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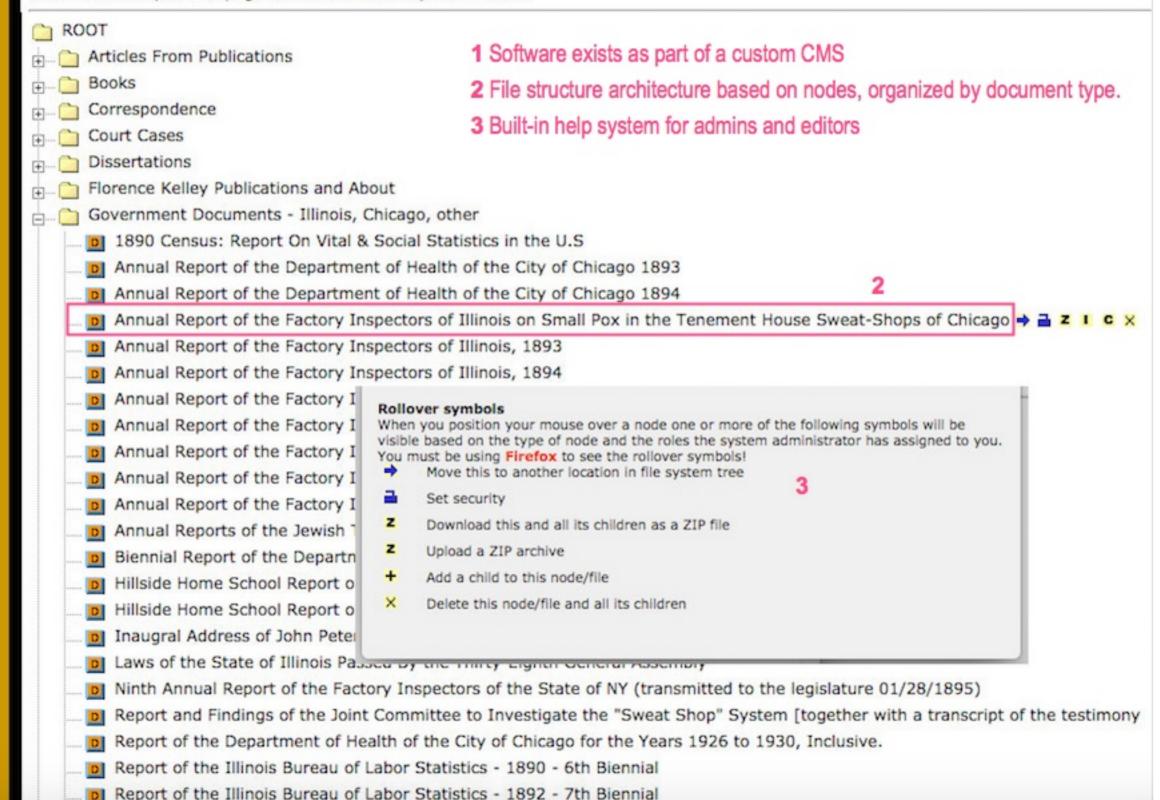
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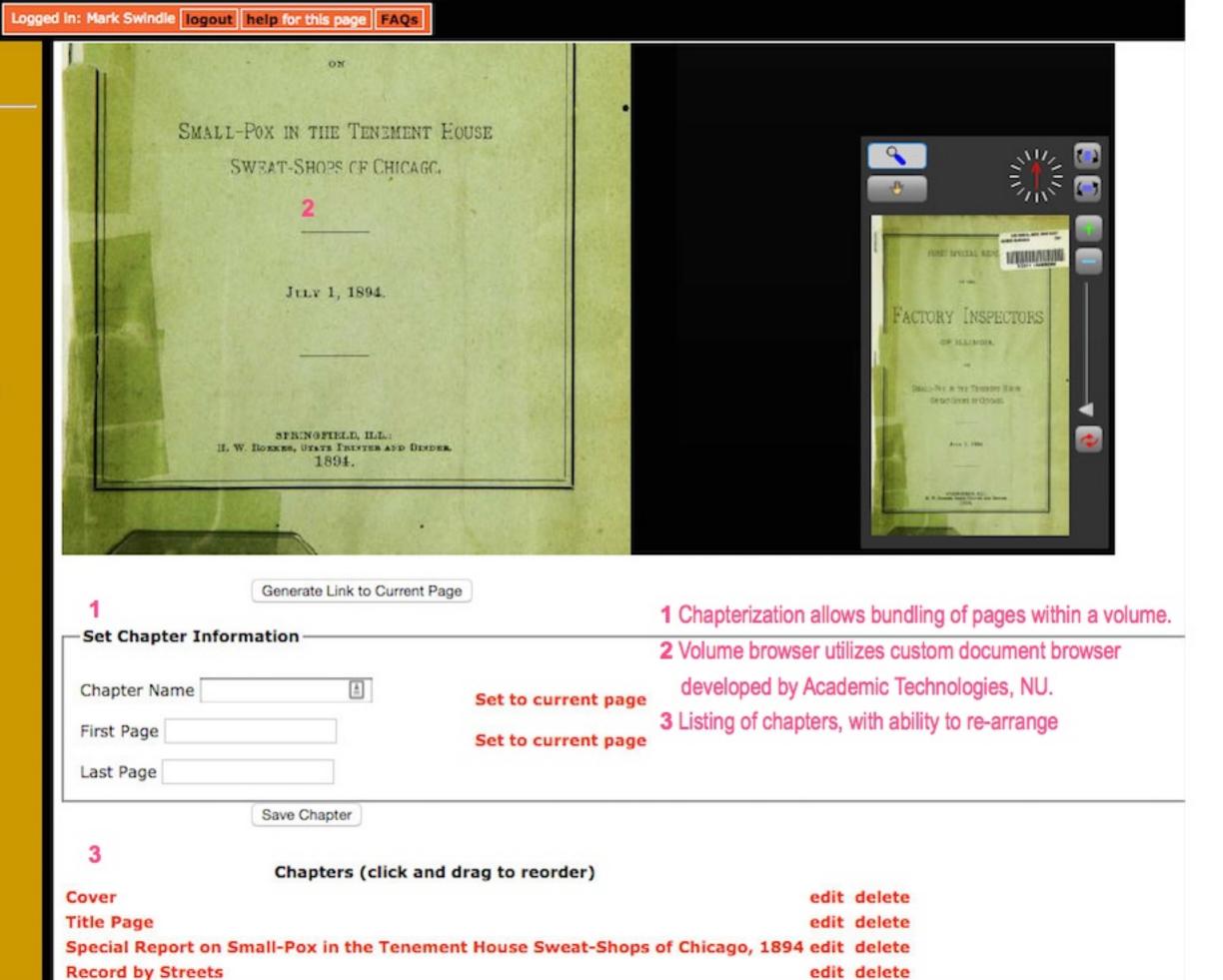
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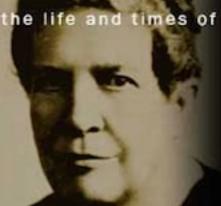
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56605	"Maternity and Infancy in Debate," Congressional Record Proceedings and Debates for the First Session of the 69th Congress			2008-11- 06 18:44:04	0	0
57406	'Pig Iron' Kelley's Letters		2008-11- 21 17:02:14	0	1	
57738	11th National Convention of the National Association of Officials of Bureaus of Labor Statistics			2010-04- 19 11:52:03	0	0
57739	9 12th National Convention of the National Association of Officers of the Bureaus of Labor Statistics			2009-06- 30 10:40:11	0	0
57466	6 1890 Census: Report On Vital & Social Statistics in the U.S			2008-12- 06	1263	50
57062	1894-1895 Board Meeting		Mark Swindle	19:44:50 2007-10- 13 17:52:21	0	0
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57071	1894-1895 Board Meeting	Example: show all nodes where	Mark Swindle	2007-10- 13 18:00:58	0	0
57058	1909 Factory Inspection Law	Permissions status = approved	Marcia Lehr	2008-08- 22 11:17:55	0	0
57082	2004-2007 Homicide Stats		Mark Swindle	2008-01- 10 15:39:34	0	0
57736	6 8th National Convention of the Officers of the Bureaus of Labor Statistics			2009-10- 02 10:52:42	0	0
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57403	A Divorce Asked For (NYT)			2008-12- 03 10:33:48	1	1
57201	A History of Chicago (Vol. 3: The Rise of a Modern City, 1871-1893)			2008-11- 01 19:13:54	644	5
57181	A History of Illinois Labor Legislat	ion		2008-12- 03 17:20:08	562	27
57202	A History of the City of Chicago It	s Men and Institutions: Biographical Sketches of Leading Citizens		2008-12- 03 17:22:29	496	36
57025	A History of the Illinois Manufactu	rers' Association	Marcia		336	0

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Update Spring - Summer 1894: Factory Inspections and a Small Pox Epidemic page



## the life and times of Florence Kelley in Chicago 1891-1899

From the beginning of her work as chief inspector of factories for Illinois she realized the importance of effective administration and all that it implies a system of alert oversight, a permanent, trained non-political inspectorate, reliable statistics, illuminating reports as the basis of continuous public education. [reed more]

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Florence Kelley

Historical Context Legal Context

### Spring - Summer 1894: Factory Inspections and a Small Pox **Epidemic**

In May of 1894 Mrs. Florence Kelley, Chief of the State Board of Factory Inspectors, reported to the Chicago Health Commissioner several confirmed cases of smallpox within the tenements and sweatshops where she and her colleagues were working every day.

By May of 1894 the enforcement of the Factory Inspection Law was in full swing. The First Factory Inspection Report had been presented to Governor John Peter Altgeld on December 15, 1893,. Florence Kelley herself having been appointed July 7, 1893 and her associates a few days later. The Factory Inspectors were at work on July 15, 1893. There were at the height of the enforcement efforts a dozen factory inspectors, and over 66,000 factories to be inspected. The opponents to the law were also becoming organized, and the constitutional challenge to the law was being prepared and presented to the state courts under the masterful direction of Lev Mayer, who was on his way to becoming one of the most influential lawyers in Chicago.

"The Illinois Association of Manufacturers, establishing in 1893, seems not to have been in working order until after the new law too." effect in July, or to have been too feeble to make any timely opposition. No sooner, however, had we begun to enforce the statute again violators in the tenement houses, by urging their employers to cut off supplies during the epidemic, warning them that goods found in the presence of infection would be summarily destroyed, than many workers showed us letters from the Manufacturers' Association promising protection if they were molested by inspectors who were, the letters said, operating under a new law clearly unconstitutional..." Florence Kelley autobiography p. 88

Levy Mayer was born in Virginia in 1858, the child of 1855 emigrants from Bavaria, a place where at that time only Catholics were allowed to hold public worship or pursue trades and occupations. Levy Mayer's unlikely biographer, Edgar Lee Masters - another lawyer, one who for a time shared space with John Peter Altgeld and Clarence Darrow, a writer whose Spoon River Anthology is familiar to generations of American high school students - notes that Levy Mayer, the champion of the Manufacturers' Association, the man who crafted the legal strategy which brought the challenge to the statute to the Supreme Court of Illinois, was against direct election of senators, against the primary system for nominating public officials, and against the income tax. The cardinal principles of American democracy were, he believed, individual liberty and noninterference with business as guiding principles.

Levy Mayer himself was a better businessman than most of the heads of manufacturing firms whom he cobbled together to form the Illinois Manufacturers' Association. Levy Mayer hated socialism and abhorred the dreams of populism. The law was or should be a business, that is, to make money and protect property, and the business of the law was to lay down and enforce reasonable rules for business, so that business could do its business under the protection of the rule of law. Business needed the law to make the system reliable, needed contracts which were respected and understood, needed to know that there would not be strikes or riots, and business did not need interference from reformers or people who thought it was their business to clean up the tenements. When one of many financial panics struck Chicago in 1893, he was the attorney for one of the largest financial institutions, the National Bank of Illinois.

Always precoclous, like Florence Kelley, always the bright child, Levy Mayer enrolled in the Jewish Training School, where the some of the other students later had a connection to Hull House. Then at age 12 he went to Chicago High School, then located at the corner of Monroe Street near Halsted. He received grades of 84-90 in Latin and 82-96 in Greek, and 97-99 in Spelling, and as high as 97 in Rhetoric.





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Room of workers 2. Photograph by Rubenstein [7 images in gallery]

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1894. Kelley, Florence. Source/Publisher: H.W. Roker, State Printer & Binder Credit: Eastern Illinois University Libraries.







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