manufacturing plant, as well as to prohibit all illiterate children under sixteen from employment.

The essential defect of our present legislation is that there is no inspection. The law is violated a great deal, as there is no machinery to detect violations. This we propose to try to remedy.

Our legislature meets every two years. Our last legislation was enacted in 1903. The only difficulty we will have is the scarcity of labor cry, when we get to the legislature with our measure.

We hope by December, 1907, to have some definite progress to report.

CHARLES L. CONE, *Secretary*.

REPORT FROM THE SOUTHERN STATE CHILD LABOR COMMITTEES

I do not think it is necessary to add anything to the report from Georgia, except that the legislature did pass, in 1906, a child labor bill by a vote of 125 to 2 in the house, and unanimously in the senate. It was the senate that had defeated the bill the year before. The same legislature passed a very much better bill, therefore, after having heard from the people.

I should like to acknowledge also in this connection the eminent service that the press of the state did for us. There were only one or two papers that were even lukewarm on the subject; and the senate, after defeating the first bill, was cartooned and lampooned until the members came up ready to do almost anything for the children.

The Alabama state committee, I think, is the oldest of our southern committees, and if New York is the oldest of the northern, why Alabama can perhaps claim to be the oldest child labor committee in the country. They have been actively at work during the past year.

There was a campaign in Alabama for the governorship, as in Georgia. One of the candidates was in favor of our reform from the beginning and the other saw his way clear, before the close of the campaign, to come out upon our platform. The convention nominated him, he being the successful candidate, and the child labor plank was put into the platform of the party.

The Alabama law needs amendment in striking out that miserable ten year exception for children who have no other means of support, or who have to support somebody else who has no other means of support. Alabama ought also to have factory inspection. We are almost without factory inspection in the entire South as yet, and that is the most urgent thing upon our program in all the Southern States where it is lacking; also we need to raise the age limit from twelve to fourteen years for children in mines, and from twelve to fourteen for children who cannot read and write.

The Georgia law has a twelve year age limit with the same ten year exception which was forced into the bill against our consent; but it provides that children under eighteen must attend school three months of each

year as a prerequisite to employment the next year. I think the eighteen year age limit for children who have not fulfilled some educational requirement is the highest in the country. Massachusetts used to have a law that no minors should be employed in a mill unless they attended school at night simultaneously with their employment. The school term is short, only three months of the year; but that is a great advance for Georgia; it gives the little fellows a holiday for three months of the year from the mill, and also some opportunities for education. I understand that the mill owners are already telling the parents that have been sending their children to the mill this year that they cannot be employed next year unless they send them off to school.

The twelve year age limit is the general limit. Then for the children of widowed mothers or crippled fathers it is ten years; but we have guarded that as carefully as we could, although we had to put it in. We have an officer of the county called the county ordinary, a sort of county judge. The parent is required to make an affidavit before him that the family is entirely dependent upon the labor of that child and that without such labor the family will be in the poor house. With that provision we do not think the abuse will be very great, and we hope to amend the law next summer, as Georgia is one of the states whose legislatures meet every year.

There has been considerable effort in Oklahoma to put the child labor plank into the new constitution.

The Florida legislature meets in January, 1907, and there is good prospect of passing a child labor law for the protection of the children in the cigar factories and canning factories, especially. In South Carolina we have not met with much encouragement as yet from the press, and there seems to be a general spirit of contentment with the present law; the twelve year age limit with the ten year exception and the provision that dependent children of any age can be employed in the mills.

The South Carolina legislature meets in January, 1907. The mill men have been contending for a system of compulsory education, though the age limit suggested, twelve years, was rather low, while the labor representatives have been agitating for a shorter working day, the mill men also having decided to reduce the hours to sixty hours a week by 1910.

The Tennessee legislature also meets in January, 1907. Tennessee already has a fourteen year age limit and the friends of the children have resisted several efforts of the manufacturers to lower the age limit. The great need in Tennessee is legislation which shall give full rights and privileges to the factory inspectors.

I presume that there will be no agitation on the child labor cause in the other southern states during the year 1907.

A. J. McKELWAY, *Assistant Secretary.*