

AGAINST THE BILL

Employers Generally Oppose Woman's Wage Measure.

That \$9 a Week and 8-Hour Day Bill.

SAY IT IS TOO DRASTIC

Would Mean Loss of Many Jobs for Women.

Effort Be Made to Get Day Compromise Bill.

Representatives of jobbing and manufacturing and other industrial and business houses at a meeting held today at the Commercial club expressed themselves as being opposed to the bill introduced by Representative Riddle, of Marion, stipulating that nine dollars a week shall be the minimum wage paid to women in Kansas for industrial work, and that the work day shall be confined to eight hours.

There were thirty persons present at the meeting. They included heads of Topeka firms and representative employers of labor in Kansas. Among those in attendance was E. V. Johnston, of Wichita, president of the Kansas Launderers' association, Taylor Riddle, who introduced the bill in question for Mrs. Lila Day Monroe, president of the Women's Clubs of Kansas, was an invited guest at the luncheon.

The sentiment at the meeting was not against such legislation. However, it was the general opinion that this bill is too drastic. Mrs. Monroe will be asked to attend another meeting of those interested to be held at the Commercial club within two or three days. A meeting of these men will also be held Friday afternoon in the rooms of the Commercial club.

"The men interested consider the measure too severe," said C. S. Elliott, who was in attendance at the meeting. "They want to get together on something reasonable."

"If we have a drastic law in this state," said George P. McEntire, of McEntire Realty in the Commercial club, "it will be impossible to get manufacturers to locate in Kansas, as the competition with other states which have no such law is too great. The cost of producing manufactured goods in Kansas would be more than the manufacturers could stand. However, we are not opposed to legislation."

"The people who are introducing this bill," said Representative Riddle, "are inexperienced in legislative matters. It is possible that the bill has not a chance to show its present form."

Mr. Riddle expressed a desire to get together with the business men, if that is possible. He intimated that he is wish of those who are promoting the proposition to make the measure fair to all parties concerned.

A committee was appointed at the meeting to investigate the bill carefully and to report to the direction of amending the measure so that it will be just to all parties interested.

The committee: J. C. Witt of the Davis Mercantile Co., J. H. Haskell of the Continental Creamery Co., Marcor Morrow, and W. W. Whitney, manager of the Warren M. Crosby Dry Goods Co.

What Topeka Merchants Say About It.

Topeka merchants and employers generally are unanimously opposed to the bill introduced Wednesday in the house of representatives providing that "it shall be unlawful for any corporation, firm, or employer to employ any woman or girl to work for less than \$9 per week or more than eight hours a day."

One Topeka merchant went so far as to declare that the bill is "ridiculous—beyond all reason. Another believes the strongest objection to the minimum wage to be that it would increase the maximum wage as well. Arthur Mills declares that the proposed wage scale is "revolutionary and confiscatory," and gives as his strongest argument against it, that the women employees themselves are not in favor of the plan. Many employers in town are in favor of legislative measures, but not such a drastic measure as that proposed.

"The 8-hour proposition would be a serious matter in itself alone," declared Arthur Mills, "and it is wrong in the injustice of the proposed measures. We have no objections to closing our stores on Saturday night, provided the other stores close. If it were compulsory for us to have our clerks in the shop only 48 hours a week, we would find ourselves seriously handicapped in the management of our business. We would open at 8:30, close at 5:30 and allow an hour at noon. The proposed bill would make it necessary for us to compel our customers to wait in line in order to be out of the store in eight hours."

"Relating to the wage scale—it is revolutionary and confiscatory. We start our employees at \$4.50, and if they show any talent, they are advanced according to their ability. Take this case, for instance—if the law were in effect there might be three girls in one department, all getting the same wages—one worth \$4, one worth \$9, and the other worth, possibly, \$15. There is no decrease in the wages to do more than she is doing for her money."

Mr. Mills remarked that of the 200 women employees in the city, probably 50 per cent are getting more than \$9 a week.

"If this bill should become a law," prophesied Mr. Mills, "it will be the means of throwing hundreds of girls out of employment—girls who really need work. No business can stand a wage scale of that sort. It would be necessary for us to engage boys and young men in place of women. It would mean, also, a decrease in the wages of those getting more than the stipulated \$9."

As concluding testimony, Mr. Mills declared, "Our women employees themselves are not in favor of this proposed legislation," he observed, "they would vote 'no.' If the bill carries, their positions will be vacant. The plan seems to me ridiculous—beyond all reason. It

would tend to make domestics of many women in commerce and industry. Only 33 1/2 per cent of the girls employed in this store are receiving over \$9 a week. The weekly wages are about \$3.00 per week, the highest about \$3.00."

"The minimum wage of \$9 a week," declared W. T. Crosby, "would work hardship on apprentices and girls whose earning capacity is less. However, I think a nine-hour day—eight and a half acceptable by both employer and employee."

"The most serious objection to the minimum wage is that it soon gets to be the maximum as well," said S. C. Pettit, of the Continental Creamery, "it cuts the efficient force down to the standard of the inefficient force. This is the strongest objection I can find. We would not be in favor of the bill as it stands. The eight-hour law, also, seems to us unreasonable."

John Ostlund of McPherson county today introduced a bill providing for the establishment of a casket factory at the Hutchinson reformatory. The McPherson man would provide that the caskets for use of burial of paupers in all state institutions shall be built at the reformatory and furnished at the expense of the state.

Joeelyn of Sedgewick county has introduced in the house a bill conforming to the one recommended for passage by the Kansas Sportsmen's association. This bill provides for the appointment of fish and game warden by the governor and for a term of four years. The salary is made \$2,000 a year and provision is made for eight deputies at not to exceed \$1,000. Other deputies appointed will receive fees only.

The minimum wage for women bill was introduced in the house today by Taylor Riddle of Marion county. This bill was drafted by the legislative committee of the Good Government club, of which Riddle is president. Provisions of the proposed new law were printed in detail in the State Journal several days ago.

Representative Schlicher today introduced a measure which places the maximum school tax for the support of rural schools at four mills on the assessed valuation of the district. Under the present law, the maximum levy is four and a half mills on the dollar valuation.

Gordon of Wyandotte has presented the full crew bill in the house. A similar bill affecting the operation of railway trains was offered in the senate several days ago.

By a vote of 83 to 15, the house this morning passed the Herr bill prohibiting intermarriage of blacks and whites. The bill was reported favorably in the committee of the whole Tuesday afternoon and was today called up on third reading. Two years ago Herr's bill was beaten in the house by a straight party vote, which was made a party issue by Stone of Shawnee.

Davis of Edwards county has presented a bill compelling traveling paupers, cripples and invalids to secure a certificate of health as well as to their physical condition from the county health officer in each county in which they ask alms.

Kinkaid of Johnson offered a bill making it a misdemeanor for any person to neglect or refuse to care for a blind person and in any manner deceive the public as to their condition.

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PEACE AT LAST CASE OF DYCHE

War Between Turkey and Balkan Allies Has Ended.

Nothing Left but to Formulate a Satisfactory Treaty.

SOON WILL BEGIN TO DISARM

Even Greece Now Will Cease Her Hostile Actions.

King Nicholas Insists on Regular Surrender of Saitari.

London, Jan. 23.—The immediate consequences of the decision of the Turkish grand council to conclude peace with the Balkan allies will be the cessation of hostilities between Greece and Turkey and the surrender of the Turkish fortresses of Adrianople, Janin and Scutari. At all three fortresses, the Turkish garrison will withdraw with the honors of war, and the representatives of powers. King Nicholas of Montenegro insists he must enter Scutari at the head of his troops. Otherwise he says the reign of his family in Montenegro is doomed, as he, contrary to the advice of his generals refused to take Scutari by storm at the beginning of the war in order to avoid the certain heavy losses which his small army would have suffered. He preferred the temporizing policy of laying siege to the fortress and should Scutari for this reason be lost to the Montenegro he alone will be considered responsible.

Members of the Turkish peace delegation in London showed signs of depression today, but they are determined that the era of concessions must now be regarded as closed. They say they are convinced that the powers will support them in rejecting the demands of the allies for a war indemnity.

All fears of a resumption of the war having been removed the allies are now planning the withdrawal of large bodies of troops at an early date. The delegates in London, however, think that a month may pass before the final signatures are put to the peace treaty as the settlement of exact frontiers, the questions of indemnity and the guarantees in regard to the mosques and sacred places of Adrianople still have to be arranged.

Colder weather is scheduled for tonight and Friday. The shippers' forecast indicated that there will be a minimum temperature of about twenty degrees. Today the minimum was thirty-six degrees. At 10 o'clock this morning the fog had cleared, indicating that the remainder of the day would be pleasant.

The wind shifted from the south to the north this morning, and the barometer is rising rapidly which indicates a change in temperature.

This has proven a delightful day notwithstanding the early morning fog and light precipitation. The temperatures have averaged 12 degrees above normal for this date. The wind is blowing 15 miles an hour from the north. Fair and colder weather is predicted for tonight and Friday, but the cold will not be severe.

The hourly readings: 7 o'clock 36 11 o'clock 38 8 o'clock 37 12 o'clock 38 9 o'clock 37 1 o'clock 40 10 o'clock 36 2 o'clock 42

Weather Forecast for Kansas. Fair and colder.

FEEDS BOWERY BOYS.

Helen Gould Remembers Them in Hour of Great Happiness.

New York, Kan. 23.—Fifteen hundred "Bowery mission boys" had roast beef, turkeys, bread, coffee and apple pie for supper last night, the gift of Helen Gould, in honor of her marriage to Finley J. Shepard. In groups of several hundreds the "boys" formed in lines on the sidewalk near the Mission, rushed hungrily to the tables and after eating their fill, united in resolutions of thanks to Miss Gould for her "beautiful act in remembering us in this most auspicious moment of her earthly career."

They thanked her when a speaker said that their benefactor, "instead of thinking about her trousseau and hats and gowns as other brides do, was thinking of you men."

The program for the annual banquet of the Kansas Day club has been made public and it is claimed that one of the largest crowds that ever attended the annual Republican love feast will come to Topeka January 29. Congressman J. D. Edwards, of Topeka, will be the principal speaker on the program this year.

Diekema comes to Topeka to talk to Kansas Republicans with a glittering record as an orator. Members of the Kansas delegation in Washington declare that the Michigan man is lively company for any one in a debate and that in the recent campaign he was one of the biggest assets at the disposal of the Republican national committee. His subject is "The Future of the Republican Party."

Masonic Temple will be the scene of the banquet this year. Doors will be open at 6 o'clock and the evening of Wednesday, January 29 and tickets for the banquet have already been placed on sale. There are but five speakers on the program this year. This arrangement is believed to give more satisfactory and will give each speaker more time.

The speaking program as announced by Fred Jewell, secretary of the club, is as follows: President's address, K. M. Geddes, El Dorado.

"What of the Future?" Paul S. Gilmore, Kansas City, Kan.

"Everybody's Defeat of the Republican Party," James A. Troutman, Topeka.

"Why a New Political Party?" W. S. Roark, Junction City.

"The Constitution and the People," Fred Washburn, Anthony.

"The Future of the Republican Party."

Senator Curtis, Congressman Anthony and Campbell, as well as Charles Scott, of Iola, W. J. Bailey, of Atchison, and Edwin F. Hoch, of Marion, have all promised to attend the feast this year. Tickets for the banquet are on sale at Rowe's drug store, Burkhardt's cigar store and National and Troop hotels.

HIGH COST OF DYING.

Tomstones to Go Up and Grave Diggers to Form Union.

Philadelphia, Jan. 23.—The cost of dying and being buried is going up. The tombstone makers in convention here today are discussing the advisability of putting up the prices for tombstones. Grave diggers in all the cemeteries in this part of the state are planning to organize a union so that they can demand an increase in pay.

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THE GORDON BILL

It Requires Gas Through Mains, Not Air.

Wyandotte Representative's Gas Was Very Low.

COULDN'T COOK AN EGG

Must Keep Foreign Substances to 2 Per Cent.

Bill to Bar Common Law Marriages.

After securing the passage of a resolution which took a direct slap at Judge Pollock because of his recent decisions in the gas cases and urged congress to abolish all federal judgeships, W. W. Gordon, of Wyandotte county, today offered a bill tending to make the gas companies doing business in Kansas to furnish real gas through their mains and to maintain a minimum pressure or relinquish claims for gas consumed.

Ever since the day that natural gas was piped to Kansas City, Kansas, Gordon's gas meter has worked overtime. On cold days when it was impossible to cook an egg on the gas range, the Wyandotte member could hear the little dials and wheels in the meter rattling rag time as they registered the gas that he didn't get. Whether it was water or air or coal smoke that went through the pipes and made the meter violate the union rules in registering a gas bill, Gordon never knew. But he is confident that he and his neighbors paid for a good deal of gas that was never burned in the range and the furnace.

So the Wyandotte county member has framed and introduced a gas bill with teeth in it. He provides that at least 98 per cent of the material, ingredients and substances that go through the gas pipes shall be real bona fide gas and no burns. He provides further that at no time shall more than two per cent of water, cold air and other adulterations be mixed with the gas. And he further provides that a minimum pressure equal to four ounces of water pressure be maintained by the gas company at all times.

If any or all of these provisions are violated at any time, Gordon stipulates that the gas company relinquishes each and all of its claims for service to the individual consumer and that the purchaser of gas is thus provided just defense in any court of competent jurisdiction.

Common law marriages will not be recognized by Kansas courts in the future if a bill introduced in the house today by Miller of Cherokee county becomes a law. Miller is the Socialist member from Cherokee county and he would put a ban on all marriages, authorizing which a formal certificate has been issued by the probate judge or other proper authority.

The Cherokee county Socialist does not seek to disturb the relations of persons now living as man and wife under a common law contract, but would eliminate such practice in the future. His bill would make such practice in Kansas a misdemeanor and would eliminate such contracts from standing under the provisions of the statutes.

At the present time the common law marriage is fully recognized by Kansas courts. The fact that a man and woman have for a considerable time lived as husband and wife, or have been known or recognized in a community as husband and wife, is deemed in itself sufficient to have constituted a marriage contract. Under

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