

DENIES CHILD LABOR TALES.

**Southern Editor Tells Reformers
to Mind Their Own Business.**

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Denial that children are oppressed and overworked in the mills of North Carolina was made by David Clark, editor of The Southern Textile Bulletin, at the session of the National Child Labor Committee today. Mr. Clark appeared and demanded to be heard, and then read a paper contradicting the statements that have been made about conditions in his State.

The session was very warm by reason of the editor's attack on the child labor workers. He was listened to attentively by the delegates. After he concluded Owen R. Lovejoy of New York, National Secretary, said that the committee was incorporated and could be held responsible for any statement about the child labor conditions in North Carolina. He added that no action had been started against the committee by any of the mill owners concerned.

"The pictures which your committee has published as representative of conditions in the Southern textile mills show thin, emaciated children that look too weak to stand," said Mr. Clark. "But I am willing to wager that the children in the mill district, boy for boy, can lick any other class of boys in America."

"They seem to have the recognized boyish proclivity for getting into trouble and doing things they ought not to do. I will agree to get any member of this committee a position in a North Carolina textile mill where they will have charge of these boys, and if at the end of two weeks you still retain your sanity you must agree that these boys are anything but vitiated."

"I have never seen a statement issued by the Child Labor Committee that did not exaggerate conditions and tell half truths. They take isolated cases and create the impression that they are representative. Furthermore, the fact that a boy of 13 years works in North Carolina can in no way injure citizens of New York and Massachusetts, and, plainly speaking, it is none of their business."

Senator Owen said that the only way to protect children against harsh treatment was through the interstate commerce powers of the Federal Government. He said that in many States the Legislatures were frequently controlled by bi-partisan machines, and therefore an adequate child labor law could not be obtained by State enactment. He declared that both the States and the nation had a duty to perform, and that the national welfare required action by the Federal Government. For that reason Mr. Owen said that he favored the Palmer-Owen bill prohibiting the shipment of any articles in interstate commerce made by child labor.