

CLASSIFICATION OF INDUSTRIES UNDER THE FIRST AID LAW

In arriving at the classification for the cost of medical aid and surgical attendance to injured workmen, there are no statistics on cost available for the Medical Aid Board, but through the office of the Industrial Commission the cost for time loss in each industry may be obtained. This cost runs from six mills in lumber yards to \$26.93 in canal construction, which is the highest in the list.

It is reasonable to suppose that the cost of medical attendance will bear some relation to the cost of time loss, and we have used this cost of time loss in making our first classification. The average cost for three years, or \$1.71, is put in class C by the basis laid down in the law, and those that are lower than this are put in class A or B, according to where they fall. The next highest coming in D, and we have placed in D all of those that show a cost between \$2.25 and \$3.25. Then we have placed all the highest ones in class E, beginning with advertising signs with a rate of \$4.34, bridge construction \$5.42, well drilling \$5.66, road making \$5.84, iron and steel frame structures other than bridges \$7.51, land clearing \$10.77, moving machinery \$21.48, canal construction \$26.93, and a number of others that run in this neighborhood.

The law provides for a merit system. The information necessary to establish this system may be obtained from the statistics of this office by the end of the first year, and at that time the industries can be re-classified with some accuracy.

The Medical Aid Board has sent the following letter of instructions to the employers of the state of Washington:

At the last session of the legislature the Workmen's Compensation Act of this state was amended in several particulars, the most important change being the addition of the Medical Aid Law to the Act. A brief resume of this new law is as follows:

Classification of Industries—The law provides a medical aid fund into which shall be paid by the employer on or before June 15, 1917, and each succeeding month thereafter for each day's work, or fraction thereof done for him in extra-hazardous employment in or during the preceding calendar month, the following amount: In class "A," 1c; class "B," 1½c; class "C," 2c; class "D," 2½c; class "E," 3c. One-half the amount due the medical aid fund shall be deducted from the wage of the employee, and the other one-half shall be paid by the employer. You will note that deductions from the workmen's wage must begin May 1, 1917.

Local Aid Boards—Subject to the rules and regulations promulgated by the State Medical Aid Board, the administration of, care, treatment, and services to injured workmen shall be in the hands of local boards, to be designated by the name of local aid boards, each to have two members, one to be selected and removed at pleasure by a majority of the workmen coming under its jurisdiction and one by majority of the employers coming under its jurisdiction. These boards should be organized and the names and addresses of the members of each board placed on file with the State Medical Aid Department as soon as possible.

Section 6604-40. It shall be the duty of each local aid board to provide care and treatment for each workman injured after June 30, 1917, in extra-hazardous employment, to report to the secretary of the State Board the commencement of every disability, the termination of same, the cause of same, with recommendations for the improvement of the services and of the administration, and also, subject to the provisions of Section 6604-37, certify to the State Board all bills rendered for care or treatment of injured workmen with power to reject any bill or item thereof, incurred in violation of the principle laid down in Section 6604-36. Blanks will be furnished by this department.

Contract Hospital and Medical Service—An employer may, with the consent of a majority of his workmen, enter into a written contract for medical, surgical and hospital care to workmen injured in his employ, by and under the control and administration of, and at the direct

expense of the employer and workmen.

Such contract shall not be for a longer period than three years. Before any contract of this nature shall go into effect it shall be submitted to the State Board for approval. Those firms and their employees who desire to contract for hospital and medical care, shall contribute to the Medical Aid fund ten per cent (10%) of the amount which would be due such fund had not the contract been in effect. One-half of this ten per cent shall be borne by the employer and one-half by the employee. A uniform contract for this purpose will be required and furnished, on application, by the State Medical Aid Board. As a workman is only entitled to compensation on account of an accident any contract that contemplates medical and hospital care for both accident and sickness cannot be recognized by the board. Any contract for sickness must be separate.

Section 6604-42.—Any employer who shall knowingly misrepresent the amount of contribution is due from him, to, or collected by him for the medical aid fund shall be liable to the state in civil action for the benefit of said fund in ten times the amount attempted to be concealed or withheld by such misrepresentation, and shall be also guilty of a misdemeanor.

Any person, firm, or corporation who not having previously reported to the secretary of the State Board, shall establish any new plant, or works, or enter upon the performance of any new building contract or construction contract and who shall fail to send written notice thereof to said secretary within five days after such establishing or entering, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(A classified list of extra hazardous industries accompanies the above letter, but is too long for publication in the Journal at this time.)

Agreement Reached Between the King County Medical Society and the Medical Aid Department

A committee, consisting of Drs. Von Puhl, Hunt, Kelton, and Dudley, representing the King County Medical society, called on the Medical Aid Board Tuesday, May 22d, and discussed the plans which the society has adopted for taking care of men engaged in extra-hazardous employment which comes under the provisions of the industrial insurance act of this state.

The society proposes to take over the treatment of all of the men who may be injured and who are entitled to treatment, allowing the men a free choice of physicians. The work is to be done on a flat-rate fee bill system, and the bills are to be presented to the Medical Society which holds the contract with the employer, their contention being that this will give the injured workmen everything that they are entitled to under the act, and, in addition to this, it will insure the most efficient treatment, owing to the fact that the Medical Society will be handling and responsible for the treatment of all of the men, paying their bills. The treatment of each individual under these conditions will not be so much in the hands of one physician, but the work will be checked by the society, and cases that show a necessity for special attention. This plan seems practical, and, if entered into in the right spirit, should meet the approval of all of the parties concerned.

The following is in the plan of the society:

"Whereas the medical aid law has been passed in this state, which provides and legalizes a contract system and individual choice of physician for the medical and hospital care of injured workmen;

"And whereas, it is manifest that the contract system, as shown, will become permanent;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that the King County Medical Society, for the best and material interest of its members, organize an industrial service bureau, supervised by five members of the society, which bureau shall have full power to make contracts for the society with employers and employees and supervise the business management of such bureau.

"Be it further resolved that such bureau become operative at once."

WORKING WOMEN WITH TRADE UNION CARDS WELL REPRESENTED

Inquiries received at this office show that there is a misunderstanding of that part of the work of my Committee on Labor which has to do with women in industry. An erroneous idea, which is strikingly general, is that wage-earning women are not represented by women with trade union cards in the sub-committee on Women in Industry. From the inquiries it is evident that many have only a vague or an incorrect conception of the organization of the Council of National Defense and its various advisory agencies. The following will clarify the situation.

The Naval Appropriations Law of 1916 provided for a Council of National Defense to be composed of the following members of the President's Cabinet: Secretary of War, Secretary of the Interior, Postmaster General, Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Labor. The law further provided for an Advisory Commission to consist of seven civilians. The President of the American Federation of Labor was appointed by President Wilson as a member of the Advisory Commission. In order to facilitate its work, the Council of National Defense and the Advisory Commission made each member of the latter, chairman of a committee, to assist him in the work of national defense apportioned to him. The undersigned was made chairman of the Committee on Labor, including Conservation and Welfare of Workers. This Committee on Labor acts in a capacity advisory to and co-operative with the chairman of the committee in his work as a member of the Advisory Commission.

I invite to assist me in the work of this Committee on Labor representative trade unionists, employers of labor, financiers, publicists, experts in various scientific fields and students. The large Committee on Labor consists of approximately three hundred members.

An Executive Committee was appointed to plan the work of the committee. On this Executive Committee there are, in addition to myself and my assistant in my work as a member of the Advisory Commission, Mr. James W. Sullivan, (member of I. T. U.), five trade unionists.

Among the committees provided for by the Executive Committee is the sub-committee on Women in Industry. When preparatory for this committee an additional number of trade union women were added to the General Committee on Labor. Since there is no provision for salaries or expenses for any member on any sub-committee, and as the work of the Committee on Women in Industry in order to be effective must be continuous it was necessary to appoint some woman as chairman who could afford to give all of her time and perform the work gratuitously.

The names of several trade union women were considered while the chairmanship was under consideration, but all were performing indispensable service to their organizations and were financially dependent upon salaries received for their work. They could not continue their work for their organizations and take up the additional work as chairman of this committee. For these reasons, together with her general sympathy and proven ability, Mrs. Borden Harriman was selected as chairman of the committee. The committee consists of 42 members, of whom 24 are members of trade unions.

Recently the Council of National Defense appointed a Woman's Board. One of the members of this board is Agnes Nestor, who is also a member of my sub-committee on Women in Industry. It is evident that this committee will be able to co-operate with the Woman's Board through Miss Nestor, who will be in touch with the work done by the committee.

It seems to me that in view of these facts ample provision has been made for protecting the interests of women in industry so far as the machinery of the Council of National Defense is concerned and, as all readers can see for themselves, trade union women have a representation that will enable them to protect the standards of women in industry and to assist these women in asserting and maintaining their rights. The declarations and the positions taken by women who are

TRADES COUNCIL

The Trades Council held no meeting this week, having adjourned in honor of Memorial Day.

members of the Woman's Board are of such character as to warrant the opinion that this board also is fully aware that industrial justice is fundamental in protecting the interests of women. Much serious consideration has been given to this matter in order that the rights of women may be protected as well as the interests of the entire labor movement. The tendency is apparent that in the months to come the number of women going into industry will be vastly increased. It will take the united effort of all to secure the protection of these women who shall go into industry and new occupations.

I hope, therefore, that the hearty support and co-operation of every woman and man in the labor movement can be counted upon for this work, which is of fundamental importance.

The work of the committee is yet in a formative stage.

Sincerely yours,
SAMUEL GOMPERS,
Chairman Committee on Labor.

Of the forty-two women appointed on the Advisory Commission of the Council of National Defense, twenty-four carry union cards, and the announcement is made that more names will be added if found necessary.

CONGRESS OBEYS NOT WILL OF THE PEOPLE

In planning their new revenue bill the members of the House Ways and Means Committee seem to have figured on disregarding public sentiment and sound economic principles as much as they could, without risk to their political prospects. It has proposed a number of taxes on industry, which must tend to cut down production, throw laborers out of work and help the cost of living to mount upward a little faster. The taxes on transportation receipts will be paid by shippers and travelers, who are already charged exorbitant rates. The tax on insurance policies. Fifty per cent increase in postage rates will be an enormous burden on business, to say nothing of its effect on all who make direct use of the mails. The lowering of the income tax exemption will put additional burdens on the class that bears the greater part of all existing indirect taxes and will bear the lion's share of the proposed new ones.

Taken as a whole the bill is drawn so as to bear far more heavily on the poor than on the wealthy. It will put great burdens on useful industry, and comparatively little on predatory privilege. The privilege of holding valuable land out of use, is not taxed at all, even while the administration is frantically urging that more land be cultivated.

It is evident that the committee must have deliberately disregarded practically every expression of opinion from the voters. It was flooded with requests urging that a tax on land values be levied to raise war expenses. It was also urged by a large group of citizens to conscript all individual incomes in excess of \$100,000. But it is certain that no ordinary citizen in his senses, with no ax to grind, asked it to put taxes on tea, coffee, chewing gum, automobiles, moving pictures, or other labor products. What type of statesmanship is it, that leads to such contempt of good policy and good politics?—American Economic League.

THE SPECULATORS RULE THE ROOST

To raise two billions of extra revenue Congress seems willing to levy taxes in any way except the only one that will prove no burden to labor. The Committee on Ways and Means recommends heavily increased taxes on industry, increased taxes on incomes, regardless of whether they be earned or unearned; increased taxes on excess profits, regardless of whether they be due to extraordinary service on the part of the recipient, or to extraordinary predatory power possessed by him; and a lot of new taxes which must fall to a considerable extent on consumption.

But one source of revenue the

committee overlooked. It has paid no attention to land values at all. To be sure the income tax falls to some extent on ground rents, but only on ground rents for land in use. Land withheld from use, however valuable it may be, is exempt. This discriminates against the landowner who does not entirely forbid use of his property.

At the very time when a crop shortage threatens and people are being urged on all sides to plant on every bit of vacant space, the Ways and Means Committee deliberately frames a bill, that continues encouragement to owners of idle land, to keep it out of use.

A substitute for the bill framed by the committee has been introduced by Congressman Crosser, of Ohio. It provides for a tax on land values, large enough to raise the \$2,000,000,000 needed. If passed, it will force into use every bit of valuable land now withheld. It will not prove a burden to a single useful industry. It will be in the nature of a levy on citizens in accordance with benefits received from the government. Its superiority over the Ways and Means Committee's bill is so obvious, that there is no reason why it should not be passed.

But Congress is not in the habit of giving the best bill the preference. Perhaps this will prove no exception. — American Economic League.

Smoke Chas. Sheets' CHALLENGE 10c Cigar.

PROGRESSIVE NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota is the latest state to take a big step in advance in taxation. The legislature, with one house overwhelmingly controlled by farmers, has passed the bill providing that in 1918 all land, city lots, public utility stock and bank stock, shall be assessed at 30 per cent of its true value; all tangible personal property and all improvement on farm land shall be assessed at 5 per cent, and all other property at 20 per cent. Cities are empowered to assess their improvements in the same way if they wish to do so.

North Dakota has thus adopted for state-wide purposes the system which Houston, Texas, has had in effect for several years. It is an approach to the Single Tax idea. And the fact that a legislature of farmers approved it, shows that the tillers of the soil in the northwest know a good system of taxation when they see it.—American Economic League.

ROCKEFELLER BUNCH BREAKS ITS PLEDGE

The United Mine Workers at Starkville and Sopris, Colorado are protesting against the anti-union policy of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company (Rockefeller's concern), which has discharged trade union officials, because of their activity in favor of organized labor and against the Rockefeller "union," which has proven a fraud and a snare. In resolutions forwarded to all unions in mining camps controlled by the Rockefeller company, the unionists declare that this discrimination must cease or the C. F. & I. will be called upon to take such action as will put an end to intimidation of superintendents and their subordinates who would prevent miners organizing a bona fide trade union in place of the Rockefeller "union" that is owned, dominated and financed from the company's headquarters.

In their resolutions the miners say: "We are loath to stop the production of coal at a time when it may interfere with the welfare of our country, but we have reached the limit of toleration in this uncalled-for and unjust discrimination by this company, through its petty pit bosses and superintendents.

"The company has made public statements that it has no objection to their employees belonging to a labor union, but these statements have been proven false and hypocritical because of the continued discrimination against men who take an active part in the affairs of the United Mine Workers of America."

Either John D. Rockefeller, senior or junior, is none too good to deliver a fervent prayer and break a solemn pledge in the same breath.

James G. Webster, of the Concrete Herald, was a visitor in the city last Saturday.

Try "BLUE RIBBON" Cigar, 5c.

EXPERIENCE OF WARRING NATIONS WORKING CHILDREN IN WARTIME

(From U. S. Department of Labor, Children's Bureau, Washington.)
(First Article: "Child Labor on English Farms.")

The various propositions which are now being made for the use of children in farm work lend interest to the English experience with farm labor of children. England is putting her all into this war, and if she has found, in spite of the increasing strain of the passing months that children's welfare has been needlessly sacrificed, surely the testimony of her officials is timely and important for us.

England has been granting special exemptions from school attendance. Between the outbreak of the war and the first of May last year, 28,000 children of school age had been excused from school for farm work. What do the English official records show about the need for these children's help and the effect upon them of their employment?

The granting or withholding of exemptions has been in the hands of the Local Education Authorities and their policy has not been uniform. Many of them in all sections of the country have consistently refused to excuse children from school. The farmers of these districts have clamored as loudly as others for child helpers, but it appears from available reports that they have managed without the children when the school authorities stood firm.

The Board of Education, during the first year of the war, advised the Local Authorities as follows: Exemptions should be granted only to individual children after personal investigation of each case; no general breakdown of the laws in any district was intended; the employment of children of school age should be regarded as an exceptional measure and should be allowed only where the authorities were satisfied that no other labor was available. The authorities were to ascertain that application had been made to the Labor Exchanges with an offer of adequate wages. In no case were the authorities to excuse children if older children past the age of compulsory attendance were available; the authority should secure particulars of the work, the wages offered, and the period for which the labor was required; the work should be light and suited to the capacity of the child.

A year later the Board of Education urged a stiffening of these conditions. They laid special emphasis on the fact that the urgency of the need for the child's help might be tested by the amount of wages offered; also, they said, a register should be kept of children exempted, and exemptions should be reviewed at least once in three months to ascertain that the conditions under which they were granted still existed.

In spite of this, the latest report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education says: "The Board have already expressed their concern to Local Education Authorities at the large number of exemptions which have been granted far too freely and without sufficiently careful ascertainment that the conditions of exemption prescribed by the government were fulfilled."

The British Board of Trade speaks of various other ways in which the shortage of men for farm labor has been met. Older children have been employed. Women have volunteered for farm work. Machinery has been increasingly used.

The Labour Gazette refers also to the low wages offered by the farmers. And in the parliamentary debates on child labor in agriculture the farmer's liking for a boy who will work for sixpence a day is given by some members as an important reason for the demand for child labor. Unofficially it is stated that in those parts of the country where rural wages are highest the least use has been made of children.

That the best interests of the children themselves have been sacrificed is recognized. As the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education puts it in his last report: "To withdraw the child from school at an earlier age than that contemplated by the attendance by laws is to arrest his education on the threshold of the years when he is probably just commencing to assimilate and consolidate the instruction he has received and is receiving at school."

His introduction to labor at this time renders him liable to conditions of strain detrimental to his physical well-being."

A fuller statement of the English situations with quotations from the English reports can be secured from the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C. upon application.

(Second Article: "Child Labor in Warring Countries.")

"The experience of war time has only demonstrated the necessity — technical, economic, and even physiological—of the labor laws enacted before the war. In our legislation secured in time of peace we shall find the condition for a better and more intense production during the war."

These words of M. Albert Thomas, the French Minister of Munitions, illustrate perfectly the official attitude of both France and England after two years of emergency exemptions for war industries, according to the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor which has just completed a brief review of all available reports on child labor in the warring countries.

In France and England, earlier standards of hours are being retored, not only to protect the health of the workers but for the sheer sake of industrial efficiency, present and future. In Italy, the Central Committee on Industrial Mobilization has taken steps in the same direction. In Russia, a year before the revolution, a movement was under way to raise the age limit for children in industry.

Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, in spite of the great armies of men they have sent to the front, have maintained their labor standard with little or no variation. Victoria has slightly increased the amount of overtime which may be permitted to women and children in special cases. On the other hand, Manitoba has reduced its legal overtime. No change whatever in restrictions on woman and child labor is reported from New Zealand.

The Children's Bureau sums up as follows the child-labor situation in France and England:

France, after almost two years of war time exemptions by which children under 18 were allowed to work at night in special cases, restored the night-work prohibition for girls under 18 and provided that other night workers should be subject to medical supervision. The reason for this is indicated not only in the statement by M. Thomas, quoted above, but again in the following extract from the French official Bulletin des Usines de Guerre for July 31, 1916:

With the continuance of the war it becomes necessary not only to find the best possible disposition of the forces available for our war industries but also to avoid every cause for exhaustion or weakening of the labor employed in our factories. There is a close relation between the conditions in which we place our workers and the improvement or the increase of our war products. For the very sake of the national defense we must conserve all their physical strength for the workers who are responsible for the manufacture of arms and for the output of our factories.

France has now under consideration an education bill which would in effect raise the standard of labor protection in war time. It was introduced in the Chamber of Deputies in March by M. Viviani and closely resembles a bill passed by the French Senate in June, 1916. This proposal to establish a system of continuation schools and to require part-time school attendance during working hours by all working children under 17 years of age has the endorsement of the Minister of Commerce and of business interests in all parts of the country.

A similar advance has been recommended in England by the Departmental Committee on Education for Juvenile Employment after the war. This committee also advises an effective 14-year age limit for required school attendance without the exemptions permitted by the present law. Supplementary estimates for educational purposes have been presented to Parliament by the government which look toward a strengthening of adolescent education.

(Continued on page three)