

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 9—

There is a new problem developing which is worrying the unemployment compensation commissions in states where there are heavy war industries. Surveys show that the shipyards, for example, are not paying enough to carry benefits for the number of unemployed that will be released in the readjustment period. The rates have been established by legislatures and nothing can be done about them until a regular session, which in most states will be in the first months of 1945.

A number of states are trying to figure a way out. Texas has raised its rate on war industries to 5 per cent, which is sufficient to meet requirements. In some states employers have an experience rating after three years which may drop their rate substantially. Many of the shipyards in the northwest will have qualified for this experience rating by next year when they will pay even less than they are paying now.

There is a growing sentiment among large employers, those which will have to continue in business following the end of the duration, such as the lumber industry, that the shipyards should be compelled to pay a higher percentage of their payrolls, arguing that the shipyards having brought thousands of outsiders to the northwest, will be responsible for the mass unemployment. As a matter of fairness to the general taxpayer as well as the permanent employer, it is argued that the shipyards should carry their own end of the load. At the current rate paid by shipyards, it is asserted, it will require their

contributions for five years to pay for one year of benefits to the workers they will throw on the street when the armistice whistle blows.

Inasmuch as the maritime commission is paying for the wages, the payroll tax would not come from the operators of the yards but would be charged to operating expenses. The hitch in this however, is that the laws stipulate the rate and no legislation is possible for two years, and by that time there is a possibility that the war will be a thing of the past.

The capitol janitors are busy giving a final touch to the chambers of both houses and everything is in readiness for congress, which is scheduled to reconvene next Tuesday, Sept. 15 at high noon. After Labor day week-end the lawmakers began arriving in large numbers, and every indication points to a complete attendance when the clerk starts calling the roll. In the meantime the returning legislators are busy checking up on the political situation with each other. Quite a few of the boys think they are in a tough spot for re-election and this group has been getting earsful of advice from the holdovers as to how to cut the mustard. Those senators who are up for re-election next year are sitting in a sweet position. They will carry the ball on all controversial legislation, thereby relieving their colleagues of considerable political embarrassment, which is always possible, especially during times like these. Just senatorial courtesy, as it were, and the boys work it overtime when an election is drawing near. With few exceptions, regardless of party label, the togamen help one another out of difficult spots, because a senator never knows when it will be his turn to ask a favor, and the boys always do their best to deliver for colleague. Who was it who said "Politics make strange bedfellows?" That gent knew what he was talking about.

Honest Harold Ickes and Mr. Donald Nelson, chief of war production board, are at it, hammer and tongs. Mr. Nelson wants Brother Ickes to permit logging of Sitka spruce in the Olympic national forest, which is vitally necessary for west coast airplane construction

plants if they are to keep on turning out combat planes. Honest Harold says No. He wants no one to tread on the grass of his Olympic national forest, which is a government preserve. Brother Ickes says that Mr. Nelson can get all the airplane spruce he needs from adjoining Canada, where Sitka spruce abounds. Mr. Nelson can't see that argument at all, of buying spruce in Canada and transporting it hundreds of miles when plenty of this much needed wood which belongs to the government is right next door to the west coast plane plants.

Rumor has it OPA will make another attempt to work out a deal which will be satisfactory to milk producers of the northwest. Washington and Oregon dairymen have been hollering their heads off and have threatened to liquidate their herds, which some have already done, if OPA fails to grant them a reasonable increase in prices. Dairymen insist they can't stay in business unless OPA permits them a further price advance in order to offset the heavy increase in the cost of dairy feed and labor.

MEMBERSHIP ENJOYS CHURCH NIGHT MEETING

Members of the Church of Christ gathered at the church Thursday evening for a church night dinner and program. Dinner was served at 6:30, followed by a business meeting. A program of dramatizations was given by Mr. and Mrs. Heribson and a letter from Martin Clark, former pastor, told of the itinerary of the Clark family from Oregon to Ohio.

Guests of the evening were Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Hinshaw and Mrs. Hinshaw's mother, Mrs. Davis from Georgia. friends for their kind assistance during our bereavement, and the beautiful floral tribute.

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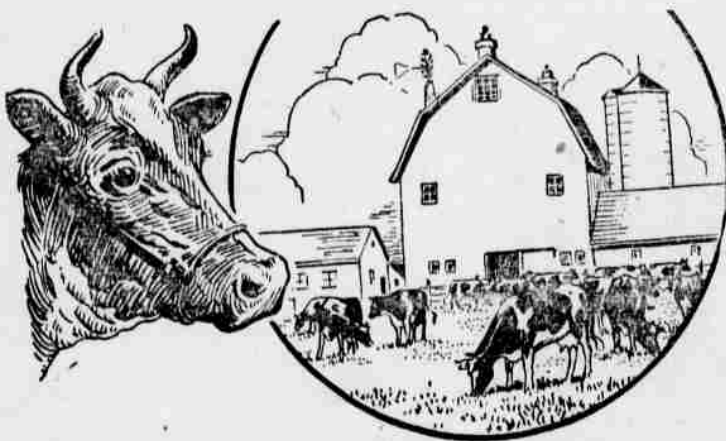
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