

court has held more than once that the rights of adults to labor when and as long as they choose to do so cannot be restricted, except in the case of employes of corporations which are chartered by the State. It is under this last exception that railroad employes were enabled to have their day's labor shortened to ten hours. The courts have been chary of restricting the rights of adults to labor."

WILL NOT AFFECT THE NEW YORK LAW.

Inspectors of Gotham Discuss the Illinois "Eight-Hour" Decision.

NEW YORK, March 17.—[Special.]—The decision of the Illinois Supreme Court upon the unconstitutionality of the sections of the eight hour law was a matter of considerable interest to the factory inspectors here, although they said it would be in no way likely to affect the laws or legislation in this State. Assistant Inspector John Frausy said he did not know on what ground the decision of the Illinois court was based, but he did not see on what ground the constitutionality of the eight hour legislation in New York could be disputed.

"Constitutions differ," he said. "When the Illinois court declared the weekly payment law invalid the Western Union Telegraph company here discontinued weekly payments and went back to its old system. We told the officers if they did not conform to our law we should sue them, and on the advice of their lawyers they resumed the weekly payments. When the Illinois eight-hour bill was before the Legislature a couple of years ago there was a good deal of opposition to it, and the opposition continued after the bill became a law. I have the report of the Illinois Inspector for the first years of the law's operation. It says while the law was hailed by the wage-earners as something almost more than had been expected, yet the opposition to it on the part of the employers was strong.

"The Illinois Inspector, by the way, Miss Florence Kelley, is the daughter of 'Big Iron' Kelley, the once famous Philadelphia Congressman. She went to Chicago and made a good impression on Gov. Altgeld, and was appointed his Chief Inspector when this law went into force. In a letter from her she asks for some copies of our laws, and I surmise that the decision of the court was not entirely unexpected by the inspectors there.

"The news dispatches say the decision also pronounced the appropriation clause void. I suppose that is because the clause, which appropriated \$20,000 for Factory Inspectors, specified one of the duties of the inspectors should be to see that the eight-hour provision of the law was carried out. I suppose the inspectors will not work when there is no money to pay them, and so any other parts of the law will be of no effect."

George A. McKay, the local inspector in charge of the inspector's office in this city, said he did not see how any constitutional point could be raised against the New York law.

"Our general law," he said, "is a ten-hour law, and its provisions apply only to minors. The Illinois law, as I have been told, forbids any girl or woman of any age from working at any employment more than eight hours a day or forty-eight hours a week. My notion is, in the absence of definite information about the Supreme Court's decision, that the decision was based upon that all-embracing restriction. I think our highest