

## IN THE FIELD OF LABOR

The senate judiciary committee's hearing on senate file No. 16 was held last Tuesday afternoon. This is the bill requiring protection for workmen on all buildings, bridges, viaducts, etc. Some opposition to the bill manifested itself early in the session, but the union men of the state, who were sponsors for the measure, got busy and soon made it evident that they were in earnest. Heretofore organized labor has been content to introduce bills, and then laid down and let them die of inattention. It's different now. Legislators were bombarded with letters from union men and from trades unions, asking support for the bill. When the senate judiciary committee met it was confronted by thirty or forty men, representing every building trade and the State Federation of Labor, and these men made it clear to the committee that the provisions of the bill were just and equitable. They also made it very evident that organized labor is "keeping cases" this year. The committeemen fired questions point blank at the supporters of the bill, and got answers straight from the shoulder. When the committee arose it unanimously reported the bill for passage, and the first round was won. Several men came down from Omaha to urge the bill, and an active lobby will remain on the spot to push this and other bills demanded by organized labor.

Several employers liability bills have been drawn, and perhaps one will have been introduced by the time this issue of Will Maupin's Weekly appears. The bill that will be introduced will have the approval of the legislative committee of the State Federation of Labor. The chief difficulty in drafting an adequate liability law is to get it broad enough without making it too complicated for the average legislator. It must cover many points to be of any service to the wage earners. The Oregon law, adopted by referendum vote, is a model law, but the mere sight of it would frighten the average lawmaker. It is long, involved in its provisions, and covers every imaginable point. Some of these days Nebraska wage earners may hope to have a law as good—but it will be after the initiative and referendum is in effect.

Nebraska has a law providing for factory inspection of a kind, but the law is of no account for the simple reason that there are no laws compelling the safeguarding of machinery nor adequate ventilation and sanitation in factories. Neither is there any provision for factory inspectors. A bill has been drawn supplying these omissions, and it will be pushed to the limit. It is the hope of the legislative committee of the State Federation of Labor to secure a law licensing employment bureaus and putting them under the direct supervision of the commissioner of labor, the license fees to be devoted to the maintenance of the state's free employment bureau.

### LABOR BRIEFS.

Japanese on the Hawaiian sugar plantations where Filipinos are also employed threaten a general strike

unless the latter are all discharged.

Blacklisting of discharged employees or employees who have left their employment for any reason is a misdemeanor under the provisions of a bill introduced in the California assembly.

A bill introduced in the California legislature fixes the highest rate of interest which pawnbrokers may charge at 3 per cent per month. The law now allows them 5 per cent a month.

Manned by Mexican engineers who took the place of striking Americans, all trains on the Southern Pacific lines of Mexico between Cananea and Naco, Ariz., resumed operations on January 19.

The board of inquiry investigating the cases of sixty Armenian immigrants arriving at Galveston on January 11 has refused to admit fifty-five of them. The majority of these men were bound for Los Angeles.

Train dispatchers to the number of fifty, who have headquarters in Portland, on January 17 presented a demand to the various railroads entering that city for an increase in wages from \$140 to \$175 a month.

Practically all drug stores in San Francisco have agreed to close their doors on Sunday between the hours of 1 and 6 p. m., thus reducing the hours of the clerks and affording them opportunity for much-needed recreation.

The Cotton Screwmen's Benevolent association has been sued at Pensacola, Fla., for damages of \$5,000 by a screwman, basing his claim on being prevented by the organization from plying his trade. The suit is brought under the Sherman anti-trust act.

Governor Hay of Washington has been notified by Secretary of State Knox that the action of the Spokane council in passing an ordinance barring aliens from employment on public works is in conflict with a treaty between the United States and Italy.

A strike of the mail clerks in the Goldfield, Nev., postoffice because of discontinuance of double pay has been postponed until February 1 to allow congress time to renew the emergency appropriation bill governing postoffices in Goldfield, Nome and Fairbanks, Alaska.

A bill aimed at concerns employing boys in night work was introduced in the California assembly on January 20. The measure makes it a misdemeanor for any one to employ a minor under 18 years of age to sell goods or engage in other occupations between the hours of 10 p. m. and 5 a. m.

Speaking on behalf of 250,000 employees actively engaged in railroad-ing, P. H. Morrissey, president of the American Railroad Employees and Investors' association, recently presented a formal statement to the interstate commerce commission in support of the proposed advance in freight rates by the railroads.

### None to Do the Chores.

More than four million people are estimated to attend moving picture shows in the United States every day. No wonder it is getting so hard to find somebody willing to do the chores.

## Not in Esop's Language

A Grasshopper spent the summer in joy riding and hitting the bright and high places, laughing merrily in the meantime while the Ant hustled to lay up grub for the cold spell. The Grasshopper had lots of fun with itself and the Ant—while the sun was warm and the sky cloudless. One day the blizzard came and caught the Grasshopper with nothing but a summer suit and a headache. Then it was that the Ant showed up with a warm overcoat, good underclothes and plenty of grub stored away in the cellar. Whereupon the Grasshopper asked relief, and the Ant answered by winking of his eye and remarking: "I'll give you a note to the charity organization."

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