

BUREAU OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN



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Director

The Bureau of Women and Children was established in 1925 in answer to the insistent demand of the women of Pennsylvania who believed that the employment of women and children in the industries of the state justified the establishment of a Bureau especially equipped to consider the problems of such employment. As the second largest industrial state in the Union, Pennsylvania was employing in industry about three-fourths of a million women and one-fourth of a million children under 18. This employment presented problems that were unique and which required special consideration. Thus the Administrative Code, Section 1707, providing for the creation of the Bureau specifically states that it shall be the duty of this Bureau "to make studies and investigations of the special problems connected with the labor of women and children—." The activities of the Bureau during its four years of existence have been confined to three divisions: Research, Administration and Education.

RESEARCH

The Bureau of Women and Children is in its essence a fact finding commission. Upon it has devolved the duty of studying conditions under which women and children labor and presenting the facts in a scientific, accurate and scholarly manner so that they may be of benefit to the public and to the industrial workers. In its research work, the Bureau has consistently treated as separate and distinct problems matters pertaining to women and matters pertaining to children in industry. The conditions under which women and children work are in many instances similar but the problems that result are different. The nature of the surveys made has been determined largely by outstanding problems as they have appeared from time to time in specific industries.

For example, at the time the Bureau was organized, one of the most serious problems in the matter of the employment of children was that of migratory workers who came into the state at seasonal periods for the purpose of canning fruit and vegetables. The establishment of these temporary labor camps into which parents came and worked with children presented questions of the enforcement of the Child Labor Law, the maintenance of educational standards for children residents of another state, and the maintenance of sanitary conditions in the labor camps. In December of 1925, the Bureau published a sensational, but true picture of this problem in the Department bulletin, "What of Pennsylvania Canneries?" In a similar way, because of the large number of minors employed in the glass industry in the Commonwealth, another bulletin, "Opportunities and Conditions of Work for Minors



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