

AMENDING THE ACT TO REGULATE CHILD LABOR IN THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

JANUARY 23, 1911.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BURKETT, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, sub-
mitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 9534.]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the bill (S. 9534) to amend an act entitled "An act to regulate the employment of child labor in the District of Columbia," having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it pass after being amended as follows:

After the word "revoked," in line 12, insert the following:

And by amending section 15 so as to read as follows:

"Sec. 15. That no child to whom a permit and badge are issued as provided for in the preceding section shall sell or expose or offer for sale any newspapers, magazines, or periodicals or goods, wares, or merchandise of any description whatever after 8.30 o'clock in the evening or before 6 o'clock in the morning."

The bill has been submitted to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, and its objects and purposes are very fully set forth in a letter which the president of the Board of Commissioners has written, and which is as follows:

OFFICE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, January 10, 1911.

DEAR SENATOR: The commissioners have received your letter of the 4th instant, inclosing a copy of Senate bill 9534, to amend an act entitled "An act to regulate the employment of child labor in the District of Columbia," with request that you be advised of the objects of the bill and the necessity for its passage.

This bill was prepared by the corporation counsel at the instance of the commissioners in order to provide a penalty for a violation of the provisions of sections 11, 12, 14, and 15 of "An act to regulate the employment of child labor in the District of Columbia," approved May 28, 1908, a copy of which you inclosed and which is herewith returned.

The attention of the commissioners was called by the police department to the presence of children on the streets at unseasonable hours selling chewing gum and engaged in other employments, or loitering in idleness in front of barrooms and other objectionable places, protected from police interference by a permit and badge issued in accordance with the requirement of the law; and to the difficulty of applying the

proper corrective supervision over them in the absence of a penalty. The officials who are charged with the issuing of permits and badges to children under the law above mentioned are not vested with discretion to refuse a permit if the applicant is within the scope of that law as to age limit, educational qualifications, and school attendance.

Upon further consideration of the subject the commissioners are of the opinion that the interest of the children would also be furthered by limiting the hours during which they may sell upon the streets, so that they may not do so after 8.30 p. m., and recommend that section 15 of the law be modified to that effect, so that it will read as follows:

"Sec. 15. That no child to whom a permit and badge are issued as provided for in the preceding sections shall sell or expose or offer for sale any newspapers, magazines, or periodicals or goods, wares, or merchandise of any description whatever after 8.30 o'clock in the evening or before 6 o'clock in the morning."

It will be observed that section 8 of this law prohibits children under 16 years of age to work in any establishment before 6 o'clock a. m. and after 7 o'clock p. m. The commissioners believe that such children should not be permitted to sell or otherwise work upon the streets later than 8.30 o'clock p. m., as that is the extreme limit of daylight during the summer and the latest hour when they should be upon the streets engaged in business during other seasons of the year.

A copy of the bill modified as herein suggested is herewith inclosed.

Very respectfully,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
By CUNO H. RUDOLPH, *President*.

Senator E. J. BURKETT.

