

MANY ASK DATA ON COMPENSATION ACT

Employers in All Manner of Lines Wonder if It Affects Them.

COPIES ARE REQUESTED

Commission Receives Inquiries From Various States, Porto Rico and British Columbia—Few Workmen Write.

SALEM, Or., Nov. 22.—(Special.)—The Oregon State Industrial Accident Commission, composed of Harvey Beckwith, ex-president of the Portland Commercial Club, C. D. Bessock, a former newspaper man, and William A. Marshall, a member of the Portland Typographical Union, and one of the leading union men of the Northwest, has received numerous letters regarding the operation of the workmen's compensation act, which was approved by the people at the recently held election. While the Supreme Court has held that the compensation and contributory features of the law will not become effective until July 1 next year, the Commission will be busy until that time familiarizing themselves with the details of the act and conducting an educational campaign among the employers and employes.

The following statement was made by the Commission today:

The first letter to be received by the Commission was from the proprietor of a lumber-yard and furniture store in one of the Oregon counties, who stated that he favored the new workmen's compensation law and desired to become subject to its provisions.

Law is Optional.

"The new Oregon's compensation law, recently approved by the people at the special election, was drafted with reference to the occupations recognized as peculiarly hazardous. While the law is an optional one, employers and workmen engaged in the hazardous occupations named in the act become subject to it on July 1, 1914, unless the employer has served upon the Commission notice to the effect that he elects to contribute to the industrial accident fund, or the workman notifies his employer to the same effect.

On the other hand, employers and workmen engaged in occupations not specifically defined in the act may become subject to the law by filing with the Commission written notice to that effect.

Until the provisions of the law in this respect are made effective, it will be a question with some employers and their workmen whether they become subject to the law automatically on a certain date if they take no action, as in the hazardous occupations named in the law, or whether their particular occupation is one requiring affirmative action on their part before becoming subject to its provisions.

Many Make Inquiries.

"This uncertainty has been experienced in Oregon as in other states where elective compensation laws have been enacted. Questions in this connection have been asked regarding the law, one correspondent made inquiry as to whether window-cleaners and janitors come within the scope of the act. Another inquired as to the status of a boarding contractor, while several asked as to the classification of stump-pullers and operators of donkey engines used in clearing and grading land.

Under the Illinois law, it is said the letters of inquiry have been received from trustees of cemetery associations, proprietors of swimming pools. In the several weeks since the special election the correspondence of the Oregon Commission has included letters with reference to the hazardous occupations of banking, brewing, and pig raising; coal, coal, manufacturers of coin-making machines and macaroni, and even house-movers and real estate brokers occasionally have inquired as to certain phases of the law.

Among the questions arising were those of interstate commerce, or whether a small motor used for polishing jewelry should be classed as power-driven machinery; what provision must be made for first aid to injured workmen, or whether the workmen are subject to the Oregon act or to the admiralty law.

Copies of Law Asked.

"Interesting, too, were the requests for copies of the law from different states of the Union and from the Employers' Liability Commission of San Juan, Porto Rico. Manufacturers' associations and labor organizations in different states, and in Rosland, B. C., also desired information.

Encouraging to the supporters of the new compensation act are the many letters received favoring the new law. Employers in some cases stated they would willingly pay more for their present liability insurance rates because they are convinced that under the compensation law a larger proportion of the cost of an accident would be borne by the injured workman than is now the case, and that all workmen will be compensated rather than a portion only, as under the present system.

Other employers who expect to accept the provisions of the act are planning to have it expire on the first of July of next year.

Many Ask About Benefits.

"In many instances employers stated that they had heard only the arguments of those opposed to the new law and desired at the first opportunity to learn what benefits will result from an acceptance of its provisions.

Even Japanese merchants and Chinese proprietors of hopyards evidence their interest in the new legislation. One such writer, referring to the number given to the bill, at the time it was introduced in the House, described the act as 'hop' and another employer desired to know 'the requirements enacted from me as an employer.'

So far the letters have been received from but few workmen and it is believed that when the law becomes operative next July very few employes will be found to be opposed to the new system. In Illinois, of more than 1,000,000 workmen affected by the compensation law, only 614 registered their objections to its provisions."

GRADES TO BE CHANGED

Hemlock and Fir Discussed by Lumbermen at Tacoma.

TACOMA, Wash., Nov. 22.—(Special.)—The West Coast Lumber Manufacturers' Association at its monthly meeting Friday devoted much of its attention to hemlock and fir grading rules. It developed that some of the Oregon mills had been causing trouble by specializing in hemlock common diameter, which they sold cheaper than fir. Other mill men explained that they had been in the habit of mixing the two woods as they came from the mill. The association adopted a rule that grading standards be amended to include hemlock in a percentage optional with the mills and their customers, so far as concerns two-by-fours and two-by-sixes.

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Plea for Interview Wins After Board Refuses to Grant Parole.

GOVERNOR TO AID APPEAL

Promise Is Made at Hearing to Become Surety on Bond—Industrial Workers Do Not Try to Force Release.

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The board, however, denied a parole, after a session of almost two hours, in which a committee of four, headed by Mrs. Jean Bennett, a sympathizer with the industrial workers of the world, of Portland, pleaded that the girl be released.

No attempt was made by the Industrial Workers of the World to free the girl today by force, as was intimated by the committee which met at the school and upon the Governor yesterday afternoon.

West to Provide Appeal Bond.

Mrs. Bennett declared that she would appeal from the decision of the court in Portland which committed the girl to the school on a charge of vagrancy. Governor West said he would become surety of the appeal bond, and it is evident that a further fight will be made in the courts.

Various rumors of scores of Industrial Workers of the World being in the city today were untrue, and there was no semblance of disorder.

At the close of the conference Mrs. Thompson threw her arms about the neck of Mrs. Lola S. Galbreath, superintendent of the Municipal Bureau for the Protection of Women in Portland and chairman of the advisory board of the State Industrial School for Girls, and begged that she be allowed to see her daughter. Mrs. Baldwin comforted the woman, and it was after that the board decided she could see the girl.

Mrs. Bennett Barred.

Mrs. Bennett asked that she be allowed to go to the school with the mother, but the board denied the request. Instead she was accompanied by Secretary Goodin, of the board, and Mrs. Baldwin.

Mrs. Bennett insisted that she be allowed to go with Mrs. Thompson to protect her from the "gunmen" whom the Governor had stationed there. Governor West denied this, and she finally left the school and the "gunmen" there. Mrs. Bennett said she told her yesterday that he had sent gunmen to the institution. The Governor said he had sent a guard from the penitentiary to the school after the committee had threatened to bring a "bunch" of persons here to free the girl.

Mrs. Bennett, F. E. Huls and L. D. Ransley, members of the committee, said that the girl had been "railroaded" into the school and that the governor was a fit person to be her custodian.

Mrs. Baldwin said that the girl had been held in jail at Vancouver after she had left a private home in Portland with a soldier. She declared that the Chief of Police of Vancouver had taken much interest in the case and made a determined effort to capture the soldier. When released, after serving a sentence of 13 days, the chief had left a private home in Portland and had been arrested there.

C. B. Aitchison, member of the State Railway Commission, testified that the girl had been employed at his home two years. He said she left there the morning of the day she became of age.

The girl was romantically inclined, and the country should not be forced to read the sensational books she purchased, she continued to read them.

RESTITUTION IS OFFERED

INDICTED DIRECTORS WILLING TO RETURN \$704,000.

"Lucky" Baldwin's Daughter Blocks Part of Plan to Rehabilitate \$20,000,000 Investment Concern.

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 22.—An offer to return 706,000 shares of Los Angeles Investment Company stock, which at today's stock market quotations was valued at \$704,000, was made today to the new directors of the corporation by Charles A. Elder, ex-president, and co-officers and directors now under a Federal indictment charging them with having used the mails to defraud.

The plan was made at a meeting of the new directors with D. A. Ham-burger, the new president, in the chair. Elder said the ex-directors would relinquish everything they possessed in an effort to save the 20,000 stockholders of the \$20,000,000 corporation from financial loss.

One of the plans of the new officers to bring the affairs of the corporation out of financial chaos was frustrated today by the announcement that Mrs. Anita Baldwin MacIntyre, daughter of the late E. J. (Lucky) Baldwin, declined to permit the abrogation of a contract by which the company was to buy La Cienega rancho, a property of 1300 acres devised by her father to herself and her sister, Mrs. Clara Baldwin Stocker.

FRENCH MINERS STRIKE

FIFTH OF 200,000 IN DOUAI DISTRICT REFUSE TO WORK.

Owners Declare Coal Required for Country Cannot Be Mined With Eight-Hour Day.

DOUAI, France, Nov. 22.—About 40,000 of the 200,000 coalminers in this district have struck work and refuse to re-enter the mines until their demand for an eight-hour day has been granted. The movement is spreading rapidly.

A committee of miners requested the Association of Mine Proprietors today to appoint delegates to discuss the subjects at issue with the men. The request was refused because the proprietors asserted a bill fixing an eight-hour day for workmen is pending before the French Parliament and may be passed by the end of the month. The proprietors say it is useless to discuss the matter. In the meantime 5000 miners are daily joining the ranks of the strikers.

The proprietors assert that under an eight-hour working day it will be impossible to mine the coal required for France, as, owing to the recently introduced three years' term of service in the army, there are fewer miners than has hitherto been the case, and therefore the men must work overtime. Order has been maintained except at Lens, where county constabulary were stationed by the strikers when they endeavored to protect miners who were willing to go down the pits.

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'99 KIDNAPING CLEAR

After 14 Years South Bend Boy Hears of Mother.

STORY READS LIKE NOVEL

Lad Snatched From Mother's Arms Well Cared For Time but Put Into Training School by Ruse. Will Return to Home Now.

SOUTH BEND, Wash., Nov. 22.—(Special.)—Snatched from the arms of his mother when 6 years old, kidnaped by a man named Hurley, supposedly his father, spirited away in a buggy under fire of peace officers, driven all night, finally waking up in Chicago, and after 14 years of separation from his mother, and abandoned five years ago by his kidnaper, John James Hurley, aged 30, now employed as an assistant baker in the South Bend Baking Company's plant, will start back to his childhood home in Punxsutawney, Pa., within ten days to meet mother, brothers and sisters, and to learn from his mother's lips who he really is and what is his right name.

The story told by this young man reads like a novel. In '04 years that he has been separated from his blood relatives in Punxsutawney he has traveled the length of the continent, received a good religious and school education at Catholic boys' schools in three or four states of the East and West, and upon abandonment five years ago was placed in the State Training School at Chesham by some ruse of his kidnaper.

Back in Punxsutawney 14 years ago domestic quarrels made him the bone of contention and led to his sensational kidnaping.

On October 15, this year, young Hurley became restless under the strain of so many years' speculation as to who he really is. In desperation, he wrote to the Chief of Police of Punxsutawney,

Pa., asking if the Chief remembered the incident of a 4-year-old boy being kidnaped about 14 years ago, and if so if the boy's mother was still alive, her name, address, etc.

After a lapse of several weeks Hurley received a telegram from the Chief that he had found the writer's mother and that her name was now Hughes. Then came a telegram from the mother, hysterical in tone, and letters from his mother and sisters.

Grover Noonan, proprietor of the bakery, has taken a keen interest in the man's case and has kept the wires hot between South Bend and Punxsutawney until he has so well established the relationship of Mrs. Hughes and young Hurley that a ticket is now on the way with money to reunite mother and son.

A letter received late today by the Chesham postmaster from Mrs. Margaret Hughes, of Sagamore, Pa., verifies the boy's story.

Sheepbreeding Aided by Bill.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Nov. 22.—Senator Chamberlain today introduced a bill appropriating \$10,000 to aid the Agricultural Department in importing sheep for breeding purposes. The department desires to aid farmers and rangers in obtaining types most suitable to their particular requirements.

At the Ohio state experiment station, at Wooster, the crops have averaged, for a third year, the usual yield of all grain fields in Ohio.

JOHNSON OBJECTS TO "DREAM-BOOK" CONSERVATIONISTS.

Illustrations of Unfairness of Forest Administration Found in One Washington County.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Nov. 22.—"Conservation of natural resources has come to stay," said Representative Johnson, of Washington, in a speech in the House today, "but the country should not be forced to take it all at once. The present system is the result of the application of the theories of dreambook conservationists."

Johnson criticized severely the manner in which Gifford Pinchot had "ream-rolled" the recent Conservation Congress, practically denying the West any voice in its proceedings, and said that if the organization were attacked no one but Pinchot would be to blame.

"The whole proceeding in the recent Conservation Congress," Johnson continued, "is a sample of what may be expected under increased power of Federal bureaucracy. The voice of the West is like the peep of a canary compared with the Niagara-like roar of the oracle conservationists of the East."

Johnson said the present system of forest administration was unfair to the West, in that the states in which the reserves lie receive practically no recompense from the loss of taxes. In Mason County, Washington, where road construction costs \$12,000 a mile, he said the county's share of the receipts from timber sales in forest reserves was only \$24. He criticized the system which, under the guise of extending valuable aid to the states, was in reality a farce and impracticable.

SHERIFF DEMANDS THAW

Answers Filed in Federal Court by New Hampshire Officer.

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At Morrison and Broadway!

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