

PLOT AGAINST STATE INSURANCE CHARGED

Casualty Companies Declared to Be Busy in Oregon.

RECORD SAID TO WORRY

Commission Holds That It Has Evidence That Concerns Are Trying to Break Down Act.

SALEM, Or., June 11.—(Special.)—Casualty insurance companies operating in Oregon are making the greatest organized drive to break down the workmen's compensation act that has been undertaken since the law went into effect eight years ago, according to charges made in a statement given out by the state industrial accident commission here today.

For this purpose, the insurance companies have sent into Oregon some of the highest paid and most effective organizers and solicitors, and an intense campaign is now being carried on, the statement said.

Information confirming these facts have come to the commission from so many different sources that they are positive of their correctness," continued the statement. "We have also been informed that these companies, if they find it necessary, are prepared to cut insurance rates far below cost to them in order to induce employers to break away from the compensation law in this state, while this temporary law will be made up by profits in other states where the companies have a freer hand.

Companies Have Cause. "There is a reason for the casualty insurance companies centering their attacks on the Oregon compensation law at this time. Oregon is one of the few states which has an exclusive state compensation fund. By this we mean that in Oregon casualty insurance companies are not permitted to write compensation insurance under the compensation law, but instead all employers and employees who come under the compensation law must look to the state accident fund exclusively for their protection.

"Nation-wide attention has been called to the fact that the Oregon compensation law is being administered more effectively, from the standpoint of the promptness in payment of claims and the scope of the service rendered, than any insurance companies in the United States. "This fact was made known as a result of an exhaustive investigation conducted by Carl Hookstadt, compensation expert for the bureau of labor statistics of the United States department of labor. Mr. Hookstadt's report was first given publicity at the San Francisco meeting of the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions last September, and later his report was published in full in the November, 1920, issue of the Monthly Labor Review.

Oregon Far in Lead.

In his report Mr. Hookstadt said: "Probably the fairest and most convincing method of comparing state funds with private carriers would be to compare the best in each class. Let us, then, compare the competitive fund of California and the exclusive fund of Oregon with the Liberty Mutual company of Massachusetts as shown by its own figures. Please bear in mind that the area of Massachusetts is small and the industries compact. Both California and Oregon are large states, and in each state lumbering is one of the principal industries. It takes a longer time to obtain reports and make payments. Under the circumstances one would expect to find much better results in Massachusetts. But what are the facts?

"The percentage of cases in which the first payment had not been made within six weeks are as follows: Liberty Mutual, 29 per cent; Oregon state fund, 18.9 per cent; California state fund, 22.1 per cent. Oregon, in spite of its large area, had a better record and California almost as good as the Liberty Mutual.

Now take the percentage of cases where the first payment had not been made in ten weeks: Liberty Mutual, 63 per cent; the Oregon fund, 3.8 per cent; the California fund, 6.5 per cent. Again Oregon has a much better record and California, equally as good as the Liberty.

Spread Is Feared, View. "There you have a fair test, it seems to me, and it shows that the best state fund has a better record as to promptness of payment than the very best insurance company."

"If there is one thing which a casualty insurance company dislikes more than another, it is a workmen's compensation law which provides for an exclusive state fund as we have in Oregon. So when an investigation conducted by the United States Bureau of Labor statistics reveals that the Oregon state fund is rendering better service than the record of the best insurance company in the country, the casualty companies think it is high time to center their fight on the compensation law in Oregon. It is a pinch that the insurance companies do not want the demand for an exclusive state fund to spread from Oregon to other states which do not have it."

SUICIDE INCREASE ALARMS

NUMBER IN 1920 ESTIMATED AT NOT LESS THAN 12,000.

Divorces, Congested Living Conditions and 18th Amendment Given as Probable Causes.

NEW YORK, June 11.—Divorces, congested living conditions and enactment of the 18th amendment are given as probable causes for the alarming increase in the number of suicides in 1920, according to reports received by officers of the Save-a-Life League with offices in this city. Dr. F. L. Hoffman, statistician of the organization, estimates the number at not less than 12,000. Of these reported cases 707 were children, he said, the boys averaging 15 years, the girls 16.

Rev. Harry Warren, president of the league, also declares that restrictions in sale of narcotic drugs helped to swell the total of unfortunates who died by their own hands.

Dr. Warren cites many trivial causes as the impelling force for suicide. One man was distressed because his new suit did not have enough buttons on the sleeves of the coat. Another man rebelled at eating a lemon pie—his wife had constructed out of turnips and glucose. A youth killed himself because he was asked to eat

DAMAGE SUIT EJECTED

LAWYER FAILS TO CITE AUTHORITY FOR STATEMENT.

Plaintiff, Charging False Arrest, Shown to Have Been Bound Over to Grand Jury.

The suit of Carl Johnson against Louie Tohle, Sarah Tohle and L. H. Mackenzie for \$10,000 damages because of alleged false arrest was thrown out of court by Circuit Judge Belt Friday.

He granted a non-suit when the defense showed that Johnson, who was arrested March 21, 1917, charged with larceny of a certificate of sale, was bound over to the grand jury.

"The fact that he was bound over is evidence of probable cause for the arrest and nothing has been shown to offset this," ruled the judge. No claim of fraud or perjury in the action of Judge Rossmann in holding Johnson to answer to the grand jury was made by the plaintiff.

Boon Cason, attorney for Johnson, protested, saying the fact the man was bound over was not sufficient defense. He said numerous courts had so held.

"Where are your authorities?" queried Judge Belt. "You take me by surprise," responded the lawyer.

"Surprise?" was the incredulous comment of the jurist. "You are supposed to have the authorities to back up your contentions in a case when you come into court. I know of several authorities which hold otherwise and unless you can support your claim by citing others, the non-suit will be granted."

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AGE LIMIT 16 TO 35

CITIZENS WELCOMED AT MILITARY TRAINING CAMPS.

Secretary of War Keenly Interested in Success, Hopes to See Attendance Increase to 150,000.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 11.—Work is being rushed at the Presidio of San Francisco and at Camp Lewis, near Tacoma, Wash., preparing the posts for the 1200 men expected there July 6 to attend for a month citizens' military training camps.

Scores of requests for information regarding the camps have been received at the San Francisco camp recruiting office from many parts of the west. All men between the ages of

16 and 35 may apply for admittance. Secretary of War Weeks, in a letter written to the governing committee of the citizens' military training camps association, which has arranged for the work, has approved the work and urges all young men to attend.

The secretary's letter follows, in part: "I am keenly interested in the future of these camps and hope to see the annual attendance increase from our modest start this year to approximately 150,000, as the training given at these camps will be a distinct national asset, both from a military and commercial viewpoint.

"The strict military training to be conducted will return to civil life men who have been given an understanding of the military profession and of the true meaning of discipline and, above all, of their obligation to the government. This training will develop the young men mentally, morally and physically. It will be of great assistance to the Americanization of our foreign born and will teach good citizenship to all fortunate enough to attend. Should we again be compelled to mobilize our national resources for war, the presence of this large number of partially trained men in civil life will be of enormous value in building our regular army, national guard and organized reserves to war strength.

"Aside from the question of national defense, the training to be given at these camps will develop the young men along lines that will better fit them to meet the demands of commercial life and thus assist our nation to hold its position as one of the leaders of the world."

Lieutenant-Colonel Elmer W. Clark, infantry, commander of all reserve officers' training corps of Los Angeles high schools, will have charge of the camp here. Colonel J. A. Lynch, infantry, commander of R. O. T. C. units at San Diego high schools, will command the Camp Lewis school.

Indians Quit Trapping.

PRINCE GEORGE, B. C.—The In-

dians of this district, unable to understand the stabilizing process which the fur trade is undergoing, have laid aside their traps and taken up the making.

The frisky martens—of which there is an abundant supply—is left strictly to his own devices, and it is expected that nature will have replaced the heavy kill of the high-price seasons.

Custer's Army Cook Dies.

SITKA, Alaska.—George Gee, Chinese, former army cook, who was one of the few survivors of the Custer massacre, died here recently.

Because of Gee's military services the Sitka post of the American Legion conducted the old Chinaman's funeral. Records show that Gee, after serving the army, was a cook in the navy for years. He came to Alaska several years ago. Gee, telling of the Custer massacre, said he escaped death because the general had detailed him to look after the baggage of the command.



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