COMPENSATION ACT HAS MANY CHANGES

All Employers Not Declining to Operate Under Law Are Included.

RATES ARE RECLASSIFIED

Most Serious Objections to Present Act Removed by Arranging That Charges May Be Fixed in Accord With Hazards.

Several important changes to the workmen's compensation act are provided by the Schuebel bill, which caused the deadlock between the House and Senate before it was passed in the closing days of the Legislature and which was signed yesterday by Governor Withycombe.

Employers who are operating under the law now and who propose to operate under it in its amended form are studying the measure so that they can adjust their affairs to meet its various provisions.

Under the Schuebel amendment all employers, unless they notify the commission, will be considered to be operating under the law and will be assessed accordingly.

One of the most important changes is that providing for a reclassification of industries and fixing the rates on a basis proportionate with the hazards.

Prevention Principle Recognized.

The accident prevention principle is recognized by two separate provisions—one a reward for absence of accidents and the other a punishment for failure to install safety appliances.

Whenever, in a period of 12 months, the total amount paid out of the industrial accident fund to the workmen of any one employer shall not exceed 50 per cent of the amount paid in by that particular employer, the rate of assessment against that employer will be reduced 10 per cent. A similar reduction is provided if the amount paid out in the next succeeding year does not exceed 50 per cent of the amount paid in. But the regular rates are to be restored as soon as the total amount paid out to the employes of any one plant in one year exceeds 50 per cent of the money paid in.

Section 25 of the present law is eliminated. This section gives injured workmen the privilege of bringing civil action against the employer whenever it is shown, by official investigation, that accident was due to the failure of the employer to install or maintain such safety appliances as the statutes require.

Prosecution Is Ordered.

A new section 25 has been inserted by the Schuebel bill. It reads as follows: "It shall be the duty of the Industrial Accident Commission to investigate all cases where they have reason to believe that the employers have failed to install or maintain any safety appliances required by statute, and in all cases of failure on the part of any employer to comply with such safety statute to report the facts to the Prosecuting Attorney for the district and request the prosecution of the offending employer."

The new rate schedules, however, were the subject of close scrutiny by every member of the Legislature and attracted statewide attention from employers and employes alike.

The rates are applied on the total monthly payroll and are fixed in the following percentages:

Subaqueous work, fire escapes, house moving, house wrecking, construction of steeples, metal smokestacks, structural iron and steel work, operation of powder plants and fireworks factories, .080.

Construction of tunnels, trestles, bridges, pile driving, jetties, breakwaters, .065.

Sewers, shaft sinking, ditches, canals, freight and passenger elevators, .060.

Many Rated at 5 Per Cent.

Construction of electric light or power plants, telegraph or telephone systems, steam or electric railroads, water works systems, concrete buildings, galvanized iron or tinwork with scaffold, marble, stone or brick work with scaffold, gas works and shipbuilding; operation of logging railroads, wood saws, stevedoring, longshoring, tin or metal stamping machines, .050.

Construction of steam heating plants, advertising signs, ornamental metal work or metal ceilings in buildings, carpenter work not otherwise specified, ship rigging or grain elevators, or operation of electric light or power plants, interurban electric railroads, stone quaries and mines other than coal, .040.

Construction of street railways without blasting, installation of steam boilers or engines, installation of dynamos, automatic sprinklers and other machinery, operation of logging camps with or without machinery, operation of coal mines, saw mills, shingle mills and lath mills, .035.

Construction of street or other grading, road making, concrete foundations, asphalt laying, operation of docks, steamboats, tugs, ferries, dredges, smelters, creosting and wood treating plants, .030.

Furniture factories and all other woodenware plants, .275.

Operation of telegraph and telephone systems, boiler works, paper or pulp mills, .025.

Foundries, .0225.

Street Railway Rate 2 Per Cent.

Operating packing houses and stockyards, street railways, garbage works, gun works, water works, steam heating or power plants, grain elevators or grain warehouses, flour mills, gravel, sand or coal bunkers, canneries of all kinds, soap factories, briquette factories, machine shops, marble shops and factories not otherwise specified, .020.

Operating terra cotta, brick and other earthenware factories, bottling works, breweries, paint factories, .015.

Working in foodstuffs, in wool, cloth, leather, brooms brushes, paper, cordage, jewelry, laundries and in textiles not otherwise specified, .010.

Working in condensing factories and creameries, .0075.

Printing, electrotyping, photo engraving and lithographing, .0050.

Under the present law there are only two classifications—one paying 3 per cent and the other one and one half per cent. This has been one of the principle sources of dissatisfaction.

Cost Is One Cent a Day.

Under the present law the employe is taxed in proportion to his salary. The amendment taxes the employe one cent per day for each day he works and the employer is authorized to withhold this sum from the employe.

Many of those employers who collect hospital fees from their employes absorb the employe's share of the fees from the hospital fund, so the working men actually bear no additional cost.

Originally the bill provided a waiting period, but this was eliminated on request of the employers themselves.

Representative Schuebel introduced his bill in the House on January 25. It was passed by the House on February 2 with a vote of 55 to 2.

The Senate passed the bill February 17 with an amendment providing that the commission which administers the compensation law be reduced from three members to one member. An emergency clause also was attached. The House unanimously refused to concur in the amendments. A conference committee was named, but it failed to reach an agreement.

It was not until after midnight on Saturday that the Senate yielded and passed the bill in substantially the same form as Representative Schuebel introduced it.

The new rates will become effective July 1.

CASE HANGS ON BOY'S AGE

Convicted Burglar to Go to Juvenile Court if He Is Less Than 18.

Stephen Spitulsky, who is held in the County Jail because there is no state institution to which he can be committed legally, will be turned over to the Juvenile Court when a showing is made that he is under 18 years of age, according to an announcement by Circuit Judge Davis yesterday. Hearing of a petition for a writ of habeas corpus will be postponed until the Juvenile Court decides on his case.

Spitulsky was convicted in Circuit Court of burglary and was sentenced to one to two and one-half years in the penitentiary. Eighteen years is the age limit for prisoners in the penitentiary, and 18 years is the maximum limit for the State Industrial School. Authorities have been in a quandry where to send Spitulsky.

NEW LAW'S EFFECT ON TAXES PUZZLES

Officials Announce They Have No Authority Except to Proceed Under Old Act.

ONE STATEMENT MISLEADS

Point of Issue Is Whether Legislation Not in Effect Yet Can Be Applied to Collections Which Are Being Made Now.

How will the Legislature's action on tax laws affect the present collection of taxes?

This is a question which is puzzling Tax Collector Huckabay, County Treasurer Lewis and all the other local officials who are interested in the matter. Publication in a local evening paper of an article to the effect that the second payment of taxes is not due until October 5 has inconvenienced the tax department greatly, resulting in a flood of inquiry about the making of half payments.

"Officially we have not been advised what the Legislature has done, nor have we any advice that will cause us in any way to change our present method of collections," said Mr. Huckabay yesterday.

"We are advised that a bill was passed providing for half-payments, and changing the dates on which taxes become delinquent, but this bill cannot become a law for nearly 90 days. We are collecting taxes on the 1914 tax roll now, and I don't see how any future law can affect our present collections."

Announcement Declared Misleading.

"The evening paper's story was misleading," said County Treasurer Lewis. "It has resulted in no end of telephone calls and inquiries, and we can give the public no advice on the subject, for we ourselves have not been advised."

Cashier McCoy said there had been few half-payments of taxes so far in the collecting season, and that no large taxpayer had tried to make half-payments as yet.

Until advised differently, Mr. Huckabay said, the department will make all collections under the provisions of the present law, which is printed concisely on the back of the statements. All taxes unpaid after March 31 will be penalized 1 per cent, and 1 per cent will be added for each month that the taxes remain unpaid, until they become delinquent September 1.

The Legislature's action changes the date of delinquency to October 1, and this probably will affect this year's taxes in this way. One measure passed by the Legislature forbids the charging of any penalty on second-payment taxes for 1914 and 1915 before October 1. This is the bill which at present puzzles the tax officials, and on which they will seek the advice of District Attorney Evans.

Retroactive Feature Puzzles.

There is declared to be some question whether a retroactive measure of this sort is constitutional. Under the present law the tax collectors must collect a penalty on all taxes unpaid after March 31. The new laws will not become effective until some time in May. When they do become effective, their provisions will render void some of the past actions of the tax collectors under the old law.

One other bill serves to complicate the situation further. When the new laws take effect, 90 days after the adjournment of the late legislative session, the Sheriff will become tax collector instead of the County Treasurer. This will necessitate a complete turning over of all the tax books and rolls. Troubles that may result from the new rules of collections will fall thereafter on the Sheriff's shoulders.

"We are seeking legal light on the subject," said Mr. Huckabay. "By the last of the week we may be able to give satisfactory answers to the numerous questions that are coming in. Until we are advised, though, we are completely up in the air as far as the new laws go."

Collections are slower this year than last, and requests for statements are not as early as they should be. Yesterday was the 18th day of the collecting season. At the close of business, $333,401.23 had been collected, as against $506,346.95 in the same period last year. Receipts issued this year were 6560, against 7842 last year.

"We are anxious that people come in and get their statements as early as possible, even if they do not pay their taxes right away," said Mr. Huckabay. "This will save us from a great deal of the rush during the month of March."

A dispatch from Salem last night said that in accordance with the act correcting the present law, there will be no penalty on second half taxes if the first half are paid promptly. The State Tax Commission suggests, according to the dispatch, that the first half payments be made before April 1, the curative law becoming effective in time to preclude penalties on the second half.

Washburn Peabody, the oldest man in Dixmont, Me., had the honor of being the first at the polls to cast his ballot election day. Mr. Peabody is now past 91 and has cast his ballot at every September and November election since he came of age, his first vote for Governor being for Hastings, and for a President, James K. Polk.

VAUDEVILLE DEBUT OF PORTLAND DANCERS REMARKABLE SUCCESS.

HARRIETTE HARLOW AND HAROLD GRADY.

For an act making its first appearance in the professional calcium to "stop the show," the object point of all performers' desires, is a thing that happens but about once in the average lifetime.

Yet this is just what Harold Grady and Harriette Harlow, Portland's young society dancers, did at Pantages when they made their debut Monday afternoon.

Men and women steeled to disappointments and joys that come with the theatrical life looked on with wonder from the crevices behind the scenes, while a house filled to the doors hammered forth an approval that fairy rent the building.

Both the young performers are Portland folk and this week marks their first appearance on any stage. Manager Johnson was attracted by their work at a private performance and booked them for a week. So successful have they been that Manager Johnson will send them over the Pantages circuit as one of the feature attractions.

STEAM IS CHECK TO FIRE

Dye Works Employes Use Boiler to Keep Flames From Explosives.

Through the quick wit of employes of the Model Dry Cleaning & Dyeing Works at 929-931 Union avenue North, serious damage was averted in a fire which swept the front part of the establishment at 2:30 yesterday. The gauge was broken from the boiler when the fire was discovered creeping into the room where benzine and other highly inflammable and explosive liquids were being used. The fire was smothered by the live steam. When the firemen arrived all that was necessary was to extinguish the blaze in a portion of the building.

Though the machinery-room was saved by a fireproof door and the gallons of benzine stored in tanks in the basement were not reached by the flames, the remainder of the building was gutted. Two 10-horsepower dynamos and 20 suits of clothes were ruined, the total damage being estimated at $2000, fully covered by insurance.

SUSSEX HAS ONE PRISONER

Judge Davis Finds Native County's Captive Is Lonesome.

Circuit Judge Davis, who has charge of the criminal department, did not get his criminal experience in his home town. Yesterday he exhibited to court attaches the following article, from the State Register, published at Laurel, Delaware, his native city:

"Elwood Armstrong, the only prisoner confined in the Sussex County Jail, has served notice on Sheriff West that unless another prisoner is found to keep him company, he is going to leave. Armstrong complains that he is afraid to spend the nights alone in his cell and that he becomes lonely during the long Winter evenings with no one for a companion. This is the first time in several years that only one prisoner has been confined in the jail."

Sussex County, Delaware, has a population of 65,000.

TO BEAT BOY COSTS $15

Beaver Pitcher Fined but Witnesses Are Censured by Judge.

Found guilty of beating the small son of Mrs. L. Murphy, Frank Eastley, Beaver pitcher, who was on the eve of leaving for his training camp in the south, was fined $15 by Municipal Judge Stevenson yesterday. Before levying the fine, however, the court censured the witnesses in the case, all of whom showed a factional spirit which led to continual neighborhood wars.

"If mothers had better control over their children they would find things much more peaceful among the boys of the neighborhood," said Judge Stevenson.

FESTIVAL POSTER SEEN

GOVERNORS FOR 1915 FETE VIEW PUBLICITY FILM.

Audience at National Is Loud in Applause for Unannounced Feature. Display Cards Are Ready.

Governors of the 1915 Rose Festival last night saw this year's poster, the work of Fred G. Cooper, in motion pictures. At the conclusion of the regular weekly meeting the directors went to the National Theater, where Melvin G. Winstock attached the film showing the poster to one of the regular features. Its appearance on the screen was unannounced, but brought applause from the theater patrons.

Miriam Schiller, a Portland girl, 5 years of age, stands by the poster, and first pointing to the slogan "The Whole World Knows the Portland Rose," she drops her hand to the festival dates, and, turning, smiles directly into the lens of the camera, which produces the effect of looking directly at the theater audience.

This is one of the methods to be used in getting the festival dates before the people of the city and state. Copies of the film will be presented to the managers of Portland motion picture and vaudeville theaters by the publicity department of the Rose Festival Association instead of the usual colored slide. The Motion Picture Exhibitors' League is working in co-operation with the festival directors and Edwin F. James, manager of the Majestic Theater and president of the league, has named a special committee on city beautiful and Rose Festival publicity.

A positive print from the negative will be forwarded to the Oregon building at San Francisco, where it will be attached to the 1914 Rose Festival pagade pictures now being displayed to attract attention to this year's carnival.

More than 25 copies of the negative will be used in this special line of publicity work. Window cards in three colors, showing the poster design, as well as streetcar cards, are off the press and will be distributed at once.

ELECTRIC CODE TIED UP

MR. BIGELOW BLOCKS FINAL PASSAGE WITH EMERGENCY CLAUSE.

Opposition to Rushing Measure Is Based on Its Importance to Owners of Property.

Commissioner Bigelow blocked the final passage yesterday of the proposed new electrical code with an emergency clause, making it effective immediately. Mr. Bigelow declared that such a measure should not be enacted in such a manner as to preclude the invocation of the referendum. He declared that, as it is of much importance to home owners of the city, he is opposed to it being rushed through.

Enactment of the measure has been urged by Commissioner Dieck in spite of the fact that City Attorney La Roche has written an opinion to the effect that certain parts of it may be illegal. Mr. La Roche says there is a question about the legality of a provision requiring the registration of all workmen and permitting the issuance of wiring permits only when the work is to be done under the control of a person registered as a supervising electrician.

The measure would require all wiring, except that done by a property owner personally on his own premises, to be under the direction of a supervising electrician. It would prohibit a property owner from engaging any person to assist him. All contractors, whether individuals or firm, would be required under the ordinance to pay an annual license fee of $25.