

A BILL

For an Act creating the office of Commissioner of Labor Statistics and Inspection, and for filling the same by election.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

Section 1. There is hereby established a separate and distinct department in this State, to be known as the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Inspection of Factories, Mines and Workshops, to be in charge and under the control of some person to be known as "The Commissioner of Labor Statistics," who shall be elected at the next general State election to be held on the — day of —, 190—, and every two years thereafter, whose first term shall begin on the — day of —, 190—, and continue for a period of two years, or until his successor shall be duly elected and qualified.

Sec. 2. The object of this department shall be to collect, assort, systematize and present in annual report to the Governor, to be by him transmitted biennially to the General Assembly, statistical details and information relating to all the departments of labor in the State, especially in its relations to the commercial, industrial, social, educational and sanitary condition of the laboring classes, and to the permanent prosperity of the productive industries of the State, and also to secure the inspection of all factories, warehouses, workshops, foundries, machine shops, salmon canneries, fruit canneries and other manufacturing establishments, where persons, male and female, are employed throughout the State, and the observance of the regulations herein relating thereto.

Sec. 3. The Commissioner shall have power and authority, in the discharge of his duties, to enter and inspect all factories, warehouses, elevators, workshops, tunnels, foundries, machine shops, and other manufacturing establishments, and he shall, as far as practicable, inspect or cause to be inspected the same, and shall, annually, on or before the 5th day of November, present a report thereof, in writing, to the Governor, which shall contain statistical details relating to all departments of labor in the State, and to the inspection made by him, together with such other information as is contemplated.

Sec. 4. The Commissioner shall have power to administer oaths or affirmations, to examine witnesses and to take and preserve evidence; and it shall be the duty of all State, County and Municipal officers to furnish to said Commissioner, upon his request, all statistical information in reference to labor which may be in their possession as such officers.

Sec. 5. The owner, lessee, operator or manager of any factory, workshop, warehouse, elevator, foundry, machine shop or other manufacturing establishment, shall not put at work or place therein for the purpose of labor or service, more persons in any one room than hygienic laws will warrant with safety to the health of such persons; all such rooms or places of employment shall have sufficient ventilation to carry off all foul or impure air, and to reduce the air of such room or place of employment to the standard of fresh air as near as may be practicable. Such rooms or places shall also have a sufficient number of doors, stairways and fire escapes for the ready egress and escape of the maximum number of employees therein; and it is hereby made the duty of said Commissioner to include in his annual report any non-observance of the requirements and regulations contained in this section which may come to his knowledge, together with the facts in relation thereto, and such suggestions and recommendations as he may deem proper.

Sec. 6. Any owner, operator, manager, or lessee of any factory, workshop, warehouse, elevator, foundry, machine shop or other manufacturing establishment, or any agent or employee of such owner, operator, manager or lessee who shall refuse to said Commissioner admission therein for the purpose of inspection, or who shall, when requested by him, neglect or refuse to him any statistical or other information relative to his duties which may be in their possession or under their control, shall, for every such neglect or refusal, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, on conviction, be fined in a sum not less than twenty-five nor more than one hundred dollars.

Sec. 7. The Commissioner of Labor Statistics and Inspection shall receive an annual salary of two thousand dollars, payable monthly, and said Commissioner is hereby authorized to employ such assistance and incur such expense, not exceeding — per annum, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this article, such expenses to be paid on the vouchers presented by the Commissioner: Provided, however, That said expenses shall not exceed in any one year, the amount appropriated therefor; said Commissioner shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, execute a bond to the State of Oregon, in the sum of twenty thousand dollars with two or more good and sufficient sureties, conditioned upon the faithful, honest and impartial performance of his duties under this article, which bond shall be approved by the State Auditor and filed in his office. Said Commissioner shall include in his annual report to the Governor an itemized statement of the expenses of the bureau incurred by him.

A BILL

For an Act fixing the time for paying wages, requiring payment thereof in lawful money and forbidding their payment in time checks, due-bills, orders on stores and the like.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

Section 1. Every person, firm, partnership, corporation or association doing business in this State, except individuals, co-partnerships, corporation and associations engaged in agriculture or stock raising, shall pay at least, in each and every calendar month, in lawful money of the United States, to each employee engaged in his, their or its business, or to the duly authorized representative of such employee, the full amount of wages earned and unpaid in lawful money to such employee, up to within fifteen days of such payment; Provided, however, that if at any time of payment any employee shall be absent from his or her regular place of labor and shall not receive his or her wages through a duly authorized representative, he or she shall be entitled to such payment at any time thereafter upon demand.

Sec. 2. It shall not be lawful for any such person, firm, partnership, association or corporation as aforesaid to enter into or make any agreement with any employee for the payment of the wages of such employee, otherwise than as provided in Section 1 of this Act.

Sec. 3. It shall likewise be unlawful for any such person, firm, partnership, association or corporation to enter into or make any agreement with any employee for the payment of his wages in due-bills, time-checks, or checks or orders of any kind against or upon any store of any kind owned or operated by such employer or employers or any other person, firm, partnership, association or corporation, or to so pay such wages; and every agreement made in violation of the provisions of this Act shall be null and void.

Sec. 4. Every person, firm, copartnership, association or corporation found guilty of violating any of the provisions of Sections 2 and 3, of this Act, shall be fined in a sum not less than fifty dollars nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars for each and every such offense; and each and every employee with whom any such agreement in violation of this Act shall be made, shall have his or her right of action against any such person, firm, copartnership, association or corporation for the full amount of his or her wages in any court of competent jurisdiction in this State.

THEY OWN THE LAND.

Why should a Pole in Pennsylvania kneel and kiss the hand of the mine boss who gave him work? Because through paper title the corporation could keep the toiler from the soil. During the hard times in America, in one of the most prosperous towns of Iowa, a man got work in a coal mine. His work was not favorable, and his wages consequently small. The other men noticed he always went off by himself to eat his dinner and acted in an unsocial and queer way. Until one day they found out that he had been carrying an empty dinner pail, because he could not provide for his family and for himself. They own the coal fields. So that as the result of these conditions the magnates sit in their cushioned seats in the palatial offices of New York and dictate the wages of the miners of the West, and the sanctimonious Baptist saint who lets not his left hand know what his right hand doeth, will with the one endow a "pillared pile of public plunder" with \$15,000,000, and with the other order the soldiers of Idaho to throw striking miners into the atrocious bull pen of Wardner. Why can Rockefeller thus levy a tribute far in excess of any earthly prince or potentate of earth? The President of the United States works for \$50,000 a year. Rockefeller gets \$50,000,000. The United States have an army of 65,000 soldiers. Suppose every one of them should be put at remunerative toil; they would have to work like the street-car men—every day and no Sunday—and get more than \$2 a day to equal Rockefeller's income. Or suppose Adam had worked for \$2 a day ever since the creation, and had neglected God's law to remember the Sabbath day; suppose he had saved \$1 a day, and put it where it would be safe, he would have to work 10,000 years yet to save as much as Rockefeller gets each year. Now why is this? Simply because owning the land on which men depend for the necessities of life, Rockefeller can levy tribute from the whole people at will. —Extract from a sermon by Rev. E. H. Holman.

One of the most gratifying features of union development, and one which is most pleasing to all true labor men, is the rise, Phoenix-like, of the spirit and strength of organized labor in the Coeur d'Alenes. The almost sweeping victory of the unionists of Shoshone county at the polls last November, after a year and a half of martial lawlessness, wanton murder, imprisonment and malicious persecution, was a shock from which the military forces and corporation tools have not yet recovered; and now they are treated to the sight of unionism spreading over that district more rapidly and with greater force than ever before. It is time organized capital should know that it cannot crush out organized labor in the Coeur d'Alenes. The spirit is unconquerable. The greater and more terrible the persecution waged against Coeur d'Alene unionism, the greater strength and more determined force does it manifest afterward. —Freeman's Labor Journal.

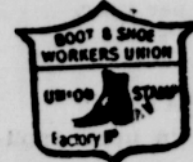
Organized Labor is wielding an influence upon every public question never attained before. The world's thinkers are now beginning to appreciate the fact that the demands of labor mean more than appears on the surface. They see that the demand for work is not alone one for the preservation of life in the individual but is a human, innate right, that the movement to reduce the hours of labor is not sought to shirk the duty to toil, but the human means by which the idle workers may find the road easy to travel.—Butte, Mont., Reveille.

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