

# MORE TIME TO WORK.

## MOVEMENT TO ABOLISH THE EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

**Manufacturers Say It Is Unconstitutional and That It Operates to Make Successful Competition with Concerns Outside the State an Impossibility—Workingmen Stirred Up and Loud in Their Denunciations of Employers—Say Supreme Court Will Decide Against the Masses.**

The labor people of Chicago are furious over the organized attempt that will be made by many manufacturers to have declared unconstitutional the eight-hour law as applied to female labor. The intention of the manufacturers was fully set forth in *THE TRIBUNE* yesterday. Following are expressions from representative labor leaders:

W. C. Pomeroy—The attempt of this association of employers to prove unconstitutional a law designed for the benefit of women and children only emphasizes the rapacity of men who are money-mad and proves true the assertion so often made that greed is the presiding deity upon whose altar must be sacrificed the weak and lowly.

Ed Hughes—It's only another sign of an era where dollars are of greater worth than human life and happiness. A set of men who will appeal to the law to aid them in riveting the manacles of serfdom upon women and children should be proud of their distinguished consideration for right and justice.

M. J. Carroll, editor *Eight Hour Herald*—It seems that every law made in the interest of labor collides with the Constitution. I think we will have to get a copy of that Constitution some day and see what it looks like; get a tent and put it on exhibition as a curiosity, and charge the people for watching its brain throb. Illinois needs a new constitutional convention.

John Downey—The eight-hour work-day will come yet. The people want it. The times are ripe for it, and though it may have to come up through great tribulation, it will get here and will come to stay. It should come, however, as a national, not as a local or State law.

John Maguire—The Supreme Court of the State of Illinois will undoubtedly repeal the law if asked to do so by men of money. I have noticed the consistency with which the Supreme Court acts upon measures designed for the benefit of the masses. They have repealed every such law that has been brought before them at the instance of the employer. They will make short work of this one passed in the interest of women and children.

Walter Groves—It's only another corpse of a law founded on justice and humanity. The funeral will take place on the day the matter is brought before the Supreme Court. The interment will take place in the sarcophagus maintained by the Dogberrys of the State as a sort of potter's field for laws in the interest of the masses. The mourners are women and children, slaves of the republic. Requiem will be chanted by a sweaters' chorus trained for the occasion and the oration will be pronounced by our old friend the Rev. Mr. Mammon.

George Geary—What are the lives, welfare, and happiness of women and children when weighed in the scale of modern business methods? Our experience with the Supreme Court of this State leads me to apprehend that this law will follow the course of every other measure intended to protect women and children against organized rapacity. Decision after decision in the interest of the classes as opposed to the masses has come with monotonous repetition until the people are in a state of coma as to their personal rights. Some day the people will awake to the fact that their liberties are being slowly filched from them by the very judiciary which is supposed to maintain justice and right. Some day a decision will be rendered that will cause trouble in the land. We needn't look to the Anarchist or the Socialist as the one who is sowing the seeds of revolution. Turn your eyes on the courts.

On the other side of the question a member of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association said yesterday:

"Our organization grew out of the opposition to these factory and labor laws, and in self-defense we are compelled to fight those that limit the hours of labor to eight hours a day. Our employes are opposed to that part of the law; they are paid principally by the piece, and regard it as unjust that they should not be permitted to work as long as they desire. Our grievance, however, is of a more important character. We would favor the law so far as we are concerned if it was a universal law, but we cannot compete with the manufacturer of similar goods in other States where such restrictions of labor do not prevail. We do not believe such a law can stand. We are not fighting the law regarding the employment of children, but only that which regulates the hours of work of our adult workers."

The Executive committee of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association met at the Grand Pacific yesterday afternoon to pass upon the reports of subcommittees and to prepare a report of the work done by the association during its formative period for presentation to the general meeting of the body Monday next, when a permanent organization will be formed under the charter of incorporation. The committee passed upon the application of a large number of manufacturers for membership.