

Cloverdale Courier

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Frank Taylor, Editor and Publisher.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1916.

A BLOW AT GREED.

The house and senate have now passed the child labor measure. President Wilson will attach his signature and in another year it will be in effect. It prohibits interstate commerce in products on which children under 16 years of age are employed. The bill is aimed at those states which have permitted their manufacturers to get rich off the labors of children, notably the cotton mills and the mines of the south where conditions are abominable. Little children, as soon as they are able, are put to work by their parents for a mere pittance and become little old men and women before they reach their majority.

The child labor of the south has been a crying shame for many years. It has been the subject of magazine exposures—exposures of greed of the wealthy factory owners. The legislatures of the south have attempted to pass child labor laws but the wealth and influence of the factory owners always defeated the legislation. The principal opposition in congress came from southern members.

Congress, realizing the inhumanity of unfeeling manufacturers, know that the only way in which it could put an end to child labor was to pass a law which had to do with interstate shipments. Manufacturers have been given sufficient notice to prepare for the changed conditions. In a year from now they will have made their last dollar off the blood of little children.

Working a child in mines, mills and factories during the period of growth, when he needs fresh air and exercise and every attention so that he may build a healthy body and mind, must cease.

The federal government will see that its laws are enforced. States which have worshipped at the shrine of the rich mill owner, must now about face and give the rising generation its God given right to grow strong and healthful, that it may supply useful members of society, able to take a place on equal terms in the battle of life with the children of other states who have been protected by more humane laws.

Lee S. Overman, a senator from North Carolina, who fought the child labor bill, got up the other day and gave utterance to these words: "Keeping children at work in cotton mills is one way of keeping them out of jail. Fewer children are in jail in my state, where they are allowed to work, than in Massachusetts, or Missouri, where they are not." Furthermore, he added: "What would you do with an orphan boy who is making \$10 a week and supporting his widowed mother."

(Thirty-two states have mother's pension bills, but Overman is from North Carolina.)

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