

is well worthy of your consideration. I am not unaware that, practical difficulties surround it, upon all sides. It is understood and admitted that, a system of regulated labor, which might be well adapted to some particular trades, would prove ruinous in other occupations. But, it is equally well known that, in those departments of labor, which are uniform and systematic, the principle can be advantageously applied. The routine of a factory varies materially from the uncertain employments of agriculture. A rule of labor, which would be impracticable, perhaps, to the farmer, is not necessarily so to the mechanic. The only question properly to be considered, is, can this great industrial reform be accomplished? I think it can; and I, therefore, urgently press it upon your consideration. No one will deny its intrinsic justice. It is the right of the poor man, that, Society and the Laws, to the support of which he so largely contributes, shall afford him the necessary opportunities for bodily refreshment and mental cultivation.

The Militia laws of the State are absolutely valueless. I cannot too strongly press upon your notice the necessity of a complete re-organization of the whole system, as contemplated by the Constitution. The Legislature has, invariably failed to accomplish the desired reforms, for want of the proper information as to details. I think it would be judicious to consult the opinions of the most experienced military men, in the State; which could readily be effected, through the medium of a committee of conference.

There is but one other matter, suggested by the Constitution, upon which I intend to remark; and that, briefly. It is, the selection of Commissioners to codify the laws, and to simplify the forms of pleading. This, you will allow me to say, Gentlemen, is one of your most important duties. What can be more essential to the interests and convenience of the People, than to have the legislation of more than a century reduced within the compass of an accessible and intelligible digest? And, what intellect, free from the cobwebs of the ancient formulæ, can fail to appreciate the immense advantages, to be derived from the repudiation of all of the absurd verbiage and technicality, which have so long encumbered the practical administration of the laws? In the selection of those, who are to do this work, let me conjure you to act with impartial discrimination. Permit me, also, to remind you, that the services of competent men cannot be secured, without a liberal compensation. You will bear with me, if, in this connection, I make one other observation, before I close. The heaviest portion of all that is to be done, in obedience to the injunctions of the Constitution, will fall to the lot of those Commissioners. They cannot report to you, at this session, as is perfectly manifest. You have, therefore, very little more than the labor of an ordinary session before you. I need not remind you that, the cost of the Convention far exceeded the utmost calculations of the people. You will pardon me, if I take the liberty to urge dispatch and a wise economy, in the discharge of your duties.