

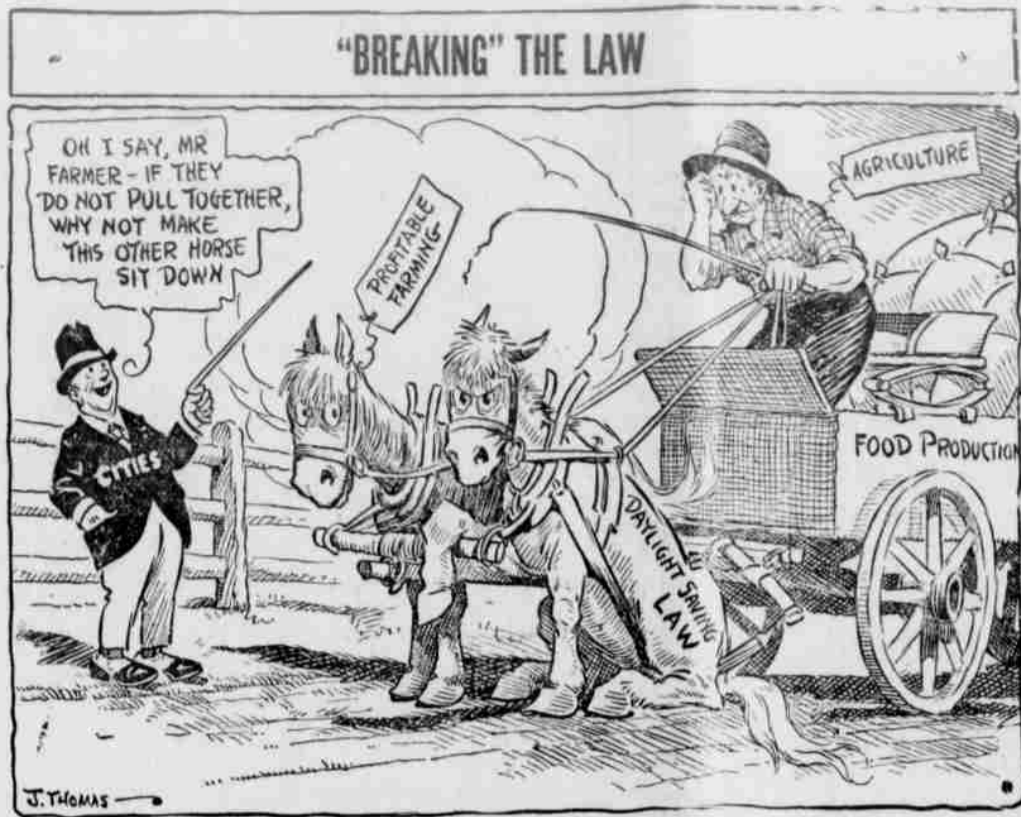
DAYLIGHT LAW FACES KNOCKOUT

Senator Capper Has Bill Asking Congress to Set Clocks Back—Thousands of Protests Show Heavy Loss to Farmers.

By Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas.

Petitions signed by more than \$35,000 persons have been received by me praying for a repeal of the so-called Daylight Saving law by Congress. The law may have served some useful purpose during the war, but the emergency occasioning its enactment has passed and it should now be repealed in response to the popular demand provoked by its manifest injustice, especially to the farming community. I have a bill asking Congress to repeal this law at once.

The demand for repeal is based on sound, economic reasons. Waste



amounting in the aggregate to a billion dollars a year results from

the operation of the Daylight Saving law, it has been estimated. On the farms, in mines, in packing establishments, in numerous large industries, the law operates to curtail rather than increase production, without a corresponding benefit to the worker.

Virtually Impossible To Ignore Daylight Law.

Opposition to the law is so great in the rural districts that some localities declined to set their timepieces ahead this year and are operating under sun time, regardless of the law. This places them at a great disadvantage in their dealings with townspeople, as they must get to town before the morning trains leave (by new time) and with their milk and other products and in the afternoons before the banks close (also under new time).

From the thousands of letters of protest received I have been able to classify the objections to the law thus:

REASONS—

- (1.) "Daylight saving adds one hour of darkness instead of daylight to the farmer's day.
- (2.) Farmers shipping milk or other perishable food supplies must meet trains an hour earlier than before April 1.
- (3.) Farm children frequently go long distances to school, and mother must get them ready by lamplight.
- (4.) During haying and harvest it takes four hours for the dew to evaporate so hay or grain can be baled or stacked, or a binder operated.
- (5.) The hottest part of the day is from 12 to 1 o'clock (old time.) Under "new" time a farmer must send his hands and his horses to the field during the most intense heat.
- (6.) Extra labor hired during harvest, haying and threshing is usually from the towns and used to working according to the clock. Such hands insist on quitting at 6 o'clock "new"

time, or 5 o'clock "old" time, when the sun is still three hours high.

(7.) Farmers attending prayer meetings, neighborhood and community gatherings and entertainments, must quit an hour earlier than they would under "old" time, and thus lose an hour of work time.

(8.) To get into the stores or banks in towns, which operate under new time the farmers must start an hour earlier than he is accustomed to start.

(9.) There is constant friction and loss of time while exchanging work with neighbors a custom that is necessary during haying, harvest and threshing. Farm hands refuse to work by "new" time one day and by "old" time the next.

(10.) Threshing is interfered with when part of a crew works according to "new" time and part according to "old."

From Kiddies to Hired Man, Law Is Cheater.

The opposition to the law from the farmer's point of view is stated well in this letter from J. D. Nichols, a practical farmer, of David City, Neb.

"I have a good many acres of alfalfa and, as every farmer knows, you can't work in hay early in the morning, for the dew is too heavy. It is 10 o'clock "new" time before we can get into the field and then in the afternoon, when the hay is fine to work in, every hired man will throw down his pitchfork and quit at 6 o'clock, which is only 5 by rights.

And here is your wife getting supper for 18 or 20 harvest men in the heat of the day, sweltering over the hot stove, in order to let the hired man have his "afternoon" off, you might say.

The small children going to school with two miles to walk must be dragged out of bed at the time when they most need their rest, starting off at 7 o'clock in the morning which is really 6 o'clock, and returning again at 3, in the heat of the day, with the sun boiling down on their heads."

The daylight saving law so-called is a detriment even to the hired man who gets his "afternoons off," as this farmer puts it, for with a long evening ahead of him, he hops in a buggy or a motor car, goes off to town to the pool hall or movie theater and "blows in" his wages as fast as he earns them.

Artificial regulation of time has worked as disastrously in Canada as in the United States, but Canada remedied the defect this year by repealing its law by a vote of 105 to 51, in its House of Commons.

It is up to the United States Congress to do the same and relieve industry of this unfair burden at the earliest possible moment.

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