

CHAPTER SIX

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND MINORS

Women

WOMAN has always been a beast of burden in Russia, as in many other European countries. She participates in all the hard work on farm and field, on road and river, in house and home.

However, the participation of women in industrial labor was not widespread and the percentage of woman workers in factories and shops was never too great. In 1901, there were in the factories and workshops under the jurisdiction of the factory inspectors, 441,012 women out of 1,692,255 workers, or about 26 per cent. The percentage of women workers steadily increased after that; it was 31 per cent in 1914 and 40 per cent in 1917 during the height of the War; in 1923 there was a reduction to 29.5 per cent, in 1924 to 27.5 per cent, and in 1926, to 26.9 per cent.

In the ranks of trade unions the number of women is also on the decrease. Thus, in 1920, the percentage of women in trade unions was 39; in 1923, 27.3 and in October, 1925, 24.7.

Women are usually unqualified workers, unskilled and technically untrained. Women are predominant in those establishments where they do either simple hard labor, or other work which needs simple motions and requires very little previous training. The percentage of women