with us, the State Bureau of Labor is taking the lead in an active campaign against child labor. It secured the passage of the law giving factory inspectors the power of truancy officers. In that capacity they have investigated 922 cases reported by the school superintendents, with the result that 603 were returned to school, 109 granted employment certificates, 74 excused for short time, 44 have moved, 37 were found attending other schools, 33 excused on doctors' certificates, 17 were over the age limit, 3 graduated from eighth grade and the others committed to state institutions. The last legislature created in the Bureau of Labor a department for women and children. The head of that department (a woman), with the commissioner of labor, has followed up every case reported and has sent more than 6,000 notices to various districts throughout the state.

We are seeking new legislation by an amendment of the child labor laws to require school census in all districts, such as now is required in rural districts only. We do not employ a salaried secretary, but depend on volunteer work. Our work is financially maintained by annual membership dues of \$1 for individuals, \$2 for organizations.

The Minnesota Child Labor Committee has not entered actively into the campaign against child labor. Its chief function thus far has been almost entirely advisory. Its meetings have been chiefly conferences with officials charged to enforce the law.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Commissioner of Labor and other officials are members of our committee, and are carrying on an active campaign in their respective departments. Five members of the department of labor are also members of our committee. Other agencies co-operating are the Woman's Club of Minneapolis, which took the initiative in the organization of our committee, and whose president is our vice-president; the State Federation of Women's Clubs, whose president is a member of our executive committee; the Associated Charities of both St. Paul and Minneapolis; social settlements; labor unions—eight having appointed delegates to our committee; the ministry, represented by a Protestant minister, Catholic priest and Jewish rabbi on the executive committee; the juvenile court, by one of its judges, and the State University, by the professor of social economics.

We are planning more active work for the coming year. When we are able to meet conditions which govern the necessity of the poverty clause in the child labor law we hope child labor in Minnesota will have become a thing of the past.

MILDRED M. BARNARD,

JANUARY 10, 1910.

Secretary.

CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE ALLIANCE OF MISSOURI.

The usual decennial revision of the Missouri statutes is now in preparation. It should present a reasonably clear codification of the child labor and compulsory attendance laws. The need of improvement cannot be judged until after the volume of revised statutes appears.

The compulsory attendance law is very unequally enforced in different parts of the state. This is bound to be the case where enforcement is left in the hands of local authorities. In the three large cities, there is reason to believe the enforcement is fairly rigid. Elsewhere, as a rule, it is quite otherwise. Our committee is trying to secure, through the co-operation of the State Teachers' Association, accurate statistics in regard to enforcement of the attendance laws, and an agitation of the subject among teachers and school officials which will focus public attention upon the matter in the districts where the law is now disregarded.

We have the active co-operation of the women's clubs, Social Legislation Committee, labor unions and State Teachers' Association.

The state legislature does not meet before 1911. A number of new statutes will then be sought. The work of the Alliance is supported by voluntary contributions and membership dues.

A. O. LOVEJOY,
Chairman.

JANUARY 1, 1910.

NEBRASKA CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE.

Our child labor and compulsory education laws are companion pieces, straight, strict and easily understood. In operation they are proving competent to the work they were planned to do. Both laws are considered almost ideal from the standpoint of experience, and where we find violations occasionally they are very largely of the letter. The spirit of the laws, their first and inherent purpose, is encouragingly observed.

The compulsory education enforcement is the particular duty of superintendents of schools, and in the large cities there are attendance officers. My observation enables me to say that the compulsory education law is well enforced by these paid officers. The child labor law depends largely on the superintendents and their attendance officers for enforcement. With the exception that two earnest, energetic women—Mrs. Draper Smith, in Omaha, and Miss Mattie Allen, in Lincoln—are now devoting a good deal of time to examine into violations of the child labor law, I will go so far as to say that its enforcement depends, practically, on the city superintendents and their assistants who aim to prevent truancy. Their system is effective, happily, and is winning. Attendance officers, for the superintendents, make reports to the State Labor Commissioner. The Board of Voluntary Inspectors does likewise, if this assistance is needed. The school reports in this state are very good.

Our factory inspection law is a bluff of the most impudent character. The legislature provided for factory inspection by passing a law, then abandoning it. The Labor Commissioner has one assistant, a stenographer, and has a score or more of laws to enforce. When I held the office we made an endeavor to arouse the shame of the state by making public announcement of the fact that most of these laws were absolutely neglected as to enforcement, but without avail. Thus Nebraska steals the credit for having excellent laws relating to economic subjects among examiners who