural pursuits.

"Out of 144,000 children in Nebraska over the age of 9 and under the age of 16, only 12,000 of the boys and 2,000 of the girls are employed at actual wage earning. But of that list 10,175 of the boys are employed in agricultural pursuits, which are not affected by this bill, and 202 of the girls, leaving 2,107 boys and 2,002 girls who might possibly be affected by this bill. From my observation and my knowledge of the conditions in Omaha and in the state, I do not believe any large number of these 4,000 boys and girls earning wages of some kind in the 1900 schedule were employed in harmful pursuits as distinguished from gainful pursuits."

Two Essential Classes. "Concluding, let me say that I came here to discuss this particular bill dispassionately, to subject it to the criticism of common sense. I subscribe to all the moral preachings of preceding speakers. I believe in the sanctity of the home; I believe the child should not be grounded down by the family, or by the school, or by an education in doing so; but, at the same time I believe many things may happen to the children a great deal worse than being put to work where they will learn to be useful citizens."

"Thus far the men or women who perpetrated the 'hanging in effigy' of W. V. Fisher, who has advocated annexation, have not come from under cover and made known their identity with the dirty work. E. Burke, whose name appeared on legislation to support the family of a man who was an education in doing so; but, at the same time I believe many things may happen to the children a great deal worse than being put to work where they will learn to be useful citizens."

Penock Explains His Views. W. H. Penock entered during the discussion, and Mr. Rosewater called upon him as the framer of the bill now before the legislature at Lincoln. "I agree with Dr. Rosewater that the first and thirteenth sections are the principal ones of the bill."

Children in Beet Fields. Judge Sutton was the last speaker, and after a few statements on the child labor law, gave some statistics on the juvenile court as they had come to his notice. He told of visits to the beet fields in Nebraska, where he saw many children who should have been in school.

"Young children are found in beet fields, canning factories and in packing houses," said Judge Sutton. "While the shores of this country welcome foreign children, we are going to give them the same chance our children have. The factory tells us we must have child labor to compete with child labor in other parts of the country. I would rather have no factories at all. I would rather have no children to put in the child labor law."

"We have spent too much time in this country punishing the little fellows when we should have been after the big fellows. We are spending more money to keep down and punish crime than is spent for educational work or for the churches. We spend for humanitarian and educational purposes each year \$60,000,000, and the total cost for suppression of crime was \$1,078,277,666 last year."

CHILD LABOR ORGANIZATION Nebraska Branch of the National Committee Formed.

By the Nebraska branch of the National Child Labor Committee was organized here today with the following officers: President, Dr. George Elliott Howard, Union; first vice president, Mrs. H. H. Wheeler, Lincoln; second vice president, Mrs. Draper Smith, Omaha; secretary-treasurer, S. P. Morris, Omaha; executive committee, Rev. J. B. Russell, president State Normal School, Kearney; Mrs. H. W. Penock, Omaha; Mrs. H. L. Keefe, Walthill, president Nebraska Federation of Women's clubs; Mrs. B. F. Hayward, Kearney; Mrs. H. F. Rose, Lincoln.

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AFFAIRS AT SOUTH OMAHA

Perpetrators of Effigy Trick Are Still in the Lark.

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Board of Education Declares Holiday So Teachers May Go to Lincoln to Swell the Chorus.

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Advertisement for Ozomulsion. Includes text: Makes Both for the Run-Down Body System, Blood Color is Blood Vigor, Ozomulsion, The Cod Liver Oil Emulsion "Par Excellence", Builds Bone, Makes Blood, Returns Color.

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Magic City Gospel.

Lewis Fuksa, Thirty-sixth and Jackson, reports the birth of a son.

Jetter's Gold Top Beer delivered to all parts of the city. Telephone No. 8.

The Rebekah lodge will give a ball at Workmen Temple Thursday evening, February 28.

A. A. Wright and W. C. Lambert have lately purchased large holdings of land in Kimball county.

The initiation of the Odd Fellows' lodge last Monday night was counted one of the best of the year.

It is reported that Louis Sandwick of the South Omaha fire department is to be married in Council Bluffs today.

The Magic City King's Daughters will meet with Mrs. Eastman, Twenty-third and C streets, Tuesday afternoon.

The Independent Order of Foresters will hold a special meeting Thursday night to take action on the death of Julius Hansen.

Bjorn lodge No. 39 of the Independent Order of Vikings will give its second annual dance at Workmen temple Saturday evening, March 2.

The Aid society of the English Lutheran church will meet Thursday afternoon with Mrs. William Reschke, 214 D. A welcome is extended to all.

Degree of Honor No. 123 will meet Wednesday evening, February 27. There will be a class initiation and a large attendance is desired.

Swan Larson and Edward Stone returned Monday from Chicago, where they have been attending the national convention of the Independent Order of Vikings.

The Swedish-Norwegian Republican club meets at Neils Lundgren's hall Thursday evening, February 28, at 8 o'clock. Important business will be before the meeting.

H. M. Christie reports that the deal for twelve acres of land just south of the Krug brewery has been practically closed and the contract has been let for extensive grading. Bradford & Kennedy are the

regular meeting of the auxiliary at the home of Mrs. R. O. Haskins, 1010 North Twenty-fifth street. Everybody is invited to these meetings. Tea will be served, proceeds to aid association work.

buyers and they will build their new yards late in the summer.

George Gottschalk, the 8-year-old son of George Gottschalk, Jr., died Monday night. The funeral will be held today at 3 p. m. from the residence at 229 North Twenty-sixth. The burial will be at Laurel Hill cemetery.

Now is the time to make your wants known through The Bee Want Ad page.

EXTRAVAGANZA AT THE KRUG

Williams Company Furnishes a Lively Show of Good Sort to Big Audience.

Harry W. and Sims Williams' extravaganza company drew a good house at the Krug last night. They presented a two-act comedy, "The Other Fellow," a hodge-podge of burlesque, jingles, acrobatic work and minstrel, embellished with musical diversions and venerated with wit. It is well staged and is under the personal management of Sims Williams. The specialty work of Frank O'Brien is the feature. He does some clever work in the role of a tramp. He is entertaining and funny in monologue and song, and does some meritorious acrobatic work. Margie Hilton and chorus sang "If the Man in the Moon Were in Coon" in a manner that evoked the plaudits of the audience, and a sextette sang "This is a Shame to Take the Money." The chorus girls were prettily costumed and exhibited evidences of having had some drill in ensemble. While they can hardly be classed as "all stars," they sang with enthusiasm, and their voices were sufficient for the class of music attempted. The performance was entertaining throughout, with diversion enough to satisfy the most fastidious. It will be repeated at the Krug at a matinee today and tonight.

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Advertisement for Omega Oil. Includes text: Omega Oil, For Sprains and Bruises, For Sprains, Bruises, Strains, Swellings and all other bodily aches and pains, Omega Oil will be found invaluable. It's an unusual liniment. It is antiseptic and healing in its action. It subdues inflammation and soothes and comforts any pain you may apply it to. You don't have to buy bottle after bottle to get relief. Usually a 10c. bottle is all you need. It has time and again proved a blessing to those whose pains are hard to bear. The principal ingredient in Omega Oil is a pure vegetable oil, which does not evaporate like the turpentine and ammonia so largely used in other liniments. Omega Oil comes in mighty handy for the many little aches and pains that most people suffer from occasionally. Three Sizes 10c., 25c., 50c. Free sample Omega Oil Soap in every bottle.



Advertisement for S.S.S. Includes text: CHRONIC SORES AND ULCERS, EXTERNAL EVIDENCE OF INTERNAL POISON, S.S.S., PURELY VEGETABLE, blood. Then the place begins to heal, new flesh is formed, the inflammation subsides, and when S. S. S. has thoroughly cleansed the circulation the place heals permanently. Special book on Sores and Ulcers and any medical advice desired will be sent free to all who write. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.