

LIABILITY LAW IS URGED FOR OREGON

Employers' Compensation Act Winning Supporters in Washington.

WORKMEN INDORSE PLAN

Long Legal Tangles Which Are Drain to Laborers No Longer Probable.

Commission Chairman Points Advantages to State.

That Oregon will be compelled to repeal her employers' liability law, soon and to pass a law similar to the workmen's compensation act of Washington, is the belief of George A. Lee, chairman of the Washington Industrial Insurance Commission, who is in Portland securing the payrolls and other data from more than ten large corporations of the city. With him is Charles A. Pratt, another member of the Commission, which was created by state law.

"We find," said Mr. Lee, "that fully 95 per cent of employers and employed enthusiastically welcome the Washington statute. The law becomes operative October 1. We have so far gathered data from 1000 employers and have heard but two complaints from the entire number. Roughly estimating, I believe there are 5000 industrial institutions in Washington within the requirements of the act.

Insurance Is Compulsory.

"The industrial insurance of workmen's compensation act is the first attempt in the United States to enact into law the principle of compulsory state insurance. The question of the law's constitutionality has been submitted to the State Supreme Court of Washington, and is now awaiting decision. The law is modeled after the German law and is, in my judgment, the greatest piece of constructive legislation ever enacted in the West. The act enumerates the dangerous or hazardous industries and classifies them into 17 classes. Each industry must pay into the 'accident fund' created by the law, a percentage of the payroll, the amount varying according to the degree of hazard.

"The preliminary payment is a quarterly one, and until accidents deplete or exhaust the preliminary fund, no other contribution is required. The fund is self-adjusting, and each class of industry bears the cost of the accidents in that class. It is the duty of this commission to investigate and compensate for all industrial accidents.

Commission Is Judge.

"The maximum amount to be paid in case of death is \$4000, or a monthly pension to the surviving relatives, in the discretion of the commission. The maximum amount in case of a major accident, such as the loss of an arm, is \$1500. Monthly pensions are provided for in case of partial or permanent disability.

"If the employer defaults in his payments, in case of accident his legal defenses are removed. If he pays his assessment, no cause of action lies against him, and he is completely immune from further litigation, vexation or trouble. The commission reasons for the passage of the law were:

"Casualty companies were collecting enormous sums each year from the employers, and less than 1 per cent of the money ever reached the injured workmen or their dependents.

Legal Tangle Avoided.

"The old legal defenses which defeated recovery in nine cases out of ten; assumption of risk, defense of fellow-servant and defense of contributory negligence, are abolished. Inconsistent with modern industrial conditions.

"The old system of employers' liability was uncertain, slow, vexatious and engendered constant friction between employers and workmen.

"Under the old system 'ambulance chasing' lawyers received as a rule one-half the recovery.

"The delays and uncertainties incident to the old system were vicious, and intolerable.

"I am informed by one of the largest contractors in Oregon that he feared he would have to leave the state because of the abolition of legal defenses by the Oregon employers' liability law made the situation dangerous. I understand further that under this statute the liability companies have advanced rates from 200 to 400 per cent in this state. I mention these facts not by way of invidious comparison, but simply to show that a reasonable and scientific compulsory compensation law is more just and equitable to employers and equally satisfactory to employees.

"Mr. Lee was a deputy prosecuting attorney in Spokane in 1908, was Assistant Attorney-General of Washington in 1909 and 1910, and conducted the prosecution in the impeachment trial of J. H. Schively, the insurance commissioner.

SCOPE OF ACTION SOUGHT

Right of City to Make Materials to Use in Improvements Urged.

That the city shall have the right to manufacture its own materials for street, sewer and other public improvements is one of the recommendations offered by the Municipal Ownership Committee to the Charter Commission at its meeting Thursday night.

The provision is also included that if the Council, on or before the 30th day of the registered voters direct, the Mayor shall appoint a commission of five members, whose duty it shall be to investigate any plants that may seem desirable to acquire. This commission will ascertain what additional outlays may be necessary, if the property is purchased; whether it can be operated at a profit or advantage in quality or cost of service; wherein this profit or advantage consists; whether if acquired the property could be paid for out of its net earnings; and if so, in what time. This commission will then submit this information to the Council, which will publish the same. The Council may then submit it to a vote of the people, if it wishes. In the event that it does not, the measure may be passed upon by referendum petition.

The Municipal Ownership Committee consists of H. G. Parsons, chairman; N. U. Carpenter and Judge Henry McGinnis. The Municipal Activities Committee which met yesterday will include among its recommendations an art museum to be owned by the city.

Steamer "Monarch" for Astoria. Coastal leaves Washington-st. dock 7. Fare 11.

ELABORATE CEREMONY MARKS FUNERAL OF WEALTHY PORTLAND CHINESE.



SCENE DURING FUNERAL



THE MOURNERS

WEIRD RITES ACTED

Crowd Is Attracted by Dirge at Chinese Funeral.

ORIENTAL CUSTOMS SEEN

Services Over Body of Lee Wong Yick, Portland Merchant, Marked by Wailing Voices and Is Accompanied by Band.



HEARSE ATTENDED BY MOURNERS

Portrait Flower-Laden.

In the center stood a large portrait of the dead man, artistically framed with flowers. In front of it, upon a wooden trestle, lay a whole roast pig, which is a necessary part of the rites. This animal, baked in an inviting brown, is not eaten, it is said, but after going through the form of being dispatched with the body into the unknown, is destroyed. Balls of rice and other food and the usual sum of money to pay the grim ferryman, also lay upon the table.

Portrait Flower-Laden.

With all the elaborate ceremonial of Celestial custom, Lee Wong Yick, a wealthy Chinese merchant, was buried yesterday; the hearse starting from the former place of business at Second and Oak streets. During the course of the ceremony not less than 5000 white persons stopped to view the unusual spectacle and at all times from 11 o'clock until 2, when the procession finally moved away, the streets were blocked and policemen kept the large crowd in order.

Portrait Flower-Laden.

Taxicab and horse carriage of the On Lee Company, a long-established firm of provision dealers and labor contractors, is decorated yesterday morning, when the Chinese laid a table in the street and erected an awning. Upon the table were spread all articles to be used.

Portrait Flower-Laden.

These, overcome by their grief, walked with their heads almost to the ground and kept up a most weird lamentation. Arriving at the edge of the canopy, they dropped on hands and knees upon a matting and in that posture kept up their unremitting cries until the hearse started away, when they were supported to carriages.

Portrait Flower-Laden.

The casket, with the lid removed, was placed under the awning, disclosing the features of the dead, and members of the colony walked past and paid their last respects. During all this time the white clad bearers stood before the dead man's picture and with clasped hands bowed at regular intervals.

Portrait Flower-Laden.

The procession moved to Lone Fir Cemetery, where the body will lie until arrangements are made for its return to the Flowery Kingdom. Lee Wong Yick leaves a wife and one child.

MOTHER FEARS FOR CHILD

Mrs. Lulu Emerson Says Attempt to Kidnap Boy May Be Made.

Attempts to kidnap from a Portland Heights woman her 10-year-old son, are alleged by Patrolman Gill to have been in progress for several days, the active agent being the woman's former husband, assisted by a purported private detective.

OLD GLORY IS PALL

Alvin C. Edmunds, Veteran Color Bearer, Is Buried.

COMRADES WEEP AT BIER

Funeral Services of Warrior Who Died in National Encampment Are Held—Life of Old Soldier Extolled.

WORTHLESS CHECK PASSED

Man Named E. L. Harter Orders Goods From Big Store.

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when Mr. Edmunds had come to him and requested him to take charge of his funeral services, when he passed away. He said Mr. Edmunds had reminded him of his promise just before leaving for the East, and had said that he did not expect to return alive. After the services those assembled filed past the bier, to view the remains. The body was clad in the uniform of the Union Army, with a small silk flag on the breast.

Many Comrades Attend.

Among the out-of-town poets represented at the funeral were Newberry Post, Forest Grove Post and the St. Johns Post. Among the officers of the department who attended were: Past Commander E. F. Pike, Past Commander W. J. R. Beach, Past Department Commander J. A. E. Bothwick, Past Chaplain S. E. Cline, Past Department Commander T. E. Hills, Past Department Commander M. L. Pratt and Chaplain W. T. Kerr. The pallbearers were: J. L. Wells, W. C. Henderson, F. Neidermark, A. W. France, John Barton and C. H. Weisich.

All of the surviving relatives of Mr. Edmunds were present.

They are: Mrs. A. C. Edmunds, his wife; C. Edmunds, Jr., his son, with his wife and son; Mr. Willis Edmunds, another son; Mrs. Lillah Pertsinger, a daughter, and Mrs. Hattie Gloss, a daughter, with her husband. All reside in Portland.

Klickitat Fair to Be Good.

GOLDENDALE, Wash., Aug. 29.—(Special.)—One of the most attractive speed programmes ever held in Klickitat County has been arranged for Klickitat County Fair Association, to be held in Goldendale September 27 to 30.

Stevens Artillery Makes Good Records at Night Practice.

FORT STEVENS, Or., Aug. 29.—(Special.)—The Thirty-third Company, commanded by Captain Bowen, fired 16 shots in two minutes from a three-inch rapid-fire gun, obtaining three hits. An hour afterward the Thirty-fourth Company, commanded by Lieutenant Norton, fired 16 shots in 35 seconds from the same caliber gun, obtaining five hits.

Salmon Quotations Advance.

ASTORIA, Or., Aug. 29.—(Special.)—The selling prices for Alaska canned salmon were announced here today at the following rates per dozen: Reds, \$1.60; medium, \$1.45; pinks, \$1. This is an advance of \$1 a case for reds over the prices prevailing last year. The rates for pinks were made lower than was expected, but this is accounted for by the big run of humpbacks that is reported on Puget Sound.

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