

New U. S. Wage-Hour Law Is Pretty Much Like Old One From New Deal Years

By NORMAN WALKER
(For James Marlow)

(First of three articles on the new wage-hour law.)
WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—(AP)—The new 1950 model of the wage-hour law is, like some of the new automobiles, pretty much like the old one.

Something new has been added here and there. The product is about the same.

The new law went on the books Wednesday.

Raising the minimum wage to 75 cents an hour, changes in the child labor safeguards, and new exemptions for retail stores are the three major alterations. The wage-hour division of the labor department, which enforces the act, says it will double its force from 1,000 to 2,000 persons, but largely to police the 75-cent and child labor provisions.

To understand the law you must go back to the days of the Roosevelt New Deal. It was passed originally back in 1938 against a background of a tough business depression.

There was a three-fold purpose:

1. To put a floor under wages—a move to prevent a complete collapse of wages in case of an

other depression.
2. To put penalties on working anybody more than 40 hours a week—so as to spread the available work around, thus giving jobs to more people.
3. To stop employment of children.

Those three objectives are carried over into the new law. Exemptions have been changed to some extent, some broadened, some narrowed, but the three main points are still there.

The floor under wages is higher under the new law. It was 40 cents an hour, or \$16 for a 40-hour week. Now it's 75 cents an hour, \$30 for a 40-hour week. Congress decided on this change because of higher living costs.

The overtime penalty is still there. Workers covered by the law must get time and a half pay for hours worked more than 40 in a week.

Direct Penalty
Now, too, there is a direct penalty—a \$10,000 fine plus six months in jail—for willfully violating the law by employing children under 16 years of age. If it's not a "willful violation," the administrator may seek a court order to stop the practice. If an employer persisted after an injunction, he could be punished for contempt of court.

Formerly it was simply illegal to ship for 30 days any goods made by minors. An employer could hold on to his product for a month or more, then ship it without any risk of a penalty.

The employer or worker naturally wants to know whether the new law applies to him. The best advice, if there's any doubt, is to consult the wage-hour administration. It has offices in nearly every state.

Some of the law's provisions seem perfectly clear. Others are so complicated the courts will have to clear them up.

In general, the law applies to all employees of firms having interstate commerce or producing for interstate commerce. Still, there are clear-cut exceptions to this.

U. S. Employees Exempt
Government employees are exempt. So are workers in agri-



ELECTED—Claude A. Pui-nam, Keene, N. H., machinery manufacturer, was elected president of National Association of Manufacturers at its board meeting in New York.

Farm Woodland Profitable For Oregon Owners

SALEM — (Special) — Farm woodland owners in the state received an income of \$130,636 from the sale of forest products on their lands during the last quarter of 1949, according to Charles H. Ladd, senior farm forester with the state forestry department.

Broken down into terms of forest products, Ladd pointed out that this included 4,125,000 board feet of sawlogs, 667 cords of pulp wood, 2,000 pieces of piling, 1,050 posts and miscellaneous materials consisting of Christmas trees, floral products and crude drugs that can be listed only in terms of cash value which has been placed at \$10,000.

During this three-month period services have been extended to 230 woodland owners in the management of 12,210 acres of farm woodlands. In addition, special forestry advice has been extended to 230 farmers through interviews and correspondence, Ladd stated.

Ladd pointed out that the state forestry department is ready to extend farm forestry services to all woodland owners in the state, giving them advice as to volumes of timber or other forest products, values, markets and similar information which will result in an income from the farm forest.

culture, domestic servants, seamen and fishermen.

Most retail stores or service establishments are continued exempt. But the law has been changed to exempt more of them.

The old retail exemption said a store was exempt if half of its retail sales was in "intra-state commerce," meaning within the state where the store was located.

But many retailers sold goods in a state which eventually were taken over into another state. The courts held this made such sales a part of interstate, not intra-state, commerce.

Now the law says retail stores are exempt if half of its retail sales are made within the state where the store is located. This means the retailer's exemption won't be lost if goods he sells at retail in a state are later carried over into another state.

There are a lot of changes like that which seem to make it wise for an employer to consult the wage-hour administration, or a lawyer, if he has doubts. Some employers, previously covered, may find they are now exempt.

Or the reverse may be true. Some workers, previously exempt are now covered. For instance, the minimum wage provisions have been applied to airline and fish cannery workers. They are still exempt from the overtime requirements.

New powers to enforce the law have been given the government. Formerly only employees could sue if they claimed back wages. Now the wage-hour administration can sue for them, if he has their written consent.

(Next: More about the exemptions.)

Vicar Exorcises Ghost To Put End To Terror Of Routed Residents

BRISTOL, Eng., Jan. 26.—(AP)—If Mrs. Drury's ghost is still walking around the old Victorian house of William Baber today it won't be the fault of the vicar.

The ghost—or whatever has been upsetting the Baber family—has been exorcised.

The Rev. Francis J. Maddock went through all the rooms of the old house last night, performing an ancient rite that is supposed to exorcise ghosts—put them to rest, or at least make them stop walking around old haunts.

The Baber family was on the verge of moving out after it complained that a spooky little old lady in black, with a weird glow around her head, followed it around the house, woke up the two children and generally upset earthly routines. The Babers think it was the ghost of Mrs. Gladys Drury who used to live there and died 18 years ago.

Rev. Mr. Maddock got permission from the church of England to perform the old special services. He studied up on an ancient authorities on the subject. The main idea, he said, was that he had to assume the spirit was really there.

He wouldn't give any details of the special service, but he said he didn't sprinkle holy water or incense, which he said is called for by the old teachings of the Roman Catholic church.

"I used such form of exorcism as is in conformity with the teachings of the Church of England," he explained.

The Babers started having trouble with the ghost six months ago after Mrs. Baber opened a closet door containing a lot of old trunks that once belonged to Mrs. Drury. It had been locked

since the old lady's death.

After that the Babers said the spirit appeared every morning at about 6 o'clock and followed them around the house.

The special service Tuesday night brought most of the townfolk to the scene of the old house. Nothing unusual seemed to happen, but even the most skeptical were anxious to know if the ghost had been exorcised.

The Babers still aren't sure they want to move back into the house. They've been living with relatives lately to get away from the apparition. And they've also applied to the local housing authorities for fresh accommodations "on grounds of ghostly disturbances in the present home."

Albany Soldier First In Correspondence Rank

SALEM — (AP) — Cpl. Frank J. Bracelin, Albany, is the first Oregon National Guardsman since the war to win a commission through army correspondence courses.

Bracelin is one of more than 300 officers and men who are taking the courses. It takes more than 250 hours of study time to complete the course.

Bracelin, who qualified as a second lieutenant, is a student at Lewis and Clark college, Portland. He belongs to company L, 162nd Infantry.

Employment In Oregon Topped By Lumber Industry

SALEM — (AP) — The number of employed workers in Oregon is near the all-time high mark, despite the fact that there is almost a record total of jobless workers.

The state unemployment compensation commission said that there were 416,200 persons working in non-farm jobs during December. This was only slightly below the record total for the month, 418,900, set in December, 1948.

During the same month there were 69,000 unemployed. The commission figures that this month the number of jobless might mount to 100,000, greatest in history.

Manufacturing employment in Oregon in December totaled 122,500, which was 1,400 more than a year before.

But losses in construction and service industries brought the total employment figure below that of December, 1948.

About 30 per cent of the state's non-farm workers were employed in manufacturing. Sixty per cent of those working in manufactur-

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ing are employed in the lumber industry.

Following are employment totals by industries for December, 1949, and December, 1948:

Lumber and wood products, 73,700 and 67,800; food products, 13,600 and 15,200; contract construction, 20,900 and 23,300; transportation, 29,800 and 31,500; public utilities, 13,200 and 14,300; wholesale trade, 26,700 and 25,900; retail trade, 73,900 and 75,100; finance and realty, 14,200 and 13,900; service, 44,700 and 45,700; government, 63,800 and 62,800; printing and publishing, 5,300 and 5,000; paper and allied products, 5,100 and 5,200; textiles and apparel, 5,100 and 5,600; ma-

chinery, 3,900 and 4,200; metals, 5,700 and 6,400; furniture and fixtures, 2,800 and 3,700.

Local, state and federal governments pay more than 90 per cent of the costs of elementary and secondary schools in the United States and more than two thirds of the costs of higher education.

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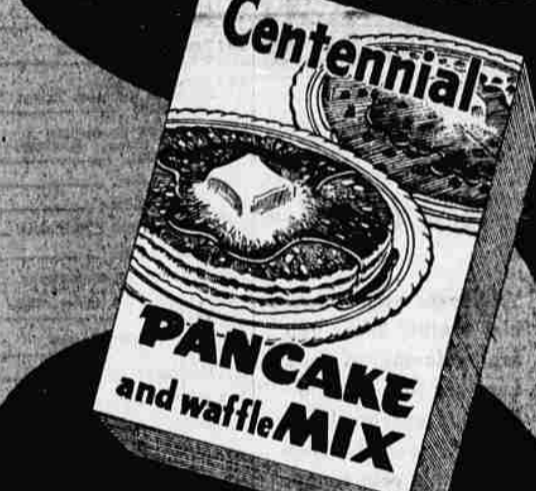
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