



HAWAIIAN EMPLOYERS OF CHINESE COOLIES ADMIT PEONAGE CHARGE

Commission From Island Acknowledge Purpose to Open Gates to Yellow Men to be Sent From China Under Contract; Labor Makes Fight to Preserve Free Bargaining and Save America.

Hawaiian sugar planters, trying to get congress to legalize peonage on their plantations have been beaten to a degree sufficient to secure from them the admission that H. J. Resolution 171, their own resolution, would establish peonage.

This admission came in the form of suggestions from the commission sent here by the Hawaiian territorial government for a substitute resolution.

Appearing before the house immigration committee, Harry Irwin, counsel for the Hawaiian commission, pleaded to have the present resolution so amended as to prohibit peonage. His suggestion was that provision be made that Chinese coolies, when admitted, be confined to agricultural work, with deportation as the alternative.

In answer to questions from members of the committee, Judge Irwin suggested that Chinese register at the time of admission and be required to re-register at specified times.

He admitted that the adoption of Resolution 171 would repeal all present immigration laws as far as these applied to Hawaii, including the Chinese exclusion act and the contract labor exclusion act. He frankly admitted that the term "otherwise inadmissible" as used in the resolution means Chinese coolies.

He stated that in past experiences with that class of labor he found that the Chinese government required the knowledge on the part of a foreign government indicated not only a contract with the employers that limited freedom of action of the workers, but also illegal relationship between potential employers and a foreign government.

Chairman Dillingham of the Hawaiian commission, suggested in a prepared brief that there need be no peonage or serfdom, but that each coolie be required to secure the signature of his employer to the effect that he was setadly employed as an agricultural laborer, with deportation as the alternative for the lack of such a signed declaration.

A. F. of L. representatives, closely watching all sessions of the immigration committee, protested that this provision in its if meant "absolute bondage."

Following these hearing Chairman Johnson of the house immigration committee offered for consideration a tentative substitute resolution, which he said had been prepared by Judge Irwin. Labor's representatives, after studying this proposed substitute for

H. J. R. 171, declares that it carefully preserves all of the objectionable features of the now discredited Resolution No. 171.

The resolution provides that there shall be no restriction of movement on the part of imported coolies except "within the class or classes of labor as to which the emergency has been found to exist."

But above all, it is pointed out by the labor representatives, the resolution still opens the door for the importation of Chinese coolies, and that is regarded as the basic issue in the whole controversy.

In effect, it is pointed out, what the sugar representatives now propose is peonage covered with deceptive language and the destruction of the Chinese exclusion act, exactly as provided for in the original resolution, which, it is emphasized by labor, is still before the house committee with a favorable report.

WHO GETS FRUIT GROWERS PROFIT

Freight Rates, Drayage, Crating and Commission Takae Nearly All Growers' Money.

Washington, Sept. 1.—Fruit growers at Hope, Ark., forwarded Senator Caraway of Arkansas a series of figures that may answer the question, "Who gets the profit?"

One car load of cantaloupes "was sold to Pittsburg, Pa., for \$586.20. Freight charges from Hope was \$261.18; drayage, 17.81; commission, \$88.62; crates, packing and loading, \$187.28; total, \$634.37, leaving a loss of \$88.17 to grower.

A car load of cantaloupes was sold to Chicago for \$448.60. Freight commission and loading charges totaled \$255.97, leaving \$22.63 to the grower for his expenses, labor and profit. Thirty bushels of peaches were sold to St. Louis, Mo., for \$75. Express and commission charges totaled \$54.73, leaving \$20.27 to the grower.

Fifty-nine bushels of beans, peaches and cucumbers were sold to Topeka, Kan., for \$125. Express and commission were \$95.70, leaving the grower but \$29.30.

TENANT FARMING IS ON INCREASE

South Leads in Rented Farms; 38 Per Cent American Farms Operated by Tenants.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1.—Although tenant farming is advancing its lines into American agriculture, its rate of advance is rapidly diminishing, says the department of agriculture, which bases its reports made by the 1920 census bureau. While losses in the size of the farm tenant population in 20 states amounted to over 57,000, gains in 28 states totaled nearly 160,000. Out of 8,500,000 farm operators in 1920, 2,500,000 did not own the land they farmed. These tenants operated 33.1 per cent of the farms of

the United States. Texas and Georgia lead in farm tenancy, the former with 232,300 and the latter with 206,878. These, together with six other southern states have more tenants than the other 42 states. Probably 600,000 are between 45 and 50 per cent of these southern tenants will be classified as colored by the 1920 census.

HATTERS GET CONTRACT. SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 1.—Practically all hat manufacturers have signed the wage scale of the hatters' union.

CAR MEN WILL ARBITRATE. TACOMA, Wash., Sept. 1.—Organized street car men and the local traction company will arbitrate wage differences.

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