

Dr. Rogers: I think that an exhibit of this kind in the State Capitol would be a very different thing. People go to the Fair for mixed reasons; some simply to be there; others to see things that they are especially interested in; but the majority of the people do not know what they are going to see, and do not give very much time to any one thing. The people who come to the State Capitol are interested in this great building; they come in a spirit patriotic to Minnesota; and that is the time when they would notice the products of state institutions as intelligently as at any other time, especially if their attention were directly called to them by the guides. I believe the general attitude of the newspapers would not be the same with regard to an exhibit here.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Miss Margaret McLean, School for Feeble Minded: I don't know what I can add to what has been said about the industrial work unless I give you a very brief sketch of our School.

There are in the institution over twelve hundred children, and in the School proper, three hundred and fifty.

In the Custodial and the Epileptic Departments we have two instructors. They teach the children in the former how to make beds, polish floors, put on their shoes, lace them, fasten their clothes, put on their wraps, etc. Such children are not able to take any of the industrial work that we have exhibited here.

Referring to the industrial work of the School Department, in Sloyd there are ninety-five boys and one girl. This chair is the work of a boy fourteen years old. He reads in the primer. This tabouret is the work of a boy of twelve, now in the primary department.

In the net work there are one hundred and twenty-five children. This work we consider one of the most valuable occupations we have, because it is given to children of comparatively low mentality. Some who were not able to dress themselves are now making hammocks, tennis nets, etc. Last June we sold one hundred dollars' worth of hammocks. There is here a hammock made by a boy who was in the habit of picking the skin off his lace, picking holes in his flesh; finding a raveling in his coat and tearing it to pieces: the latter, more useful occupation, has entirely displaced the former one.

In the basket class there are seventy-five children, and the exhibit here is representative work of the class.

In sewing there are one hundred girls of all grades. They make towels, sheets, pillow cases, table linen, etc., for the institution, besides doing the fancywork which you see here. The girls in the School sew about an hour a day. After they have finished the school training, if they have learned to sew well enough, they work in the tailor shop and in the dressmaking department. The sewing here has been done by girls who have been with us about ten years. One girl, who has no joints in her fingers, is an expert seamstress. How she accomplishes what she does is one of the miracles that we have not become accustomed to yet. There are fifty girls who do lace work; eleven tailoring; and five dressmaking.

In the brush-making department there are fifty boys, a number of them epileptics, who make about thirty varieties of brushes.

In the printing office are seven boys, graduates of the School, who print all of the blanks, forms, notices, etc., used in the institution, except a few conventional forms furnished by the State Board of Control. They also print a monthly school paper, and a quarterly contract magazine.

In mattress making two epileptic boys give valuable assistance.

In the advanced shop work is cabinet making and repair work.

In the gymnasium each child has twenty minutes a day. A special point is made of gymnastic training for cripples, and children of poor motor co-ordination.

Mrs. M. L. Starkweather, Labor Bureau; Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: My attention has been called to the matter of the hours that it is necessary under the present pecuniary situation—and I am sure that the present pecuniary situation is a condition that is so familiar to all of you with regard to its limitations that one does not need to dwell upon it—for the men and women to work when caring for those under the protection of the State.

Whenever I receive a communication from any source, it is a rule of mine to consult the head of the house—the head of the house looks rather hydra-headed here—and it seems to me only fair and kind to come down to ask you if you will not, among yourselves, discuss the feasibility or the advisability of having some provision made whereby the patients and the nurses—I use the word "patients" first because it seems to me that it is their particular welfare that we are most highly interested in—may have shorter working hours. No one knows better than I that a strict interpretation of the state law would make it possible for all persons to work eight hours and to collect for the same. It has been the pleasure of the Board of Control to try to introduce these hours, but we haven't a sufficiently large appropriation.

I don't want to do anything about this matter unless you, who are so much better informed than I possibly can be, shall deem it wise and best to do so. I came down with the thought that I would present this matter to you and ask you to give of your judgment and your experience and to say that, if it is the part of wisdom and if the result of your deliberation should point that way. I should be only too happy to collect data, to present the same to the Legislature, and to assist the Board of Control and all of you in getting a sufficiently large appropriation so that the patient who receives the care of an overtired, overstrained, overnervous nurse, might not have the work of the physician upset by three minutes of lack of judgment on the part of the nurse which it might take three months to remedy. I do not want to be understood as urging this except upon your deliberation, but, if it seems wise and best to all of you, I will use my best interests, but so far as the women are concerned, to bring this matter sufficiently forcibly before the next Legislature that it may be possible to get a large enough appropriation, because all of you realize, much more keenly than I, how necessary it is that the persons who are receiving the care of the State