

SHIP REGULATION LEGISLATION GOES INTO EFFECT IN U S

By C. L. SULZBERGER
United Press Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—(U.P.)—Strict legislation enacted largely as a result of the "Morro Castle" disaster to promote safety aboard American merchant ships was placed in operation today.

The department of commerce set into motion machinery to keep a close check on American seamen provided in the safety-at-sea bill sponsored by Sen. Royal S. Copeland, D., N. Y. It became effective six months after passage by congress.

Director Joseph B. Weaver of the bureau of marine inspection and navigation began distribution of 25,000 "continuous discharge" books despite stout protests by leaders of the Pacific coast maritime strike.

The books, bearing a photograph of each merchant seaman, must be stamped and dated every time crew members complete voyages. They are designed to provide a continuous record of marine service, giving assurance of the experience of crew members. An investigation of the burning of the Morro Castle revealed negligence in crew training.

Striking west coast seamen termed the books "fink" books. (They use the term to denote strikebreakers—ed.) They feared the books might be used to blacklist union men. A report was circulated among Pacific coast sailors that they would have to be fingerprinted to get a book.

Secretary of commerce Daniel C. Roper answered their charges with the following announcement:

"The new act requires the issuance of continuous discharge books in lieu of the present certificate of discharge now required by law. The old certificate of discharge requires the master to enter a rating as to character and ability of the seamen receiving such discharge thereon.

"No rating as to character or ability of the seaman can be made in the continuous discharge book by the master or any other person under penalty of law."

The law is regarded by marine circles here as a "new deal" for American shipping. Old statutes required no examination to ascertain the skill of sailors before granting certificates and did not limit employment to holders of certificates. The new act states that at least 65 per cent of a ship's deck crew must hold seaman ratings. Violations are punishable by a \$100 to \$500 fine.

The regulations also provide an eight-hour day for crews and a minimum of three watches aboard ship.

Informal sources said they believed leaders of the rank-and-file strike would seek an amendment of the discharge book feature of the law soon after congress convenes.

Roper's announcement that the books would be distributed on time was believed to have brought a temporary stalemate in west coast strike negotiations. Secretary of labor Frances Perkins had asked him to delay their issuance following union complaints.

Roper was advised that he could not legally do so, but he delayed effectiveness of seamen's service certificates until Jan. 20. The certificates, provided by the law, list a sailor's respective capabilities, certifying him as an officer, able seaman or lifeboatman.

Weaver has requested President Roosevelt, it was learned, to approve plans for establishment of new and efficient federal shipping bureaus corresponding to present marine hiring halls—in connection with the new law.

Hiring halls have been a disputed point in the present strike. Weaver believes that federal supervision would remove this cause for disturbance in the future.

Federal hiring halls have been legal but largely ineffective since 1872. They could be recreated as offices for distribution of discharge books and approval of service certificates.

The books were distributed through customs offices and shipping bureaus in principal ports except those on the strike-bound Pacific coast. As soon as government presses complete printing of 225,000 more folders, they will be circulated in the west.

SANTA CLARA CLUB HOLDS YULE PARTY

Mohawk union high school presented its exchange program at Santa Clara Monday evening, December 21. Their program consisted of readings, tap dances, and musical numbers. Solo, quartet, trio, glee club, piano, and orchestra selections were the musicals.

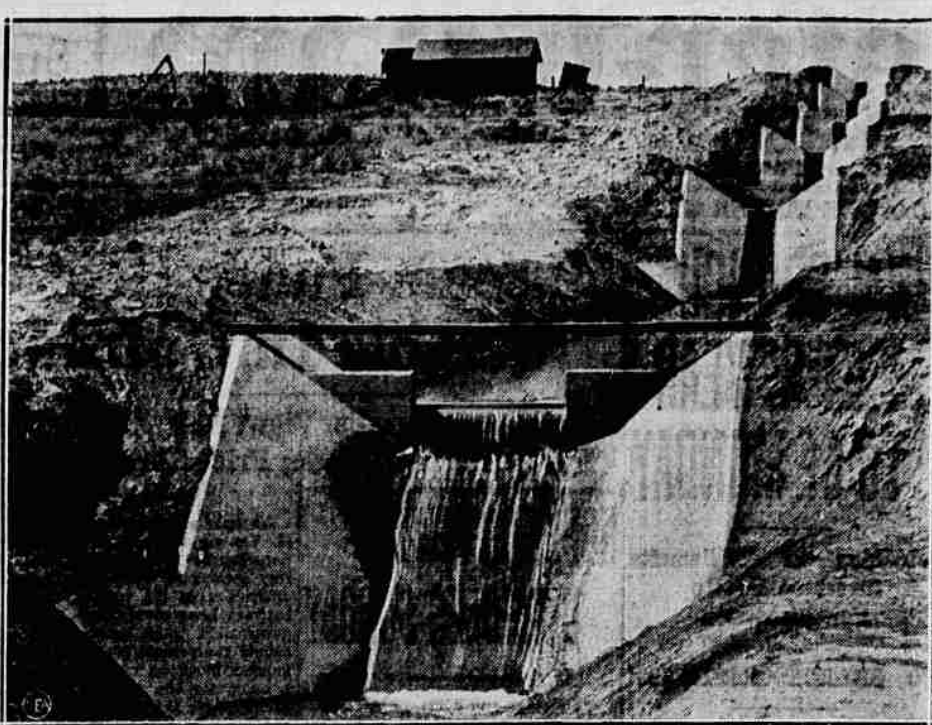
The glee club of Santa Clara and the Tea Towels club, a division of the Girls League, served refreshments to their visitors after the program. The room in which the refreshments were served was very nicely decorated with holly, mistletoe, candles, and a table Christmas tree.

The students of Santa Clara high were all anxious for school to be dismissed Wednesday afternoon, when the Christmas holidays began. They will return to school Monday, January 4.

The "dummy" for the annual to be published by the students of the high school arrived Tuesday. The staff will be chosen as soon as possible so work may begin immediately following vacation, at which time class pictures will also be taken.

The seventh and eighth grades of the Santa Clara grade school began basketball practice the last week with the high school freshmen.

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A PIONEER homesteader of today has built this shack of tarpaper on his 40 acres of government land on the Vale Federal Reclamation project in Eastern Oregon, to which a government canal brings water. Next season the parched, sagebrush land will be changed to an irrigated farm with every prospect of a permanent home for the settler.

SPAIN IS RUINED SAYS WRITER WHO HAS SEEN BATTLES

(Editor's note: Lester Ziffren, one of the few newspapermen who have remained continuously in Madrid since the beginning of the Spanish civil war, has just arrived in Paris. In the following dispatch he tells how the war has ruined Spain, where he has lived for five years.)

By LESTER ZIFFREN
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PARIS, Dec. 26.—(U.P.)—The Spanish civil war has set back the turbulent peninsula from 50 to 100 years.

Spain is ruined financially, agriculturally and industrially.

On the smouldering ruins of cities and hamlets Spaniards will have to lay the foundations of a new destiny.

Before July 17, when the war began, Spain's business life kept moving despite frequent political crises. Industry and commerce were completely disregarded in a political situation that was in constant turmoil.

The revolt, which developed into the bloodiest civil war in centuries—executions committed by both sides are sometimes estimated at over 100,000—plunged the country into chaos and economic disaster.

Stores in Madrid are open only a half day so that employees can receive military training. Many shops are closed. Numerous small businesses are bankrupt. Many factories can never reopen.

Because of the paper shortage, Madrid newspapers publish only one sheet. Advertising virtually has disappeared. Almost all the theatres are closed. Four motion picture houses operate under supervision of the ministry of public instruction or some political organization.

The stock market has been closed since the war began. Banking operations are paralyzed.

There is a severe shortage of food. Long queues of women and children brave the wintry winds from early morning until late afternoon waiting for a few pounds of coal or extremely limited purchases of beans, rice and potatoes.

Frequent air raids fail to frighten the hungry people out of their places in the food lines. Few restaurants are open. Supplies are limited and it pays to be on hand early for all meals. Gas was cut off long ago, but water is still plentiful.

Cigarettes are disappearing rapidly. There are no matches.

There is little coal. Most of the residents eat early and go to bed early to keep warm. There is danger of an influenza epidemic.

Many persons are smashing furniture into kindling wood. Others are cutting down trees along the boulevards for firewood.

No one is permitted on the streets after 10 p. m. without a special permit. The city is generally quiet at night except for the rumble of cannon and the crackle of gunfire in the outskirts.

A different scene is being enacted in Valencia, new capital of loyalist Spain. Hundreds of militia strut through the streets with pistols on their hips, although the front is a good 150 kilometers away.

Street lights are dimmed at 10 p. m. but motion picture houses, theatres

and cabarets are open until midnight. There appears to be better organization in Barcelona where the anarchists are in complete control. Even the street cars, and taxicabs are painted in the anarchists' red and black colors.

Barcelona restaurants are permitted to serve a "war menu" consisting of two courses. Theatres and cabarets are open until one a. m. Lights are not dimmed.

While Madrid faces a coffee shortage, Valencia and Barcelona cafes are jammed day and night with thousands of coffee drinkers. They apparently are oblivious to the privations of the fighting Madrilenos.

By SANDOR S. KLEIN
United Press Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—(U.P.)—The joint committee on internal revenue taxation was prepared today to make available to congress information which may be the basis for revision and possible abolition of certain nuisance taxes at the coming session of congress.

The committee will make no recommendations, but it was learned that it had developed data which members believe makes obvious the need for action on several existing levies.

It had been reported that one of the chief reasons congress may be requested to eliminate some of the nuisance taxes is their supposedly high collection costs. This, the United Press was advised, is erroneous.

The study has revealed that the highest collection cost for any tax is approximately eight per cent of the total receipts from that levy. The average cost of collecting all taxes, according to a computation of the internal revenue bureau, is 1.39 per cent.

One of the major arguments that may be directed against certain nuisance taxes is that the income from them is too small to warrant the bother of collecting them.

They are probably as much of a nuisance to the internal revenue bureau from the administrative standpoint, as they are to the taxpayer, a committee expert said.

Although he would not reveal which ones were the worst "offenders," the latest collection statistics of the internal revenue bureau showed several items, particularly in the miscellaneous tax group, with especially small receipts.

The collection under the national firearms act totalled \$2,900 for the first five months of the current fiscal year. Receipts from adulterated and process or renovated butter, mixed flour and filled cheese aggregated \$7,412 during the same period. There were many other small sums.

The committee also has found what it terms "inequalities" in certain taxes: the tax on cosmetics it was discovered, fails to differentiate between luxuries and necessities; states are exempt from federal tax on sporting goods purchased for public schools but parochial schools are liable.

One point developed by the study is the possibility of merging taxes on certain related products. The tax on lubricating oil, it was suggested, might be removed and become part of the gasoline tax, eliminating the necessity for separate administration of the oil levy.

NEW AMENDMENTS BLOOM IN MINDS OF CONGRESSMEN

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Springfield Postal Department Raised

SPRINGFIELD, Dec. 26.—(Special)—Announcement was made this week that the Springfield postoffice has been returned to second-class ranking, effective July 1, 1937.

The "promotion" brings with it civil service for all employees, higher salaries and an increase in personnel. A full-time clerk, a part-time

clerk, and janitor service will be provided under the new ruling. M. M. Stewart is postmaster.

The postoffice had for several years been a third-class institution, but steadily increasing revenues, reaching their peak during the current holidays, brought these back up to normal.

FAMILY REUNIONS HELD
SPRINGFIELD, Dec. 26.—(Special)—Several family reunions featured the Christmas holidays in Springfield.

Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Mitchell, Ashland, were in Springfield at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Murphy. Mrs. Murphy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hilliker entertained Mr. Hilliker's mother, Mrs. Florence Hilliker of Albany.

Mr. and Mrs. Theimer Nelson were in Salem for the holidays, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore G. Nelson.

Mrs. T. Leonard Goble of San Diego arrived Thursday evening for an extended visit over the holidays with her aunt, Mrs. Fanny Hill.

COLLISION REPORTED
SPRINGFIELD, Dec. 26.—(Special)—An intersection crash at the corner of Fifth and Main, involving two cars driven by Arthur Roberts and Sam Taland, both of Springfield, was reported Friday evening. There was some damage to both cars.

Ph. S. E. Stevens for plane crash.

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A limited quantity
Dresses of former seasons. Values to \$10.
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PHENOMENAL SALE in the heart of gay social season.

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SALE OF FUR COATS

EVERY FUR COAT A 1936 CREATION
Values to \$86.50

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FUR TRIMMED, SPORT AND TRAVEL COATS
in a Large Variety

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SALE OF SPORT COATS

ANOTHER GROUP OF FINE SPORT COATS

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Afternoon Dresses, Dresses for All Occasions

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SALE OF WOOL DRESSES

Swagger and Mannish Suits which are so popular this season in a variety of colors and fabrics. Values to \$18.95.

SALE PRICE
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Values to \$3.95

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litis, constipation, diabetes, kid-
neys, bladder, heart, blood,
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