MAINE CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE.

While child labor conditions are not ideal in Maine, the past six years record great progress.

During the 1908-9 session of the legislature, the Maine Child Labor Committee, by uniting their efforts with the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs and Maine Federation of Labor, secured a fifty-eight-hour law, an education test, a strong truancy law, and an amendment to the age-certificate provision by adding penalties with power of enforcement.

We were unable to defeat the clause regarding canning food products. We shall have another try at that.

Our education test was somewhat injured by being taken from the office of State Superintendent of Schools and left in the hands of the attorney-general, with no appropriation for the work; but, through the efforts of the Federated Clubs, the school superintendents and school boards throughout the state are being requested to get the blanks at the expense of the towns and cause all children applying for certificates to submit to the test. This request is being complied with generally.

It is too soon to know the results, since the law went into effect only in September. We have learned that several evening schools have been established for children over fifteen years of age, and in one city, where an evening school has been in successful operation many years, another has been established to teach the Greeks to speak English. It is open to all minors of foreign nationality.

Street traders and night work as yet have caused us no trouble, there being no demand for such labor.

Our efforts are now being given to the enforcement of the laws we have attained. The child labor laws are published in the report of the Department of Factory Inspectors.

JANUARY, 1910.

ELLA JORDAN MASON,
Secretary.

MARYLAND CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE.

The Maryland Child Labor Committee, during the past year, has instituted an investigation into the conditions surrounding the employment of children in factories and canneries in and around Baltimore. It is intended to use the information obtained to arouse public opinion to the importance of having proper child labor laws enacted and enforced. A paid investigator has been gathering data since the latter part of the summer of 1909. An effort will be made to secure the enactment of a 14-year-age limit law by the legislature of Maryland, which convened January 2, 1910.

Under the existing law the age limit is 12 years, and a child between 12 and 16 years desiring to work must pass an examination and secure a permit, which is issued by the Bureau of Statistics and Information. The present law, in the opinion of the committee, is not properly enforced. The energies of the committee are being directed toward securing its better enforce-

ment. The Maryland Committee also feels that much better results could be obtained if the duty of making the examination and issuing work permits to children were placed under the supervision of the school authorities, and will also strive to have the present laws changed in this respect. The committee is receiving valuable assistance from Mr. A. J. McKelway, the National Secretary for the Southern States, now located at Washington, D. C., in its efforts to secure favorable legislation at the present session of the legislature.

JANUARY 17, 1910.

JOSEPH C. JUDGE,
Secretary.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE.

The work of the Executive Committee this year has been in organization, investigation, legislation and law enforcement. In regard to the mechanics of organization, the committee has an office adjoining that of the National Child Labor Committee in Boston. This office is open all day; the secretary has an office hour—one hour each day—and gives one-third of his time to the work; has one assistant and stenographer. The Executive Committee holds its meetings monthly at the office and exercises constant supervision over the work. Four hundred and sixty-one associate members have been enrolled, and there are twenty correspondents appointed by affiliated organizations to keep in touch with our committee. Preliminary work has been done in establishing connections with women's clubs, social reform clubs and trade unions throughout the state.

At the beginning of the year the Executive Committee adopted the plan of work shown on the chart. In some details, such as establishing relationship with men of public spirit and editors, and getting one or two dependable members in each factory town, the plan has not yet been put into operation, otherwise a large part of the work outlined in the first three columns has been completed.

Present Conditions

The principal work of the committee this year has been in investigation of the sufficiency and enforcement of our child labor laws. Massachusetts does not hold that high place in child labor legislation generally accorded it by its citizens. Twelve states have a shorter day's work than Massachusetts—five states have the eight-hour day; eighteen states restrict night work more than Massachusetts does; thirteen states require more schooling than Massachusetts—eight states require at least eight years and thirteen states require at least six years of schooling; and eleven states prohibit labor of children, until the sixteenth birthday, in specific occupations injurious to health.

One of the greatest defects in our law is the 10½-hour day which may be required of children from 14 to 16. The only statistical information of great value in the whole field bears upon this question. The number of children between 14 and 16 employed in factories, workshops and mercantile