

URGES SOME CHANGES

BABCOCK SUGGESTS AMENDMENTS TO COMPENSATION ACT

Advocates Compulsory Law With Waiting Period of Seven Days. Payroll Reports Advised.

In a special report to Governor West, C. D. Babcock, retiring member of the State Industrial Accident Commission, suggests several amendments to the report in part as follows:

"I do not know that it will be expedient from a political standpoint to urge all of the suggested amendments at the forthcoming session of the legislature, but I am convinced that time will demonstrate the wisdom of incorporating into the Oregon law the following features:

"1. The act should be compulsory.

"2. There should be a waiting period of seven days.

"3. The workman's contribution should be eliminated.

"4. Compensation should be the exclusive remedy, removing the possibility of litigation.

"5. There should be not less than six classes, with rates ranging from one-half of 1 per cent to 8 per cent.

"6. Employers should be required to report their payrolls to the commission, failure or refusal to do so being made a misdemeanor.

"7. The Industrial Accident Commission, Bureau of Labor, Child Welfare Commission and Industrial Welfare Commission should be consolidated, and the department administered by an elective commission of three members, at salaries not to exceed \$3000 per annum per member.

"8. Higher benefits should be paid for permanent total disability.

"Twenty-five states have compensation laws and Oregon is the only one in which compensation is paid from the amount of accident.

"A waiting period of seven days would eliminate perhaps 15 per cent of the claims, thus reducing the cost of administration, and removing the temptation that now exists on the part of some workmen to magnify trivial injuries for the purpose of obtaining a day or two of rest and relaxation at the expense of the industry in which they are employed.



C. D. BABCOCK.

"It cannot be said that if the workman's contribution were eliminated he would bear no portion of the burden of maintaining the compensation act, for the reason that with a waiting period labor as a class would carry a considerable part of the load.

"The elimination of the workman's contribution would simplify the office work of employers and the commission and remove a fruitful source of irritation between employer and employee.

"The theory of the Oregon law is that each employer shall pay into the industrial accident fund one year's contribution, amounting in class A to 3 per cent of his payroll, and in class B to 1 1/2 per cent of his payroll, and that thereafter he shall be required to pay only for his own accidents until such time as there may be a deficiency in the general fund requiring all contributors to resume payment. However, after six months' actual experience, I am forced to admit that the exemption feature of the act will be at best but a qualified success, and that all employers and workmen operating under the law will be compelled to continue their payments to the fund almost continuously.

"In my opinion the remedy lies in an amendment providing for not less than six nor more than 10 classes, with differential ratings in each, and with basic rates ranging from one-half of 1 per cent to perhaps 8 per cent.

"The Oregon law is of the presumptive-elective type; that is, every employer in any of the designated industries who did not reject the act prior to a certain time is presumed to have accepted it and is automatically under its provisions. It is apparent to me that if the present type of law is retained employers should be required to report their payments to the commission, failure to do so to be a misdemeanor.

"This state has four separate and distinct departments dealing with in-

bor and exercising, in some form or other, supervisory powers over the relations of employer and employee. There is no question in my mind that these various activities could be carried on more efficiently and economically under one head than under four.

"In my opinion this may be accomplished by concentrating the various activities mentioned in one commission and by giving that commission the means and authority to carry on a campaign of education in industrial centers throughout the state.

"I am of the opinion that the members of this commission should be elected by the people and not appointed by the governor. Also, it seems to me that the salaries should be reduced from \$3600 to not more than \$3000.

"Casualty insurance agents are active in promoting a scheme to secure an amendment to the compensation act that will give private companies an opportunity to make a profit from the misfortunes of the working men and women of Oregon. The insurance companies cannot handle the business for less than 40 to 50 per cent of the premium income, while the administrative expense under a state-administered act will not exceed 10 per cent and may be much less.

"Such an amendment would be a step backward toward the vexatious and strife-breeding period of litigation which we put behind us when we passed the compensation act."

SPLENDID CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Polk Station Mennonite Sunday School Appropriately Observes Day.

A very interesting and entertaining Christmas program was rendered at the Mennonite church, near Polk Station last Friday evening. There was a tree, and the church was appropriately decorated for the occasion. The children and young folks gave a very appreciative program, the singing being exceptionally good. There were about 150 persons present, and every one went away well pleased, promising to work for a larger and better celebration next year.

The Mennonite Sunday school closed one of the most prosperous years since its organization, some twenty years ago on the Sunday following its observance of Christmas day. New officers and teachers were elected as follows: Superintendent P. Neufeldt, Sr., Assistant Superintendent J. G. Diehm; secretary, Dr. D. G. Rempel; librarian, Miss Lizzie Neufeldt; treasurer, J. H. Rempel.

Teachers: Class No. 1, J. G. Diehm; No. 2, Mrs. G. G. Rempel; Nos. 3 and 4, Dr. D. G. Rempel; No. 6, C. B. Friesen; No. 7, Mrs. D. G. Rempel.

THE CHURCHES.

The Bible school at the Christian church last Sunday had 228 present, 182 bibles and the collection was \$4.12.

Rev. C. C. Curtis' morning subject last Sunday was "God's Great Gift to the World." The evening service was the closing of a series of sermons on conversion. A special case taken up, being that of the conversion of the Phillipian jailer, the jail being that in which Paul and Silas were confined. Much interest was manifested in the discourse.

On next Sunday night George N. Taylor will supply the pulpit at the Christian church in place of C. C. Curtis. Mr. Taylor comes in the interest of the Anti-Saloon league and those who have an opportunity to hear this great man are indeed fortunate.

Family Reunion.

The Starr family held its annual reunion on Friday last at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Richmond, three miles north of Dallas. Those present were Mrs. J. P. Starr, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Starr and sons, Eugene and Paul of Falls City, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Starr of Portland, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Starr and son Frank of Dallas, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Richmond and Earl Gee. A bountiful dinner was served.

Wheat Prices High.

The highest price of the season was paid in Portland yesterday for wheat, when 5000 bushels of February bluestem changed hands at \$1.32. This price is 2 cents better than was bid for the same delivery on Saturday. Five thousand bushels of February club were sold at \$1.30, which is also a 2-cent advance.

Few Changes Are Likely.

When the county commissioners make the appointments of road supervisors for the ensuing year, it is highly probable that as many of the present incumbents as possible will be re-appointed. This is Judge Teal's theory of efficiency. Where a supervisor is competent to perform the work satisfactorily the judge believes in retaining that supervisor rather than to experiment with a new one.

Is your farm declaring dividends, or are you in the tenant class?

IN THE BUSINESS FIELD

MANY MATTERS OF MORE THAN ORDINARY INTEREST.

Valuable Information Concerning Various Things You Wish to Know.

Potato water is good to remove mud stains from cloth.

Saturday January 2, Dr. Freeze, the eye specialist will be in Dallas all day, prepared to fit and furnish glasses. All old patients whose glasses may need adjustment or change are invited to call. Also all those afflicted with astigmatism, hyperopia, myopia or other eye troubles are assured of expert examination and advice. The stylish solder-on mountings and the new Kryptok lenses made for both far and near vision without any lines, also any special lens or mountings made to suit the hardest cases. Free demonstration.

Fine net of the sort used for curtains can be cut up for boudoir caps.

Stop those leaks with Wonder cement. Barham Warehouse Co. 79-1f.

A green goose—three or four months old—can be cooked like a game bird without stuffing.

When you want insurance or surety bonds, call on Prichard.

Good matton should be bright red in color, with firm, white fat.

Dr. C. L. Foster, dentist, City Bank building, Dallas 73-F.

When paring potatoes, do not waste a clean pan; a newspaper will hold all the parings.

Dr. Rempel, Chiropractor, 513 Church. No better little present can be than a glass of homemade jelly tied up with a sprig of holly.

"Wear Ever" aluminum utensils are made in the most attractive patterns, full weight and fully guaranteed. Craven Hardware Co. 72-76

To place ferns upon the window sill means their death, as they cannot stand a cold draught.

See Barham Manufacturing Co. for prune trays and boxes. 79-1f.

When you wish a foundation for an embroidered linen napkin ring cut up a mailing tube.

We are just in receipt of a letter from Dr. Harvey Freeze the well-known Portland eye specialist. The doctor and family have been away from Portland for over a year on account of the illness of one of his little girls. He has opened an office again at Sixth and Washington streets and intends to come to Dallas again next Saturday and every thirty days as formerly.

The Dallas Wood Company is ready to furnish you with mill wood. Good loads and good service. All wood cash on delivery. Phone 492. 1031f.

Dr. Stone's Heave Drops cures heaves. Price \$1, for sale by all druggists.—Adv. 79-1f.

Walter I. Tooze, Jr., Lawyer, Rooms 8 and 9 National Bank Building, Dallas. 15-1f.

If you have a complicated case of eye trouble or have been unable to get glasses properly suited to your case call on Dr. Freeze, the eye specialist at Staffin's drug store, Saturday January 2. Consultation free.

Dates can be stuffed with cream cheese filled with nuts.

Annual Meeting.

The regular meeting of the Polk County Fruit Growers' association will be held at the county court house in Dallas on Saturday, January 9th at 2 o'clock p. m. All members and fruit growers are requested to be present.

H. G. CAMPBELL, Sec.

Be Weatherwise

When you work in the rain wear the

FISH BRAND REFLEX SLICKER

Waterproof through and through. Cannot soak up water and get heavy. Our patented Reflex Edges stop water from running in where the fronts overlap and button. The best wet weather coat your money can buy.

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FRESH BREAD, FRUIT AND VEGETABLES EVERY DAY.

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OUR JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE

WILL COMMENCE SATURDAY, JAN. 2

Never in the history of Special Sales have lower prices been made---when quality of merchandise is considered.

Our January Clearance Sale offers you an opportunity to supply your present and future needs in staple, and fancy articles at prices that will not be duplicated for many days to come.

You will save from 20 per cent to 50 per cent on all purchases, as we are forced to reduce our monster stock, in order to prepare for spring goods.

Every article in the house at a Big Reduction, except a few contract goods, where prices are controlled by the manufacturer.

Visit our Sale. Bargains in every department await you at

THE BEE HIVE STORE

DALLAS, OREGON

Prosperity in 1915 Depends Upon Faith in Our Country

Our Nation Is Being Penalized By a Crisis of European Methods and Ideals

WE CANNOT ESCAPE THE BITTER FRUITS OF A WAR FOUNDED IN GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEMS WHERE MONARCHY, PATERNALISM, PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND AUTOCRACY GO HAND IN HAND.

NOW AS NEVER BEFORE WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPARE AMERICAN IDEALS AND METHODS WITH THOSE PRACTICED IN EUROPE, AND TO MEASURE WHAT AMERICAN SYSTEMS AND INSTITUTIONS HAVE GAINED FOR HUMANITY.

PROBABLY WE WILL LEARN MORE AND MORE EACH DAY OF THE COMING YEAR TO APPRECIATE "ALL WE HAVE AND ARE," TO REGARD OUR CITIZENSHIP IN A MORE PRECIOUS LIGHT, TO SEE OUR PROBLEMS MORE CLEARLY, MORE TOLERANTLY.

The war has made material progress difficult throughout the United States. It has added to the obstacles of financing constructive effort. It has enforced economies upon the large and small; has laid on the shelf plans for many desirable things.

If this military calamity teaches us a deeper and more useful patriotism; if it serves the advance understanding among us of one another's rights and wrongs; if it removes prejudice and strikes down distrust—then this war will not be without benefit to the citizens of the United States.

Prosperity in this country during the coming year demands above everything else faith in our Republic and faith between man and man. It cannot be had in suspicion and distrust.

We hope for prosperity the coming year. To have it will require hard work, courage and faith in ourselves.

OREGON POWER COMPANY

A. L. MARTIN, Manager