

ASKS REFORM IN SHOPPING

MRS. FLORENCE KELLEY TALKS FOR CONSUMERS' LEAGUE.

Tells Irving Park Women It Is Wrong to Make Purchases on Saturday Afternoon—Public Opinion in Chicago Backward on These Lines, Says the Speaker — Mrs. Bowen and Mrs. Phillips Rival Candidates for Culture Club Presidency.

"It is just as bad for a woman to be seen coming out of a department store Saturday afternoon as out of a saloon." In these words Florence Kelley, secretary of the National Consumers' league, expressed her opinion of the woman who goes shopping Saturday afternoons, and thus prevents the employes in the large stores from having an outing. Mrs. Kelley was addressing the Woman's club of Irving Park.

"New York women share this opinion," she told her hearers, "and if a New Yorker is caught coming out of a store Saturday afternoon she invariably apologizes meekly. Neither do the New York women go shopping during the holidays. They make their purchases, as recommended by the league, before the rush begins, and in this way they help the poor clerks, who are worked so hard at Christmas time.

Says Chicago Is Backward.

Mrs. Kelley argued that Chicago is backward in extending aid to workers.

"In no large city in the country," she said, "are the conditions of the employed so little considered as in Chicago. In no other city is the work of the Consumers' league confronted with such laxity of public opinion. It will take public opinion to make the great employers come to time and observe the humane laws that are observed in other cities."

The Chicago department stores fall short of the standard, Mrs. Kelley said, because of their lack of seats for the accommodation of the employes, by remaining open Saturday afternoons, by paying wages averaging \$1 a week less than the scale approved by the league and in force in other large cities, and by the "atrociously bad air in the department store basements."

Contest in Culture Club.

A presidential contest of unusual interest is promised in the coming election at the Chicago Culture club. Mrs. Bowen, founder and former president of the club, has been announced by her friends as a candidate in opposition to Mrs. Phillips, the incumbent.