

## A LIVING WAGE FOR WORKING WOMEN URGED BY CALIFORNIA LAW MAKERS

Sacramento, Cal., Dec. 21.—Since the working out of the eight hour law for women just as it was intended to work out—betterment of conditions for working women—the legislators of the state, headed by Leon Yankwich and Thomas F. Griffins, assemblymen, the later author of the eight hour law, are turning their attention to another much need-



Leon Yankwich.

ed reform—a living wage for women who must work.

"The two evils from which modern industrial life suffers, and the effects of which are more disastrous in the case of women than in the case of men, are: Overwork and Underpay," says Assemblyman Yankwich. "The eight hour law was the first attempt made in this state to remedy the evil of overwork.

The only way to fight under-

payment is by enacting a minimum wage board law. If over-work impairs the health and morals of the working women of the state, and thus indirectly impairs the health of the future generation, so does underpayment.

"Malnutrition and privation do not breed a strong, healthy womanhood, and the interest that the state has in the welfare of the future generations demands that the state interfere and protect its womanhood. No industry that cannot give a woman a decent wage is worthy of protection.

"Any industry that underpays our women and girls, that paves the way which leads girls to perdition, is too expensive and we cannot afford it.

"We have under consideration a law establishing a minimum wage board for women in this state. The statutes of other countries on the subject have been examined, as has the Wisconsin legislature at the last session.

"Many of the statutes enacted in foreign countries solve the problem by declaring that a certain wage shall be considered a minimum wage.

"It is our belief, however, that the better way would be to give the Labor Commissioner the power to determine the minimum wage for each industry, after defining that the minimum wage shall be a living wage.

"The bill, embodying these features will be submitted to the leg-