

and Chekiang, or even in the province of Kiangsu only should be accepted as sufficient.

In the meantime the commission has made certain recommendations for immediate action; namely, that the municipal council should seek power to—

- (i.) Make and enforce regulations prohibiting the employment in factories and industrial undertakings of children under 10 years of age, rising to 12 years within four years from the date of the regulations.
- (ii.) Prohibit the employment of children under 14 years of age for a longer period than twelve hours in any period of twenty-four hours, such period of twelve hours to include a compulsory rest of one hour.
- (iii.) Make and enforce regulations under which every child under 14 years of age should be given twenty-four hours' continuous rest from work in at least every fourteen days.
- (iv.) Prohibit the employment of children under 14 years of age in any dangerous place. It is also recommended that the council should provide an adequate staff of trained men and women for carrying out the duties of inspection under the regulations.

The council will give careful consideration to the report of the commission, but in view of the complicated factors which condition its recommendations and the fact that some of these factors are beyond the council's control whilst others are of a far-reaching character, it is not to be expected that any definite action will be taken to give effect to the recommendations for some months to come. Any additional powers sought will have to be obtained by means of a new bye-law which, under Land Regulation XI, requires the approval of a majority of the Consuls and Ministers of the Treaty Powers and of the ratepayers in special meeting assembled.

I have, &c.

S. BARTON.

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No. 7.

*Sir. R. Macleay to Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*

Sir,

*Peking, November 17, 1924.*

On receipt of your despatch of the 8th April last transmitting copy of a letter from the Ministry of Labour, in which information was requested as to labour legislation and conditions in China, I addressed to His Majesty's consular officers in this country a circular instructing them to draw up and forward to this Legation reports in accordance with the terms of the last paragraph of the Ministry's letter. To this circular were attached a summary of the draft conventions and recommendations of the International