

LIVING SCANTY BUT 'DECENT' ON \$10.50

Packing Plant Woman Gives Testimony.

SECOND 'CHANGES' ESCHEWED

"Saving" Question Interjected Into Welfare Conference.

INSURANCE BECOMES DRAIN

Effort to Buy Land or Home Also Saps Workers' Testimony. Good Living on Less Than \$10 Week Not to Be Guaranteed.

WHAT THE FACTORY MINIMUM WAGE COMMISSION IS ASKED

1. What is the sum required a week to maintain in frugal but decent conditions of living a self-supporting woman employed in a manufacturing establishment in Portland?
2. What are the essential elements of such decent conditions of living are: (a) Respectable lodging, (b) three meals a day, (c) clothing "according to the standard demanded by the position such employe fills, (d) some provision for recreation, self-improvement and care of health.
3. What are the maximum daily hours of work in manufacturing establishments which are consistent with the health and efficiency of the employe?
4. What length of lunch period is demanded by the hygienic needs of women workers in factories?
5. What provisions should be required in each factory in regard (a) to a rest room, (b) toilets, (c) ventilation?

That she considered that she lived decently on \$10.50 a week paid her as an employe of the Oregon Packing Company, some of whose employes struck recently, but that her three meals a day were "enough" and that she did not have a sufficient fund for clothing, were statements made last night by Mrs. N. A. Fallman, one of the employe representatives in the second minimum wage conference called by the Oregon Industrial Welfare Commission to inquire into the wages, hours and conditions of work of women employed in manufacturing establishments in Portland.

Everett Ames, of the Ames-Harris-Neville Company, bag, tent and twine manufacturers, was questioning Mrs. Fallman.

"Second Changes" Eschewed.

"Could you afford sufficient clothing on \$10.50 a week?" he asked, after Mrs. Fallman had said that she had lived decently, but that she could not afford very solid sustenance.

"No, sir," she said, with emphasis, "I didn't have enough, nor did my daughter, who was working for \$21 a month for Wadhams & Kerr Bros. We didn't have second changes."

"With our combined incomes, we could live none too well," continued Mrs. Fallman, "I've kept up my life insurance, and paid the taxes and the interest on what I owed on some land I bought in Eastern Oregon, and it kept us drained. We could have nothing except what we put into our insurance. This we felt was a saving."

Lead Debt Increases.

Mrs. Fallman explained that she paid \$56.36 a year on an endowment policy and \$24 a year on a fraternal policy.

"How much did you owe on the land?" she was asked.

"We owed \$400 at that time?"

"Do you owe more than that now?" asked W. B. Ayer, the chairman of the conference.

"Yes—about \$600. We have been unable to pay the interest, and the amount has crept up on us."

Miss Jessie Henderson, a bookbinder by trade, who is employed on repair work at the city library at \$45 a month, and another representative of the employes in the conference, said that she had not received less than \$10 a week for the last five years, and that she thought that she could live on that, but that she "wouldn't guarantee a very good living on less than that."

"Saving" Not Issue.

Miss Henderson explained that she had been employed in a bookbinding, and that she got \$13 a week for a time, and that her health broke down, so that she accepted her present position on less wages because the work was easier.

"Can you save anything on \$45 a month?" asked Chairman Ayer, and the answer was, "No."

"Is there anyone dependent on you?"

"Yes," she said, "I live with my father and mother. Father is 75 years old, and can't do any work, but he gets a pension of \$25 a month. We live fairly well, but we don't save a cent."

Here Mr. Ames said that, as he understood the law, it was not the function of the conference to find out what an employe should receive in order to save money.

"We are concerned with a minimum wage, and that only," he said.

Father O'Hara, chairman of the Industrial Welfare Commission, asked Miss Henderson what rent she paid.

"We don't pay any," was the answer.

"We bought a house, and have it partly mortgaged," she said.

(Concluded on Page 2.)

DEALERS PROTEST DEAD LETTER SALE

WASHINGTON BUSINESS DEALERS IT IS HURT.

Merchants Want Unclaimed Mail Disposed of Throughout Country, to Distribute the Loss.

WASHINGTON, July 22.—Sale of the unclaimed and undelivered mass of mail matter that has accumulated in the Postoffice Department during the year at stipulated points throughout the country, instead of in the capital, has been the case in previous years, has been asked by the merchants of Washington.

In a petition to Postmaster-General Burleson today the Retail Merchants' Association declares the Government, through its sale of "dead letter" matter, enters into competition with them and injures their business. The association believes this competition should be more widely distributed.

In the past "dead letter" matter has been sold here to the highest bidder without revealing the contents of the package. The charge that this is a lottery scheme impelled the Government to open all packages and display the contents before bids were asked for. This fact, the merchants declare, operates to encroach heavily on their legitimate trade and they believe the rest of the country should share the loss.

CLARK REGISTRATION GOOD

Of 3770 Voters, 3415 Qualify for Bridge Bond Election.

VANCOUVER, Wash., July 22.—(Special.)—The registration for the special election, to be held August 15, to vote on the proposal to bond Clark County for \$500,000, to build the Pacific Highway bridge closed at 9 o'clock tonight. A total of 3415 had registered out of 3770 voters in the city last year, when a full vote was secured for the general election.

The Vancouver Commercial Club has made strenuous efforts during the past few weeks to get the voters out and that there are so many registered, is due largely to the club. Business and professional men, for several days, gave their time and automobiles and helped voters to the City Hall to register.

COUNTERFEIT BILLS FOUND

"Indian Head" \$5 Certificates Are Poor Likeness of Real Money.

WASHINGTON, July 22.—The discovery of a new counterfeit \$5 "Indian head" silver certificate was announced today by Chief W. J. Flynn, of the United States Secret Service. The spurious certificate, apparently printed from crudely-etched plates on fair quality bond paper, with ink lines to imitate the all fiber of the genuine. The Indian portrait is poor and on the back of the note is grass green in color, little attempt having been made to imitate the lathe work.

Chief Flynn said this counterfeit should not deceive the ordinarily careful handler of coin.

EDITOR TO HEAD SCHOOLS

Eugene Writer Becomes County Superintendent of Lane.

EUGENE, Or., July 22.—(Special.)—E. J. Moore, for eight years city editor of the Morning Register, was today appointed County Superintendent of Schools, to take the place of H. C. Baughman, who resigned to take a position as principal of the Crook County High School.

Mr. Moore is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State Normal and of Michigan Law School. He was engaged in teaching in the Middle West for 15 years before coming to the Coast and in the past 10 years has been engaged in newspaper and school work in Oregon and Washington.

OLD OREGON WILL BE FIRST

Historic Battleship to Lead Fleet Through Panama Canal.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., July 22.—It is the purpose of the Navy Department to send the entire battleship fleet through the Panama Canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific as soon as Colonel Goethals notifies the Government that warships may pass through the waterway.

Secretary Daniels made this unequivocal statement in an interview today. He added that it was intended that the Oregon should lead the naval procession.

SHOWERS ARE DUE TODAY

Forecast of Thunderstorms Indicates Heat Wave Is Broken.

Showers and thunderstorms are the weather forecast for Oregon and Washington today. Cooler weather is predicted for the interior.

The hot wave was still on the job yesterday. The maximum temperature was 84 on Monday, 86 degrees. This temperature was attained at 5 o'clock. At 6 o'clock it was 89 degrees and at 7 o'clock 88 degrees. At 8 o'clock in the morning it was 87 degrees.

CHURCHILL VISITS OREGON

Author Stops at Eugene to Fish in McKenzie River.

EUGENE, Or., July 22.—(Special.)—Winston Churchill, the author, stopped here this morning on his way from San Francisco and passed the day fishing along the McKenzie River.

DAY'S REFERENDUM BILL IS HELD LEGAL

People Will Rule, Says Supreme Tribunal.

People Will Rule, Says Supreme Tribunal.

CIRCUIT COURT IS REVERSED

Libby's Suit Against Olcott Is Dismissed.

Government by Election May Be as Unsatisfactory as Rule by Injunction, Says Decree, and It Is Sure to Be Expensive.

INITIATIVE NOT MENTIONED

SALEM, Or., July 22.—(Special.)—Holding that not a single contention of the plaintiff was logical or even pertinent to the issue, the Supreme Court today, Judge Burnett writing the opinion, in the case of A. C. Libby against Ben W. Olcott, Secretary of State, decided that the Day bill, providing a special referendum election in November, is constitutional.

An injunction against the Secretary of State calling the special election in November, issued by the Marion Circuit Court, is dissolved, and the suit is dismissed by the highest court in the state. Immediately after the decision was handed down Secretary of State Olcott said he would proceed with the details of preparing for the election. Mr. Olcott has pamphlets and other literature ready, which he will turn over to the state printer at once.

Initiative Question Not Raised.

The court holds that not only is the law constitutional, but that the constitution specifically provides that the Legislature may call a special election for the referendum of measures. No mention is made in the opinion of the right of persons to initiate measures at the coming special election, that question not having been raised in the pleadings.

The Day bill provides only for the referendum of bills passed at the last session of the Legislature at the special election. It was reported here today that W. S. O'Connell, of Oregon City, would file suit seeking to compel the Secretary of State to place the titles of initiative measures on the ballot.

Regarding the argument that the special election will cost \$100,000, the court says that "while government by election may become as unsatisfactory as government by injunction," it is the will of the people, who have spoken through a Legislature chosen by them.

Legislature Has Two Choices.

"If the Legislature would avoid the Scylla of veto it may steer toward the Charybdis of the referendum," says the decision. "It is the enactment and not the mere use of the law which gives it sanction. Government by referendum is almost certain to be more expensive than government by injunction."

The decision in part follows:

At the outset it may be observed that although the plaintiff designates himself as a citizen and taxpayer of the state and avers that his taxes will be increased by the expenditure of public money in connection with the special election in question, yet he does not state anything to show that he will be injured in any manner different from any other citizen and taxpayer. Following the doctrine of Friendly v. Olcott, 61 Or. 250, 123 Pac. 25, and cases cited there, the suit of the plaintiff might well be dismissed, without further consideration, on the ground that the courts will not interfere with the political action of a co-ordinating branch of the government by the drastic remedy of injunction at the suit of any individual who cannot show special injury to himself, not (Concluded on Page 3.)

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 90 degrees; minimum, 61 degrees. TODAY'S—Increasing cloudiness, probably followed by showers and cooler, westerly winds.

Foreign. Turkey's defiance alarms Europe. Page 4. Borah urges increase of income tax exemption limit. Page 10. Spokane 5, Seattle 3; Vancouver 5, Tacoma 2. Page 6. Chamberlain modifies his threat to bolt party on tariff. Page 5. Washington merchants say dead letter sale hurt their business. Page 1. Congressmen concerned about Burleson's order reducing parcel post rates. Senator Borah pleads for higher exemption limit in income tax. Page 3. Senate favors resolution for protection of Americans in Mexico. Page 3.

Sports. Northwestern League results: Victoria 6, Portland 1; Spokane 5, Seattle 3; Vancouver 5, Tacoma 2. Page 6. Coast League results—Portland 4, Sacramento 1; Gasquet 1, Yreka 1; no game at Los Angeles. Page 6. Larned-Bearl Wright combine scores big victory at Longview. Page 7. Domestic. Fifty women and girls killed in factory fire at Binghamton. Page 1.

Pacific Northwest. Washington Public Service Commission holds water service hearing at Vancouver. Page 2. Storm drives boys from top of Mount Hood. Page 1. Common-law wife wins life insurance from legal wife. Page 5. Day referendum bill is held constitutional. Page 3.

Commercial and Marine. Fine crop weather east of Cascades in past week. Page 17. Market conditions are easier in Wall street. Page 17. Revolt in China affects shipping from Northwest. Page 12.

Portland and Vicinity. Northwest market shows signs of good quality. Says R. G. Dun & Co. Page 16. Weather report, data and forecast. Page 12. Gains shown in Northwest business by R. G. Dun & Co. Page 16. Consumer's League to have New York woman as guest of honor. Page 10. Juvenile market enjoys increased patronage. Page 11. Raid on home of alleged maqueroux brings little result. Page 10. Bodies of Lee sisters are taken from river. Page 4. Oregon Industrial Commission inquires into wage situation. Page 1. Banks report many accounts inactive for seven years. Page 17. Portland, Eugene and Eastern tracks being laid on Fourth street. Page 10. Jury convicts J. W. W. agitator and city drafts ordinance against insulting flag or country. Page 9. Dredge and current move Columbia River. Page 10. San Francisco officials accused of suppressing report against necessity of Hetch Hetchy dam. Page 10. Fresh air fund for working women and children grows. Page 10.

DOMINEERS NEEDS GOLD LEAF

Library of Congress Suffers From 17 Years of Sun, Wind and Rain.

WASHINGTON, July 22.—Repairs to the Golden Dome that crowns the Library of Congress are necessary and Congress probably will be called on before adjournment to authorize the expenditure of \$50,000 to replace the gold leaf that has made the dome a glistening landmark.

The sun, wind and rain throughout 17 years have had their effect upon the dome and the leaf now is beginning to peel. In view of the fact that the dome of the Capitol recently has been cleaned and rebrushed, it is expected Congress will make provision for the rehabilitation of the neighboring building.

CLIMBER DIES ON SLOPE

Blind Crevasse Swallows Founder of Mountain Club.

BELLINGHAM, Wash., July 22.—J. C. Bishop, founder and honorary president of the British Columbia Mountaineers' club of Vancouver, B. C., fell into a blind crevasse and perished on the northeast slope of Mount Baker yesterday.

In company with C. C. Wright, a mountain guide of Glacier, he ascended the mountain from the snow line for the purpose of taking photographs, and was returning to camp when the accident occurred. Mr. Wright returned to Glacier and a rescue party was organized. The rescuers found the body at the bottom of a 10-foot crevasse.

CONGRESS OPPOSES NEW PARCEL RATES

Burleson's Right to Act Questioned.

SENATE ASKS EXPLANATION

Postmaster-General Is Summoned Before Committee.

LAW'S MEANING CLOUDED

Concerted Attack Made on Order Reducing Charges and Increasing Maximum Size of Packages. Loss to Government Forecast.

WASHINGTON, July 22.—Concerted opposition has developed in Congress to Postmaster-General Burleson's order reducing parcel post rates and increasing the maximum size of packages to be handled in the service. The order was issued Saturday to become effective August 15 and today the Senate postoffice committee requested Mr. Burleson to appear before the committee next Thursday with an explanation of the authority for his act.

This is the bitter contest. When the Postmaster-General has been heard the committee is expected to undertake to have withdrawn before August 15 any authority he may claim Congress has given him to change rates and sizes.

It was contended in the committee that the proposed changes would entail an enormous loss to the Government. Apparently there was no pretense of opposition in the committee as to whether the Postmaster-General should change rates. Democrats and Republicans agreeing that only Congress ought to have this power.

Although members of the committee contend that it is a mere ungrammatical jumble of words without sense or power, department officials say the Postmaster-General is given ample authority for his action by the section of the parcel post law:

"The classification of articles mailable, as well as the weight and rates of postage, zone or zones or other conditions of mailability under this act, if the Postmaster-General shall find on experience that they or any of them are such as to prevent the shipment of articles desirable or to permanently render the cost of the service greater than the receipts of the revenue therefrom, he is hereby authorized, subject to the consent of the Interstate Commerce Commission after investigation, to reform from time to time such classification, weight, limit, rates, zone or zones or conditions, or either, in order to promote the service to the purpose to insure the receipt of revenue from such service adequate to pay the cost thereof."

This language was put into the bill in conference just at the close of Congress. The enactment of the bill was delayed for a time by Senator Bryan, of Florida, who objected to the proposal to allow the Postmaster-General to increase rates. Senator Bryan on April 15 last introduced a bill to repeal the clause in question and after Mr. Burleson's appearance he will urge a favorable report on this measure.

Bichloride Tablets Fatal.

TUCSON, Ariz., July 22.—Charles J. Eames, of New York, owner of considerable mining property in Mexico, died here today as the result of having swallowed several bichloride of mercury tablets last night in the belief that they were sleeping tablets.

STORM SENDS BOYS FROM TOP OF HOOD

ELECTRIC DISTURBANCE FOILS RED FIRE PLANS.

Twenty-Nine of 30 Y. M. C. A. Lads Reach Summit in Rain and Sleet—Some 'Hike' Home.

MARMOT, Or., July 22.—(Special.)—Twenty-nine of the 30 Y. M. C. A. mountain climbers who left Portland last week succeeded in reaching the summit of Mount Hood yesterday. The party left the timber line at 4:30 A. M. and reached the top of the mountain at 3:30 P. M.

"Just as we reached the summit rain and sleet began to fall and the storm was so bad that we could remain only a few minutes. For this reason we could not stay to illuminate the mountain at night, as we had planned," said A. M. Griley, who headed the party.

"We arrived at our camp at the timber line at 7 o'clock Monday night, and every one of the party withstood the trip well. It has been a fine outing for all the boys."

Some of the young men left Portland today in automobiles. Ten of the party will walk the entire distance to this city, beginning their hike tomorrow. A heavy thunder storm raged on Mount Hood today.

SALEM HOLDS "DAISY DAY"

Thousands of Blossoms From State Institutions Distributed.

SALEM, Or., July 22.—(Special.)—This was "Daisy Day" in Oregon's capital. Two wagon loads of choicest blossoms grown at the Penitentiary and Insane Asylum were brought to the Statehouse, and after all the offices, officials and employes had been supplied, there were still many daisies on hand. Bouquets were sent to the city hospitals, city and county jails and courthouses, and still there were flowers.

When it became known down town that daisies were being given away at the Statehouse, scores of lovers of flowers went to the Capitol and received bouquets. No one was disappointed.

Fields from which the flowers were cut still contain thousands of blossoms and more will be brought to the city next week for distribution.

"WOOL" IS MOSTLY COTTON

Sixth-Street Merchant Fined for Wrongful Advertising.

"Pure wool socks," said the sign in the window of Nathan Blalvin, dealer in men's furnishings, at 64 North Sixth street.

"Seventy-five per cent cotton" was the result of the analysis of the hosiery in question submitted as evidence in Circuit Court.

"Ten dollars" fine," said Judge Morron yesterday.

The case against Blalvin was brought last December by the law and ethics committee of the Portland Ad Club under the state law against fraudulent advertising.

This makes the fifth conviction in such cases recently. Two were secured under the new city ordinance.

BONDS TO BE SOLD AS TEST

City Will Buy \$50,000 Worth of Its Own Water Paper August 13.

An ordinance will be passed by the City Commission today setting August 13 as the date for the sale of \$50,000 worth of 25-year 4 per cent water bonds, the money to be used for water main extensions. The city will bid in all the bonds from money in the bonded indebtedness sinking fund.

The issue will be used to test the question of whether the city has the right, under the new charter, to sell water bonds. It is probable a case will be brought in the courts to determine the validity of the bonds. There is a question whether the water bonds can be sold unless the people vote for the issuance and sale of the bonds in some specified amount.

CITY AUTOS TO BE GUARDED

Commission to Put Stop to Joy Riding by Employes.

Joy riding in city automobiles is to be put under the ban by the City Commission by the establishment of a municipal garage and an automobile reporting system. Complaint has reached Commissioner Daly that several of the city's cars are being used for joy riding at night, and that the city pays the bills for gasoline used and for repairs.

When the municipal garage is established, an attendant will record the time the automobile is turned in and the time it is taken out. A report of the hours will be sent to the Commissioners daily. Automobiles being taken out after night will have to be accounted for by the employes having charge of the cars.

PEDESTRIANS TO USE SPAN

Burnside Bridge Opens During Day for Footmen Only.

The Burnside bridge was thrown open to the use of pedestrians yesterday, much to the relief of business men and others. The bridge will be kept open for the use of pedestrians during the day, but will be closed at night.

There is considerable work yet to be done before the job is finished. The approach is nearing completion, and the new tracks for the streetcars are being laid out to the first span. It is thought that it will be two weeks at the least before streetcars and general traffic can use the bridge.

FIFTY MEET DEATH IN FACTORY FIRE

Women and Girls Are Trapped by Flames.

FORTY ESCAPE BY JUMPING

Binghamton, N. Y., Building Is Furnace in Few Minutes.

CATASTROPHE IS SUDDEN

Cause Said to Be Cigarette Thrown Under Stairway—Rush of Blaze Too Swift for Occupants of Tinder-Like Structure to Flee.

BINGHAMTON, N. Y., July 22.—Fifty persons were killed, according to late estimates, and many injured, a dozen mortally, in a fire which swept the four-story factory building of the Binghamton Clothing Company this afternoon. The victims chiefly were women and girls.

At midnight 26 bodies had been recovered. In the city hospital and in private institutions are 30 injured. Some two score persons are known to have escaped as by a miracle from the building, which burst into flames like a tinder box and became a roaring furnace almost immediately after the first alarm was sounded.

About 125 persons were in the factory when the fire broke out. Those unaccounted for or most of them are believed still to be in the red-hot ruins of the structure.

Searchlights Turned on Fire.

Around the scene of the fire district, the greatest the city has ever known, thousands watched the workers in the glare of the big searchlights, many in the throng being restrained only by the closely-drawn police from rushing into the ruins to seek the bodies of relatives or friends.

Water in many streams is being poured into the fiery pit that a few hours ago was the cellar of the burned establishment. As the coals were cooled slightly from time to time a spot upon which the streams were centered, men went forward to dig as long as human endurance would allow them to work. Occasionally a body was found and taken quickly away. This work will go on all night and perhaps all day tomorrow before the glowing mass gives up its last dead. It will take at least two days, the authorities believe, before the cellar can be cleared, and the whole truth be known.

Fire Swift and Sudden.

The big outstanding fact of the catastrophe is its suddenness. In the tragedy the killing burst of flame followed quickly on the heels of the alarm. There was small opportunity for anyone to use the ordinary or even the emergency means of escape. Fire drills had been carried on regularly, so frequently in fact that the employes had found them monotonous.

The building was equipped with fire escapes and an automatic alarm system. The alarm rang at 2:30 o'clock. The firemen who arrived first were unable to do anything. The first puff of flame was hardly discerned before the fire leaped along the staircases and walls, up the elevator shaft, along the floors and ceilings. There was a roar, then in front and rear flames belched forth—clear across Wall street on which the building fronted, withering the shade trees on the river bank and scorching the building across an alley at the rear.

Girls Cluster on Ladders.

After this the fire seemed to burst from every part of the building at once. Girls and women clustered on the iron ladders but the flames were too quick for them.

When the firemen arrived they were unable to get within 200 feet of the burning building and the ends of the streams from their hose were turned into steam without effect on the fire. The life nets and extension ladders of the firemen were equally useless. There was no chance for those caught on the upper floors except as the last resort to jump and this many took, while others fell, shriveled and crumpled with the heat.

Scarcely one of the survivors was able to give a connected account of what took place on the upper floors of the factory when the employes there, mostly women and girls, realized that the fire call was no false alarm and that death was sweeping upon them. The coolest among them recalled that women fainted by dozens and that the scene was of indescribable confusion.

Men Strive to Save Women.

Some of the men employes apparently (Concluded on Page 2.)

MEMBERS OF THE FIRST INDUSTRIAL WELFARE CONFERENCE CALLED IN THE UNITED STATES UNDER A COMPULSORY MINIMUM WAGE LAW



Sitting, left to right, Secretary and Members of Industrial Welfare Commission—Miss Caroline Glesson, Secretary; Amedee B. Smith, Commissioner and Chairman of First Commission, called for Women Mercantile Employes; Miss Bertha Moore, Commissioner; Rev. Father Edward V. O'Hara, Chairman of Commission; Standing, left to right, Representatives of Employes, Employers and Public in Conference—Thomas Roberts, Sr., Department Store Head, for Employers; Miss Ruth Catlin, President Professional Women's Club, for Public; Miss Kate Trevett, Secretary Consumers' League, for Public; Miss Helen Dinneen, Department Store Clerk, for Employers; William F. Woodward, Druggist, for Employers; J. N. Lipman, Department Store Head, for Employers; Thomas D. Hoeyman, Hardware Merchant, for Public; Mrs. J. W. Mackey, Former Department Store Clerk, for Employers; Miss Gladys Rogers, Drug Store Clerk, for Employers.