

State of Iowa
1930

REPORT OF THE

BUREAU OF LABOR

FOR THE

Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1930

H. V. HOYER, Commissioner

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BUREAU OF LABOR

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

To his Excellency JOHN HAMMILL, *Governor of Iowa.*

HONORED SIR: In accordance with the provisions of the Statute creating this department I have the honor to submit herewith the Twenty-fourth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor, for the period ending June 30, 1930.

H. V. HOYER,
Commissioner.

Des Moines, Iowa, September 8, 1930.

BUREAU OF LABOR ADMINISTRATION

H. V. HOYER.....	Commissioner
E. A. GRIMWOOD.....	Deputy Commissioner
H. H. BYE.....	Factory Inspector
F. T. CROCKETT.....	Factory Inspector
MRS. H. W. SPAULDING.....	Factory Inspector
HARLEY R. RHOADS.....	Statistician
ESTHER MARTENS.....	Stenographer and Clerk
ANNA STILWELL.....	Secretary and Clerk
GEO. B. ALBERT.....	State-Federal Employment Clerk
J. W. HOLMES.....	Sioux City Employment Office

REPORT OF BUREAU OF LABOR

In submitting this, the Twenty-fourth Biennial Report of the Bureau, it has been the aim to keep it free from all unnecessary material, retaining only those features which may have some value to the inquiring mind and presenting such statistical matter as may help in determining the worth while character of the Service rendered, or that may have some influence on its future activities.

On assuming the duties of the Labor Commissioner's Office the present administration was not altogether free from the popular misconception that we might be called upon to consider what are ordinarily thought of as Labor Problems. That these problems were, from a legal standpoint, just none of our business was early learned, yet that we have been enabled to cooperate in a friendly way has been simply by common consent and not due to any authority conferred by Law.

The monthly Survey of employment today is being mailed to a larger clientele than at any time in its history, and we recall but one instance where an Industrialist has declined to cooperate in its accuracy and completeness. That there is a place for such a publication is evidenced by the fact that Libraries all over America and in certain European Capitals are asking for completed files.

One of the outstanding features during the present administration of this office has been the ready acquiescence of the Industrialists to comply with orders and recommendations of our inspection force even when such compliance entailed expenditures which in many cases represented actual sacrifice. This fact speaks volumes for our three Inspectors and demonstrates that the Department had been regarded favorably by that part of Iowa's Citizenship with which it had come into most intimate contact.

So much is left to the discretion of the Commissioner that in many cases his dictum is Law, and this ready acceptance of these decisions proves that similar decisions in the past must have been made with an eye to the common welfare.

FACTORY INSPECTION

The more than forty-five hundred factory inspections made during the biennium just closed represent a small part of the activities of that group for they inspect elevators, keep an eye out for Child Labor infractions, scrutinize Employment Agencies and at-

tempt to eliminate insanitary conditions wherever met, and in every way give of the best that is in them to better the conditions of Iowa's workers.

The following table of orders issued during the past decade shows that the work of these has had its effect in that factories are safer today than formerly and owners are cooperating to make them so.

FACTORY INSPECTION ORDERS

Nature of Recommendations	July 1, 1930, to June 30, 1932	July 1, 1932, to June 30, 1934	July 1, 1934, to June 30, 1936	July 1, 1936, to June 30, 1938	July 1, 1938, to June 30, 1940
Number of inspections.....	4,148	3,707	3,254	4,231	4,362
Guard gears.....	99	106	85	122	
Remove or cover set screws.....	101	79	104	43	
Guard saws, jointers, etc.....	83	76	108	50	
Cover extractors.....	20	9	7	7	
Guard rail or screen machinery.....	397	315	373	155	
Rubber mat for switchboards.....	5	17			
Guard or rail openings.....	77	29	78	55	
Repair or build new stairways.....	60	68	21	10	
Erect fire escapes.....	214	222	69	96	
Repair fire escapes.....	15	63	28	40	
Drop or extension ladders.....	5	21	3	2	
Signs to fire escapes.....	136	130	100	57	
Swing doors outward.....	28	54	57	73	
Suction fans.....	4	2			
Ventilators for fumes.....	10	14	14	22	
Repair elevators and gates, install interlocks.....	45	43	33	13	
Repair water gauges, boilers.....	2	8			
Better passageways.....	69	114	27	18	
Belt shifters, guard belts.....	2	2	2	70	
Smoke jacks.....	3				
New closets for men.....	11	24	2	7	
New closets for women.....	12	17	4	10	
Repair closets for women.....	19	25	24	23	
Repair closets for men.....	23	28	31	17	
Remove obscene writing.....	5	4	4	4	
Provide washing facilities.....	4	4	4	4	
Provide good drinking water.....	3	2	2	1	
Provide dressing room.....	11	1	1	2	
Provide seats for female employes.....	7	29	23	47	
Secure work permits for children.....	46	39	4	6	
Remove children under 14 years.....	34	32	3	9	
Miscellaneous.....	59	79	136	58	
Total.....	1,499	1,630	1,346	1,027	668

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

During the Biennial period ending June 30, 1930, there were 14,840 industrial accidents reported to the Bureau, each accident causing the injured persons the loss of two or more working days, of this number 92 were fatal. No attempt has been made, because of insufficient personnel in the Bureau, to show the loss of working hours or days as a result of the reported accidents. Continued

inspection and reinspection of the various establishments, along with educational work in "Safety First" conducted by many of the larger industrial plants has eliminated unnecessary hazards in industry to a great extent. The value of accident prevention increases from year to year, and greater effort is now put forth in this direction by the employer.

All classes of industrial accidents are reported to the Bureau except in mines and railway train service, which are reported to other state departments.

The following table gives the number of accidents by cause and nature of injury.

AMPUTATIONS—JULY 1, 1928, TO JUNE 30, 1929
The amputations with origin are in the following table.

Number		Fingers	Thumbs	Arms	Toes	Legs
12	Belts, pulleys, shaftings	2				
3	Conveyors					
9	Cranes, derricks		1			
6	Cutter knives	6				1
9	Dies		1			
2	Drills	2				
1	Elevator	4				
3	Engines and cars	4				
17	Falling objects	17		1		
6	Gears, cogs, sprockets	4	1	1		
6	Grinding wheels	4				
2	Hand tools	1				
19	Jammed between articles	18	1			1
4	Jointers	2				
1	Lathe	5				
1	Mixing machine	1				
1	Molders' lades	1				
1	Planer	2				
2	Presses	1				
3	Punches	6				
3	Rolls	3				
10	Saws	5	1			
4	Shears (mech.)	12	3			
1	Trucking	8				
23	Other machinery	22				
6	Miscellaneous	6	2	1		1
	Total	155	12	3	8	1

The following table gives origin and nature of accidents to women.

ACCIDENTS TO FEMALES
JULY 1, 1928 TO JUNE 30, 1930

	Total	Bruises, abrasions, contusions	Burns, scalds	Concussions	Cuts, punctures, lacerations	Dislocations	Fractures, breaks	Foreign substance in eye	Hernia	Infected wounds	Multiple injuries	Strains, sprains	Amputations	Internal injuries
Total	615	104	42	29	198	6	38	10	1	131	10	65	0	2
Belts, pulleys, shaftings	4	1												
Button machinery	6				3									
Conveyors	3									1				
Cutter knives	4				4									
Dies	2				2									
Electricity	2						1							
Elevators	2	2			1			1						
Emery wheels	2				2									
Explosions	3				3									
Falling objects	27	18	5		2						7	42		2
Falls	122	36	1					35						
Flying missiles	11	2							7					
Gears, cogs, sprockets	1				1									
Hand tools	87	3			68					16				
Jammed between articles	15	9			3	1				1		1		
Lifting, pulling, etc.	12								1			11		
Nails	6				5					1				
Planers	1				1									
Presses (ptg.)	4	2			1								1	
Punches	23	1												
Rolls	3													
Saws (mech.)	1				1									
Trucking	1													1
Other machinery	61	6	5	1	37		1	3	1	1	3	2	1	
Miscellaneous	225	24	28		46		1	4	2	110		9	1	

CAUSE, NATURE AND NUMBER OF DEATHS RESULTING FROM REPORTED INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

Cause	Nature	Number
Belts, pulleys, shaftings.....	Fracture, internal injuries, multiple injuries	4
Conveyors	Crushing injury to chest.....	1
Cranes, derricks.....	Multiple injuries	1
Electricity	Burns, scalds; flash, shocks.....	20
Elevators	Multiple injuries	2
Engines, Cars	Cuts, punctures	3
Explosions	Multiple injuries	7
Falls	Concussion, fractures and breaks, internal injuries, multiple injuries	12
Falling objects.....	Cuts, punctures, etc., fractures and breaks	2
Lifting, pulling, shoving.....	Internal injuries	1
Trucking	Multiple injuries	3
Other machinery.....	Fractures and breaks, infected wounds, internal injuries, multiple injuries	13
Miscellaneous	Gas fumes, burns and scalds, infected wounds, severed artery, fractured skull	12
Total		92

PASSENGER AND FREIGHT ELEVATORS

In the administration of the Elevator Law the policy of the previous Commissioner has been followed *vis* requiring that all new installations shall comply with the provisions of the Safety Code sponsored by the U. S. Bureau of Standards, American Institute of Architects, and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

CHILD LABOR

Child Labor statistics for the state again show a decrease in number of work permits issued to children in employment in regulated occupations for the Biennial period as compared with former periods. Following is a tabulation for each Biennial period during the permit system of employing children.

July 4, 1915, to June 30, 1916.....	1,522
July 1, 1916, to June 30, 1918.....	4,913
July 1, 1918, to June 30, 1920.....	7,469
July 1, 1920, to June 30, 1922.....	3,825
July 1, 1922, to June 30, 1924.....	3,132
July 1, 1924, to June 30, 1926.....	1,757
July 1, 1926, to June 30, 1928.....	1,578
July 1, 1928, to June 30, 1930.....	1,493

It is interesting to note that the total number of permits issued for the Biennial period was 1,493. This is 29 permits less for the two year period than for the first year of the permit system. During the two Biennial periods ending 1918 and 1920 the number of children in regulated employment was excessive, this being brought about by the shortage of adult workers during the war period. The employment of children between 14 and 16 years of age has decreased, due largely to the existing economic conditions of industry, and also, because of the higher standard of efficiency maintained only by the adult worker. The element of higher insurance rates, where children are employed because of greater risks and susceptibility to accidents, has its effect on gradual lessening of child employment.

The following table indicates the trend in employment of children of both sexes by six months periods. A sharp decline will be noticed in number of work permits issued during the last six month period of the Biennium.

TABLE BY SIX MONTHS PERIODS

	Boys		Girls	
	14-15	15-16	14-15	15-16
July 1, 1928 to December 31, 1928..	82	174	30	90
January 1, 1929 to June 30, 1929.....	108	175	30	65
July 1, 1929 to December 31, 1929..	114	229	39	112
January 1, 1930 to June 30, 1930.....	60	114	19	52
Total	364	692	118	319

In administering the Child-Labor laws of Iowa an effort has been made to look at both sides of a very complex problem. These are easily seen from the following statements.

First: No man or group of men should be permitted to exploit childhood in a way to jeopardize either the intellectual or physical development of our children. Neither should they be permitted to displace adults in industrial life.

Second: We have no right to expect that a child permitted to live in idleness up to the age of sixteen or eighteen will develop habits of industry overnight.

It would seem that the prohibition found in our Iowa law, coupled with the permit privilege, would preserve the equities as nearly as possible under any man-made law, but even so there were cases where the most careful consideration was demanded and some where the terms of the law conflicted with the depart-

ment's judgment of what was best for the child and for the state at large.

Two judicial decisions were rendered during the past year which are of far reaching importance to the department. The first, written by Judge Ellison in the Linn county district court, established the right of parents to present their children, even though under fourteen years of age, at a program known as opportunity night and under the supervision of the parents, to take part in this or similar programs, deeming it a part of the child's education.

The second, coming from the Supreme Court, opinion by Judge De Graff, states in effect that when a parent supervises a theatrical act that parent must be regarded as operating the business, and therefore, theatrical appearance of a child under sixteen years is legal when such appearance is controlled by the parent.

This decision is universally condemned by "Child Specialists" and is considered a backward step on the part of Iowa in preserving the welfare of the immature, it also sets a premium on parental interference with educational programs. However, this department has no alternative but to be guided by it.

EMPLOYMENT AGENCY COMMISSION

The Forty-third General Assembly saw fit to require the licensing of employment agencies and created a Commission therefor consisting of the Labor Commissioner, Industrial Commissioner, and Secretary of State. The administration of this law was given to this office and during the year ending June 30, 1930, there were issued by the Commission 21 licenses and collections of fees amounted to \$815.00.

During the year several abuses were discovered. Most of them in connection with that section of the law relating to the limitation of fees. It is the unanimous opinion of the Commission that this section should be amended by raising the fee limit to make the honest administration of an employment agency possible, and that the exceptions should be eliminated or at least greatly modified. We have the spectacle of interested parties lobbying provisions into the law which permit the charging of fees regarded by the Commission as exorbitant and leaving the drastic provisions in such condition as would starve any employment agency which makes an honest attempt to do business in exact accordance with legal provisions.

When we contrast their record of service with that shown in the

statement below of the activities of the employment offices maintained by State-Federal cooperation their cost of operation is both wasteful and extravagant.

STATE-FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT OFFICES

During the biennium ending June 30, 1930, there were 64,346 jobs filled through the State-Federal Employment Service, of this number 44,641 were by men and 19,705 by women. 36.7 per cent of jobs were filled by men and 41.2 per cent by women or 38.0 per cent of every 100 applicants furnished with a job during the two-year period. Of farm jobs 11,941 were filled by men and 705 by women. Of the total number 3,602 were on a monthly or yearly basis, all other farm jobs were seasonal work. For all classes there were 169,333 registrations for jobs and 68,580 jobs offered. For domestic and personal service there were 2,251 applicants, 3,047 jobs offered and only 871 actually placed at work.

MEN

Industry and Occupation	Registrations	Jobs Offered	Applicants Referred	Reported Placed
Agriculture	22,681	12,960	12,100	11,941
Building and construction	2,089	659	680	652
Casual workers	11,110	11,109	11,110	11,109
Clerical, professional and technical	193	5	8	5
Clothing and textiles	1	1	1	1
Common labor	59,320	11,378	12,505	11,347
Domestic and personal service	15	7	10	7
Food, beverages and tobacco	1,409	1,060	1,056	1,035
Hotel and restaurant	3,503	1,107	1,343	1,104
Lumber	151	97	102	92
Metal and machinery	1,022	246	264	244
Paper and printing	1	1	1	1
Theater and amusements	58	58	58	58
Transportation and public utilities	9,121	7,280	6,877	6,836
Wholesale and retail trade	130	67	72	62
Woodworking and furniture	3	2	2	2
Miscellaneous	528	157	177	157
Total	121,539	46,164	46,275	44,641

WOMEN

Industry and Occupation	Registrations	Jobs Offered	Applicants Referred	Reported Placed
Agriculture	723	713	711	705
Casual workers	33,447	15,734	15,730	15,734
Clerical, professional and technical	5,632	183	187	144
Clothing and textiles	89	30	29	29
Domestic and personal service	3,494	3,313	2,195	1,093
Food, beverages and tobacco	526	120	123	119
Hotel and restaurant	15,355	2,126	1,999	1,686
Leather, rubber and allied products	2	2	3	2
Paper and printing	83	71	72	71
Theaters and amusements	6	5	5	5
Wholesale and retail trade	240	97	100	96
Miscellaneous	105	32	32	31
Total	47,794	22,416	21,186	19,705

FIRE ESCAPE LAW

Have been greatly gratified by the response made by those responsible when fire escapes have been ordered, of course there have been exceptions to the rule, but generally speaking a ready recognition of the necessity has been accorded, and even in cases where financial hardship has been involved. While at the present time there are a couple of hangovers the orders of our inspectors have been well obeyed. The architects of our state have shown a desire to make the new buildings safer and better in eliminating fire hazards by using more fireproofing materials, and designing superior methods of escape.

In this department the cooperation of the Hotel Inspection Group has been of material benefit to both departments.

BOILER AND HIGH PRESSURE VESSELS

Boiler and high pressure vessels. One of the notable features of the administration of this office is the number of calls coming in for boiler inspection, and the fact that Iowa has nothing of the kind makes her the dumping ground for second hand boilers which are unsalable elsewhere, thus we are led to repeat the recommendation of our predecessor to the effect that Iowa needs a Boiler Inspection Law.

State of Iowa

1929

Annual Report

OF THE

Commission for the Blind

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1929

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