

Shaw, first vice president; Dr. Lillian Thompson, second vice president; Miss Nellie Woods, secretary. The headquarters are at 70 Dearborn street, Chicago.

+ +

#### Illinois Labor Conditions.

The State Senate committee for investigating the garment workers' grievances (p. 82), which sat in Chicago during the recent strike of the Chicago garment workers (p. 130), reported to the Senate on the 9th. The committee had gone exhaustively into the question of the black-listing of employes by means of a labor bureau maintained in the Medinah Bldg., which black-listing became operative in all of the 26 houses in the two manufacturers' associations in this industry in the city of Chicago. This black-listing system, the committee reported, has produced "a far greater discontent among the workmen in this industry than all other causes combined." The committee believed that the evidence would disclose "that while what are known as association houses do not bar union men from working in their plants, they do draw the line at about 60 per cent." And they were satisfied that wages were no better than they were ten years ago. In view of the fact that the State Board of Arbitration has no power to execute its mandates, and therefore is treated with contempt by both employer and employe, a law for compulsory arbitration of controversies was recommended.

+ +

Amendments to the Illinois Ten-Hour law for workingwomen (vol. xiii, p. 393), asking for a 54 hour week, and increasing the number of occupations to come under the operation of the law, are now before the Illinois legislature; and advocates of the amendments, headed by Mrs. Raymond Robins, and opponents of the bill, representing the paper box manufacturers and the retail merchants outside the "Loop" in Chicago, had a public hearing before the Senate committee on mines and mining on the 8th.

+ +

The Chicago garment workers' strike (p. 130) was fully terminated on the 13th, when a final agreement was announced between the firm of Hart, Schaffner & Marx and its employes. By the terms of the agreement the workers are granted practically every concession for which they fought for months, and the unionists are jubilant over the outcome. The settlement was to have been made by an arbitration board of three members, but was finally reached through conferences between the members of the firm, the employes, Attorney Carl Meyer, for the firm, and Clarence Darrow, for the employes. President Thomas A. Rickert of the United Garment Workers of America, Mrs. Raymond Robins, president

of the Women's Trade Union league, and John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, were present at every meeting. Certain increases of wages were granted and maximum hours of labor per week were agreed to. Rest-rooms are to be provided for women employes. Also, any employe has a right to present his grievances to the firm, either personally or through a body of his fellow workmen, and should an adjustment fail to be reached through this medium a standing arbitration board, consisting of Attorneys Meyer and Darrow, has been appointed for two years as the final court of appeal.

+ +

#### The Contest for Mayor in Chicago.

Immediately upon the decision that ex-Mayor Carter Harrison had been nominated for Mayor over ex-Mayor Edward F. Dunne at the Democratic primaries by a plurality of 1,420 in a total vote of 147,390 (p. 227), the independent supporters of Mayor Dunne began to organize for the purpose of supporting Alderman Charles E. Merriam, the progressive Republican who had carried the Republican primaries by a plurality of 26,633 in a total vote of 106,434. Headquarters for the Democratic supporters of Alderman Merriam have been taken at the Great Northern Hotel, and are under the management of J. J. Conroy. In a newspaper interview regarding the movement, Raymond Robins said:

We are facing a great crisis in our municipal life. On April 4 we will either win a free city and begin a new era in the history of Chicago under capable and progressive leadership, or we will sink back into the slough of municipal corruption and civic treason and be forced to suffer four years more of Busseism under another name. Harrison's coalition with the Hearst pirates is as pitiful a spectacle of a weak and lazy politician, hungry for office, licking the hand that lashed him, as ever was presented in the political history of Chicago. Hearst's acceptance of "Silent Referendum" Harrison and his "red light band," each of whom he has denounced with screams of pious horror, brands him as a "fake" progressive and the common enemy of true democracy and genuine social progress. What should the democratic Democrat, the honest workingman, the free citizen who loves Chicago, do in this great hour of her opportunity and her need? The choice lies between the Hearst-Hink candidate, Harrison, and the progressive Republican candidate, Merriam.

Mr. Robins was the star speaker in Mayor Dunne's primary campaign. Among the more prominent Democrats who are announced as working with Mr. Conroy and Mr. Robins in this local movement of progressive Democrats in support of a progressive Republican, are Dr. John Guerin, Wiley Wright Mills, George C. Sikes, David Rosenheim, Emmet Flood, Richard Knight, Wm. H. Holly, Henry M. Ashton, Philip Angsten, Enoch Harpole and Millard F. Bingham.