

INDUSTRIAL UNREST HEARING IS UNDER WAY IN PORTLAND

Several Witnesses Examined at This Morning's Session in This City.

BETTER CONDITIONS AIM

National Legislation and National Labor Exchanges Are Tentative Proposals Already Made.

The United States Commission on Industrial Relations opened in Portland this morning an inquiry into causes of industrial unrest in the city.

The public hearing will continue today, tomorrow and Saturday. The desire of the government is to become so familiar with the elements of the problems that grow out of discontent and dissatisfaction among working people that solutions may be proposed and applied.

The commission was created by act of congress in 1912. It has power to summon and compel the presence of witnesses competent to testify in matters relating to employment.

National legislation, national labor exchanges, control of private and public employment agencies are tentative proposals already made by the commission in connection with which criticisms and suggestions are asked of witnesses.

Witnesses Are Called.

Professor F. C. Young of the University of Oregon; E. J. Stock, secretary of the Oregon State Federation of Labor; A. H. Averill, president of the Portland chamber of commerce; Isaac Sweet, executive secretary of the Oregon Civic League, testified at this morning's session.

Other witnesses of the day are Attorney Charles E. Carey, Professor A. E. Wood of Reed college, and A. H. Harris, editor of the Labor Press.

As factors in industrial unrest, questions included reference to the minimum wage law, seasonal employment, the effect of organization or lack of organization among workmen, the share of the product of his labor which the workman enjoys, the workmen's compensation law, the attitude of municipal authorities toward free speech, and the influence of agitators as a cause or an evidence of industrial unrest.

More Cooperation Suggested.

Professor Young said that in Oregon there is not enough cooperation between employers and employes in solution of employment problems. It would be a good thing, he suggested, if employers here better recognized the trades unions as an essential factor in industrial development. Conditions are most chaotic in agricultural labor due to seasonal employment. A cause of unrest is that working people do not get a fair share of the product of their labor. Schools should include study of the vital elements of industrial relations. There should be a competent supervisory employment. Labor is greatly in excess of the demand for it here during the winter months due to seasonal employment.

The testimony of C. C. Francis, secretary of the Employers' association, was filed in written form. He had gone to San Francisco.

Remedial Legislation Sought.

E. J. Stock, secretary of the State Federation of Labor, testified that the chief activities of the federation was in securing remedial labor legislation. It has not been the habit of the federation to name candidates for election until the last primaries, when three legislative candidates were selected from organized labor and support of them asked. They were defeated. He ascribed the cause of industrial unrest to long hours, low wages and bad working conditions. He declared it his belief that employers in logging camps and employment agencies are making money on the move, charging them employment and hospital fees, preventing by short employment opportunity for organization. He proposed as a remedy an honest, thorough survey and wide publicity of its findings. Among the proposed laws supported by the State Federation he mentioned the 1500 tax exemption, the abolishing of the senate, and proportional representation. In Portland, he said, free speech and street assembly were denied. The courts dealt harshly with persons arrested in this connection, and there was bitter feeling against police officers and sheriffs who had aided in suppressing free speech.

High Wages Mandated.

Seasonal employment and the agitator were credited by President Averill of the Chamber of Commerce with being chief cause for industrial unrest. There is need, he said, for more money in factories here, but demands for high wages are one of the causes for failure to have more manufacturing here. He mentioned glass, hat, plate casting and wood-working manufacturing as among those that considered locating here, but did not. Demands for high wages, he added, undoubtedly handicap development to a degree. Particularly on the waterfront is this true. Longshoremen here get 65 cents an hour for the discharge of general cargo and 11 an hour for overtime, when on Puget sound the straight time is 45 cents an hour, with 55 cents for overtime. For handling grain longshoremen are paid 55 cents an hour and 11 an hour overtime; on Puget sound 50 cents an hour, and 75 cents for overtime. Wages should be based on efficiency of individual men, said Mr. Averill. Employers and employes each have the right to, and should, organize.

Asked to explain what he meant by saying agitators contribute to industrial unrest, Mr. Averill said: "When the soap box orator damns the government, damns the flag, damns property owners, I consider him a very dangerous agitator."

Mr. Averill said he had not examined into the individual record of any of the agitators of whom he spoke as a class.

Isaac Sweet said that the Oregon Civic League has assumed educational duties in respect to issues of public importance. The League's membership was a gravely serious problem here last year, the league had directed the situation and secured most of the relief. On issues that all were agreed should be supported the league entered the lists as champion. On issues where there was division of opinion the league contented itself with securing and making public the facts.

Five Members Present.

Five of the nine members of the United States commission in Portland are engaged in the hearing in Portland, together with William G. Thompson, counsel for the commission.

Frank P. Walsh, the chairman, is from Kansas City, Mo. He is a lawyer,

MEMBERS OF UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS



Left to right—Frank P. Walsh, chairman of commission; John B. Lennon, Professor John R. Commons, James O'Connell and Austin B. Garretson.

'PROMOTER' OF RECALL WILL NOT BE MADE THE 'GOAT' OF 'INTERESTS'

Understanding, Says Allen, Was That Methods Were to Be "Daylight."

"If the interests back of the movement to recall Mayor Albee and Commissioners Brewster and Dieck do not come out into the open pretty soon they will have to get some one to take my place on the committee of three," said A. C. Allen, who, with M. E. Gibson and C. W. Holt is assuming the responsibility for putting into circulation the latest recall petitions. "It was my understanding," he continued, "that this movement was to be out in the daylight, and the dark lantern methods employed in the other movement, but so far those back of the movement have not come out before the public. I suppose they are waiting until the petitions are circulated."

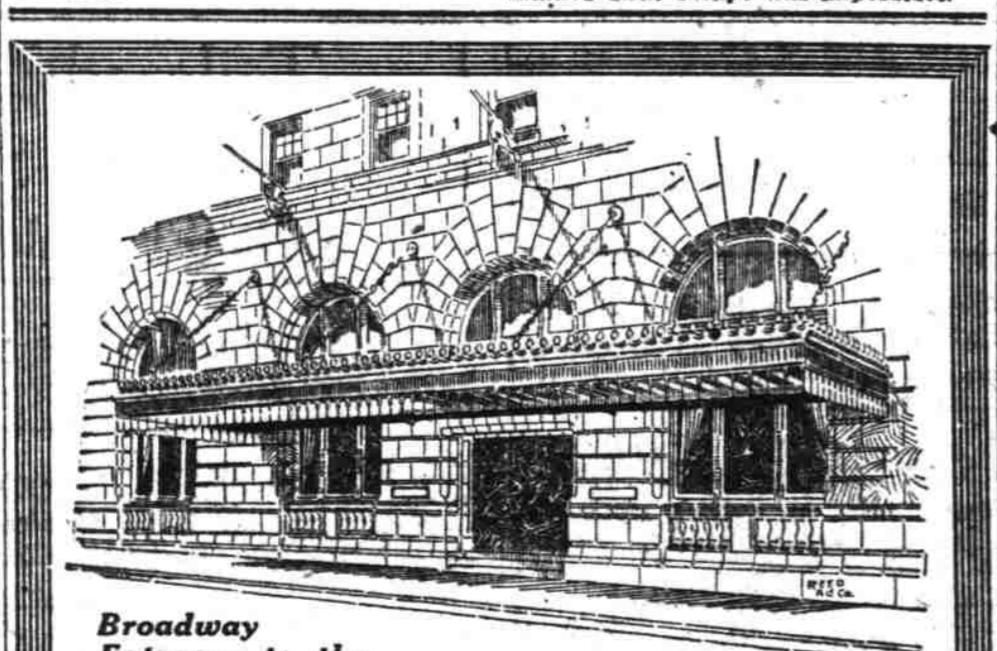
"I have a clean reputation here and I feel I cannot afford to be the 'goat' and get all the publicity connected with the affair. I think if the movement is worthy everybody in favor of it should come out in the open, and if it is not worthy or if the public does not want to recall the officials, then I say let the officials alone, until the next regular election."

While the Allen says his committee is paying no one to circulate petitions, it is explained by Ernest C. Heald, notary public at recall headquarters in the Lumbermen's building, that the paid circulators who are now working are employed by persons who have pledged themselves to turn in a certain number of names for the petition. He says he does not know how many of the paid circulators are at work, but says it has been reported to him that there are a number of them. He says over 100 sets of petitions are out. Mr. Allen said the trouble will be to get candidates to run for the offices. He said so far as he knows candidates have not been selected as yet, although the "interests" back of the movement are expected to come out soon with the names.

Who sacrificed practice and the promise of political preferment to engage in his present work. John R. Commons is professor of economics in the University of Wisconsin. John B. Lennon is treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, and James O'Connell is vice president of this organization. Austin B. Garretson is president of the Order of Railroad Conductors. On the commission the first two named represent the people; the last three, labor. Members of the commission who are not present are Mrs. J. Borden Harrison of New York, Frederick A. Delano of Illinois, Harris Weinstein of California, S. Thurston Ballard of Kentucky.

Alleges Shipments Damaged.

Damages of \$320 to two shipments of cattle are asked by the Portland Feeder company in a suit filed this morning against the Oregon Short Line railroad. The company alleges that 119 head of the first shipment climbed the fences of the stockyard at Burley, Idaho, by means of a gravel pile and that shrinkage caused by chasing them, damage to ram property nearby, the loss of one steer and the cost of rounding them up amounts to \$366. Of the other shipment 227 are alleged to have been kept 103 long in bins without food, causing a shrinkage which amounted to \$304 damages.



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Woodburn Man May Run for Mayor Now

James R. Landon, Whose Election As Mayor Was Contested Last Fall, Is Admitted To Citizenship.

James R. Landon of Woodburn, who last fall was elected mayor of that city and whose election was declared invalid because of non-citizenship, was made a citizen in Judge Wolverton's division of the United States district court today.

Landon, who has spent all but four years of his life in the United States, had always thought he was a citizen, because his father, after bringing the family from Canada, had taken up government land. At Woodburn last fall he was elected mayor by a large majority, but his opponent contested the election on the grounds that Landon was not a citizen.

Judge Kelly in the circuit court of Salem, who heard the case, declared that Landon was not a citizen and so the latter set about making himself one. He qualified easily. Alexander Dranges has spent most of the time since being in the United States in the navy, and he had two naval officers as his witnesses. He was admitted without trouble. Others passing the examination were: John Benson, Norway; August Kultima, Russia; August F. S. W. Becke, Germany; Joseph Hiram Sullivan, Canada; Thomas Roberts, Great Britain; George Harold Bannan, England, and Carl Anderson, Sweden.

Food Prices Now at Practical Standstill

Wheat Up One Cent, Based on Report of Scarcity in Europe—Swiss Cheese Out of Market.

War prices still prevail in the Portland markets today, though there were some advances in the United States last 24 hours. Wheat advanced 1 cent following a cable from Bromhall, grain expert, that great shortages of wheat were reported throughout all Europe, particularly in Russia and Italy, with the United Kingdom the only country that has an increase over last year. An advance in the price of butter has been noted in the last few days, secret bidding throughout the Willamette valley being strong at 18 1/2 cents, according to reports. Before the war began, the market was weak at 13 cents.

The price of sugar remained steady today at 36.50 and the opinion has been expressed that this is as high as the price will go. Eggs of the strictly fresh kind are scarce, but a second grade that passes in many stores as strictly fresh can be bought for 35 cents, with 28 cents quoted for "selected."

Company Replies to Fire Victim Suit

An answer was filed this morning by the Lewis Investment company to the suit of Lewis Balogh, administrator of the estate of Alexander Balogh, for \$7500 damages as the result of Balogh's death in the Northwest Door company's fire June 8. The company alleges that its property, where the Columbia Dock No. 2, was located prior to the fire which destroyed the dock March 12, is separated from the door company's plant by the ferry approach and does not adjoin the dock plant. It also alleges that Balogh was warned in time to escape but negligently remained until escape was impossible.

CANADA IS ACTIVE IN PREPARING TO HELP ENGLAND IN THE WAR

Soldiers Are Drilling Everywhere, Says Chicago Man on Visit.

MUCH EXCITEMENT NOTED

United States Placed in Position to Build Up Formidable Merchant-Marine Is Pointed Out.

"Evidences of the war are to be seen on every hand," said Charles Grand Blanden, business man-poet of Chicago, this morning, speaking of Canada. Mr. Blanden has just come from the east along the line of the Canadian Pacific and is at the Portland hotel with Mrs. Blanden.

"Soldiers are drilling in every city and town and there is an air of suspense and excitement everywhere. Business is bad, however, in the tourist line. The big hotels of Vancouver and Victoria are practically deserted, whereas usually at this season of the year they are packed with Americans and others who make the trip through the Canadian Rockies.

"As far as the United States is concerned I cannot help but feel that the struggle in Europe will do us good, especially as regards our shipping. America has a wonderful opportunity to build up a merchant marine and should seize it, even if the government has to grant subsidies. We lost out about 130 years ago, but the chance has come again to put American shipping on the seas."

Mr. and Mrs. Blanden are making a pleasure journey in the west and will return by way of California and the Grand Canyon. Although Mr. Blanden is primarily a business man, being secretary of the Rialto Trust of Chicago, a corporation which owns a number of Windy City skyscrapers including the Postal Telegraph building, he is also a poet of some note.

Among his published works are "Tancred's Daughter," "A Valley Muse," "A Drift of Song," "An Unremembered God," "A Chorus of Leaves" and "The Upper Trail." He is a frequent contributor to the Chicago Evening Post.

Hearing Is Given Slayer in France

Raoul Villain, Who Assassinated Jean Jaures, Socialist Leader, Denies That He Had Any Accomplices.

Paris, Aug. 20.—Raoul Villain, who assassinated Jean Jaures, the French socialist leader, had a preliminary hearing today. Jaures had betrayed France by his anti-military utterances, he declared. He denied that he had any accomplices. It was expected his mental condition would be investigated.

CAPTURES BIG TARANTULA

Charley Vaughn, who does heavy things down at the Southern Pacific local freight house, is the hero of the

place today because of his successful capture of a gigantic tarantula that was frolicking through a carload of bananas. Vaughn saw the tropical spider creep into the straw on the car floor. Armed with a box, Vaughn

stirred up the straw with a stick, dislodged the venomous creature, and clasped the box over it. The tarantula is now on exhibition in the freight office at Park and Hoyt streets.

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- 62 Dresses, in Crepe, Voile, Gingham and Marquisette, worth \$8.50, on sale Friday, only \$1.00
- 54 Lingerie and Middy Waists, low neck, short sleeves, or high-neck, long sleeves, only 2 to a customer, Friday only \$1.00
- 22 Wash Skirts, also in Voile, Broadcloth, Worsteds and Serges, on sale Friday, only \$1.00
- 45 Summer Hats, good for present wear, to close out, Friday only \$1.00
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