

DEPARTMENT HEADS DIFFER ABOUT SHORT HOURS FOR EMPLOYEES

Some Say Federal Business Should Be Run Carefully as Private Business.

Opinions of heads of government offices and departments in Portland vary as to whether federal employees should work eight hours a day, which is the customary work day for employees in most private enterprises.

Most of the government employees work on a seven-hour day schedule. The condition of employment, in various departments came to light when a statement was published that most of those in the government offices here worked on a schedule of seven hours a day, while the employees in private business nearly all work at least eight hours a day.

As a matter of economy in government expenditures, it was pointed out that a large saving could be made if government employees worked eight hours a day.

Some Work Longer. While some departments have a half hour extra in a day's work in practically all the government offices, Milton A. Miller, collector of internal revenue, L. W. Elliott, internal revenue agent, Captain Edward Edwards, steamboat inspector, Clarence Reames, United States attorney, and John Montag, United States marshal, declare that the work of their departments requires their employees to put in much more than seven hours a day.

On the other hand E. G. North, United States surveyor general for Oregon, says that the government gets only about 60 to 70 per cent of the efficiency that a private employer would get out of an equal number of employees. He says that conditions are different in government offices than in private business, but he sees a change for the better coming in government service.

Push Days Average 12 Hours. Milton A. Miller, collector of internal revenue, says there are push periods during the year when his men are required to work 10 to 15 hours a day. He insists that because of these push periods he has no employees who do not average more than eight hours a day.

The push period comes from the sending out of notices and collection of the income tax, the emergency tax and the tax on narcotics. This period last year began in October and did not end until in July according to the collector.

If the emergency tax law should not be re-enacted by congress and no similar law is enacted it will be materially lessened, says Mr. Miller, and he can make a readjustment of his force of employees accordingly.

He said the employees of the internal revenue agent department should not be charged to his office, but should be listed separately. He said he has 20 employees in his department, and three of these are "pipelined" men whose jobs will cease when the prohibition law becomes effective the first of the year, and another is storekeeper and gauger, whose job also will end with the year, reducing the force to 15. His force has been about doubled since he went into office.

Big Increase in Work. He estimated the work of his office has increased 100 per cent since he went into office, this increase being due to the new revenue laws enacted by congress.

L. W. Elliott is internal revenue agent and he has 17 men in his department. His district covers Oregon, Washington and Alaska. He declares he has no employees who work on a seven-hour basis. While his public office hours are no longer than seven and a half hours a day, the men, most of whom are outside men, actually put in an average of more than 12 hours a day, he says. There is no branch of the government service, he declares, where the men are worked harder than in his department.

"Every man in my department will average eight hours a day for 255 days in the year," he said, "but the inspection service said he thought the new article about the hours of employment in government service was foolish."

"I think government employees should work eight hours a day, but what business is it of yours?" he asked. He said his men worked until they got their work done, whether it was seven or 12 hours.

"We have only one clerk, whose office hours are from 9 to 4, but he works until he gets his work done," he said. The rest of the employees are classified as outside men whose hours may be irregular.

Arthur Merrill, the aforesaid clerk figured up that the five men in that department had put in 2870 hours and 20 minutes overtime during the year ending June 30 on a seven hour day basis this would be equivalent to almost a year and a half overtime in one year for one man.

The official hours for the United States attorney's office are from 8:30 to 5, with an hour off for lunch.

"But the assistant attorneys are here nearly always for at least two hours every night," said Attorney Reames. "This is not compulsory, but it is unusual when a part of the force does not work at night. We work on Saturday afternoons, except during June, July and August when the executive proclamation, civil service employees are given Saturday afternoon off."

Should Not Be Private Snaps. "I believe a man in public office should work a specified number of hours and enough more to get the work done. I believe a person ought to run a public office just like he would run his private office. A public office should not be a private snap."

John Montag, United States marshal, points out that his outside men are subject to duty any time they are called, while his office employees work enough overtime to average fully eight hours a day.

He says when his employees are supposed to have Saturday afternoons off it is usually between 7 and 1 o'clock before the work is finished so they can leave.

"I do not believe that government civil service employees are entitled to any greater privileges in the way of hours of employment than those of private business," said John Montag, chief of the field division of the United States land office.

The work performed by the clerks of my office is similar to that of a large law office and it is my understanding that the hours of employment in such offices are seven and a half hours and under per day.

"When comparison of this kind is made the character of the work and the qualifications of the employee should be considered."

Up to Washington. George H. Marsh, district forester and whose department has the greatest number of employees on a seven hour day basis, said the question of lengthening the hours of work was a matter entirely up to the head of his department at Washington.

"Personally," he said, "I do not believe you will get any more work out of my office in eight hours than you will in seven hours."

T. C. Burke, collector of customs, says the work of his department is so diversified that each employee has a particular work to do, which varies itself throughout the day, so that the work of any one employee could hardly be distributed to the other employees of the office.

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Lighthouse Inspector Robert Warjack says the hours for his office are fixed in Washington and he has nothing to say.

"I make no difference to me if the hours are increased to eight," he said. "I have no doubt if the hours were increased we could get more work done."

Colonel Potter of the corps of United States engineers says he has given the matter no thought and has no opinion as to whether government employees should go on an eight hour work day basis.

"The question of salaries is an important consideration," he said, "and my impression is that those in private life receive more than those employed in public life."

He pointed out that his assistant engineers were really heads of departments and a comparison between public and private business was difficult to make.

Refuses to Talk. Receiver Smith of the United States land office said the question of hours rested with the head of the department at Washington.

George H. Marsh, clerk of the United States district court, refused to discuss the matter for publication.

There are other federal departments in Portland which run on a seven hour work day basis, such as the laboratory of grain standardization, the bureau of geological survey, immigration bureau and others.

The heads of some of the departments interviewed said they understood the hours were fixed by law. The law, which was enacted in 1883, says: "That hereafter it shall be the duty of the heads of the several executive departments, in the interest of the public service, to require of all clerks and other employees, of whatever grade or class, in their respective departments, not less than seven hours of labor each day, except Sundays and days declared public holidays by law or executive order."

"There was a time when the government employees included their lunch period of half an hour within the seven hours, thus working only six and a half hours a day, but that condition has been changed."

Petitions in Circulation. Eugene, Or., Nov. 26.—A large number of the petitions to initiate a bill for the repeal of the Sunday closing law are in circulation in Eugene. Several hundred signatures were obtained the first day of their circulation.

DR. HINSON RESIGNS BUT WILL MAINTAIN HEADQUARTERS HERE

Pacific Jurisdiction of Missionary Society Will Be in His Charge Henceforth.

Dr. W. B. Hinson, pastor of the First Baptist church, will take charge of the Pacific jurisdiction of the American Baptist Home Missionary Society January 1. Dr. Hinson left Thursday night for St. Louis for a conference with the executive committee of the society regarding his new work, but will return home next Friday to occupy the pulpit of the White Temple until the first of the year.

Dr. Hinson's resignation as pastor was accepted formally by the congregation of the First Baptist church last Sunday after he had made a statement giving his reasons for resigning.

In the conduct of his new office, Dr. Hinson will use Portland as his headquarters and will continue to reside here. Several months ago he moved into his own home at View Point and there he will continue to live.

Sunday Dr. John Shane, pastor of the First Baptist church of Spokane, will preach at both morning and evening services. Dr. Shane was, before coming to Spokane, highly successful in both a ministerial and pastoral capacity in New York. He is declared to be a brilliant pulpit orator.

Whether his presence in Portland at present is a coincidence or significant of something more important is not stated.

Wind Uprooted Big Trees Near Chehalis. Chehalis, Wash., Nov. 26.—One of the most violent wind storms that has been known in this section for years cut down a swath of timber to the northwest of Chehalis across the river Thursday, but so far as known no serious damage was done to any person or to any property. Farmers living in the valley at a safe distance from the storm state that it rivaled an eastern cyclone. Great fir trees were toppled over and some of them carried high into the air, while the roots, uprooted, near the southwestern Washington fair grounds large limbs were snapped off fir trees in the Somerville grove.

About noon for a few minutes a hail storm beat down furiously. All day long at intervals heavy rainfall, accompanied at times by wind, served to make the 1915 Thanksgiving one long to be remembered because of unpleasant outdoor weather.

Mrs. Gordon Was a Native of Canada. Eugene, Or., Nov. 26.—The funeral of Mrs. Martha Gordon, mother of William T. Gordon, assistant cashier of the First National bank of Eugene, and of Herbert Gordon of Portland, was held today. Mrs. Gordon died Wednesday at the age of 77 years. She was born in Ontario, Canada, and lived in Eugene since 1858. Her husband, T. Gordon, died nine years ago, besides her sons she leaves a third son, James A. Gordon, at Mansfield, Wash., and a daughter, Mrs. L. A. Milne, Eugene.

Dayton Odd Fellows Elect New Officers. Dayton, Or., Nov. 26.—I. O. O. F. lodge, No. 29, of this city held its semi-annual election of officers last evening, electing J. G. Park noble grand, R. Watson, vice grand; G. C. Goodrich, secretary, and O. B. Rippey, treasurer.

Grand Chief Patriarch Robert Anderson paid the lodge a visit and favored the members with an interesting address, after which all enjoyed a banquet given by the Dayton Encampment lodge.

Former Oregon Publisher Is Sued. Centralia, Wash., Nov. 26.—A. E. Heaton, as assignee for Catherine Brainard, has filed suit against J. D. Quillen, publisher of the Winlock Live Wire, to recover the value of a trip to the Panama-Pacific exposition, which Miss Brainard claims she won in a newspaper contest staged by Quillen when he was publishing the Leader at Cottage Grove, Or. The girl claims the prize was never awarded her.

Loot Identified by North Plains Man

Shoes and clothing found in the house at East Forty-first street and Sixty-fourth avenue, raided by the detectives yesterday, were identified today as stuff stolen from the Mays Bros. mercantile store at North Plains recently.

As a result of this, three men, Earl Braun, alias Charles Brown, James Sullivan and Jack Caster, who were arrested in the raid, will be charged with grand larceny and taken to Hillsboro for trial.

All three of the men have penitentiary records. Giant powder and nitroglycerin, in addition to sawblowing tools, were found in the house by Detectives Coleman, Snow, Hellyer, Tackabery and Goltz.

The police today are searching for a launch said to have been used by the men in crimes that are charged against them.

FAVORS INCREASE IN INCOME TAX LAW TO REPLENISH TREASURY

McAdoo Offers "Suggestion" Which May Be Taken as "Tip" by Friendly Members

Washington, Nov. 26.—(U. P.)—The administration will dodge a bond issue if possible in getting funds for its increased military program and for its other millions of needed dollars. In issuing to the public a "suggestion" that increased internal revenue taxation should provide additional money, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo said this is merely a "program," but politicians said today it plainly meant that congress should "take the tip" and act accordingly.

He suggested that lowering the exemption on income taxes for single persons from \$3000 to \$2000, and for married persons \$4500 to \$3000, would be one excellent means of getting more money. At the same time, he would have income taxes above a certain point increased. Retention of the emergency "war tax" and the sugar duty, along with taxation of raw line and other semi-luxury commodities, is favored. McAdoo estimated that the country will need \$12,800,394 additional revenue in 1917, including the \$93,800,000 required by the preparedness program.

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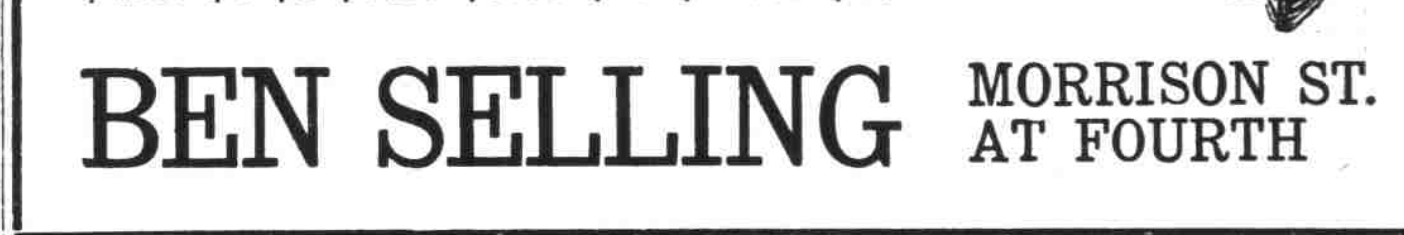
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