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 torney Peter Husby, 215-16
 Stokes Bldg., Everett, Wash.

Editor's Note: Free legal advice on any subject is given in this column to Washington Socialist subscribers. Are not fifty-two copies of this paper and a legal adviser for a year worth \$1.00? Tell your neighbors about this great offer.

Q. In 1913 we organized a farmers' telephone company, and in due time made arrangements with a certain telephone company for exchange service. Shortly after a representative of the said company called upon a few members in our company and got them to sign a contract, naming a rate of \$3 per year for central service. A majority of the members in our company were not given a chance to sign the contract but have since been charged \$3.60 per year for exchange service. We protested to the officials of the said company against this discrimination in rates, but were informed that the rate is fixed by the public service commission. Will you kindly inform us through the Washington Socialist whether or not the Sherman anti-trust law prohibits the granting of rebates and preferential rates by any corporation handling a public utility?
 —E. H. E.

A. The Sherman anti-trust law does not touch this case at all. However, the laws of this state make the giving of such rebates and preferential rates a gross misdemeanor.

Q. Will you please tell me if the law can prevent a fellow from catching fish for his own use with a set net in a closed river, or is this river (the Stillaguamish) closed so we are not allowed to catch fish with a net at all?
 —J. H.

A. In the fish code we find the following: "Provided, that nothing in this act or any other act shall prevent any person residing in this state from taking salmon or other fish by any means at any time for consumption by himself and family." But, lo and behold, now comes the city sports' game law and says: "Nets of any description being used in any of the fresh waters of this state above tide water are hereby declared and are a public nuisance, etc." Also the supreme court has handed down a decision upholding this provision of the game law. However, this law does not prevent you from taking salmon with a net for your own use as far up the river as the tide makes itself felt. Further up than that it is a misdemeanor, under the game law.

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No. 4608
 In the Justice Court Before Noah Shakespeare, Justice of the Peace, in and for Everett Precinct, Snohomish County, Washington.

John Barlow, Plaintiff, vs. Bert Anderson, Defendant.
 TO BERT ANDERSON:
 In the name of the State of Washington you are hereby notified that John Barlow has filed a complaint against you in said court, which will come on to be heard at the justice's court room, in the court house annex, in Everett, Snohomish county, Washington, on the 5th day of February, 1915, at the hour of 9 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, and unless you appear and then and there answer, the same will be taken as confessed, and the demand of the plaintiff granted.

The object and demand of the complaint is to recover the sum of Ten Dollars with interest for money loaned to you by the plaintiff.
 You are further notified that the Great Northern Railway company, a corporation, has been made garnishee defendant herein, and that certain money belonging to you has been garnished.
 Complaint filed January 4th, 1915
 NOAH SHAKESPEARE,
 Justice of the Peace.
 First publication January 14th, 1915.
 3.

No.
 In the Superior Court of the State of Washington, for Snohomish County. Mary Johnson, Plaintiff, vs. John B. Johnson, Defendant.
 The State of Washington to the above named defendant, John B. Johnson:

You are hereby summoned to appear within sixty (60) days after the date of first publication of this summons, to-wit, within sixty (60) days after the 10th day of December, 1914, and defend the above entitled action in the above entitled court, and answer the complaint of the plaintiff, and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorney for plaintiff, at his office below stated, and in case of your failure so to do judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the complaint, which has been filed with the clerk of the said court.
 The object of this action is to obtain a decree of divorce against the defendant, upon the grounds of desertion and non-support.

PETER HUSBY,
 Attorney for Plaintiff.
 Office and Postoffice address: Rooms 215-16 Stokes Bldg., Everett, Snohomish County, Washington.
 Date of first publication December 10th, 1914.

'BETTER CLASS' WOMAN WAGE SLAVE TIRED OF TALK ABOUT 'IMMORALITY'

Testifying before the state factory investigation commission, holding sessions last week in New York city, a Mrs. Maud Flowerton denounced "so-called reformers, economists and sociologists for shouting about immorality among saleswomen."

"The better class saleswoman," said Mrs. Flowerton, "are pretty hot because of the criticism of them and the talk about immorality and all that sort of thing. These so-called social workers who make breaks about the poor, downtrodden shop girl mostly don't know what they are talking about. Such talk has a very bad moral effect."

All of which amounts to about this: There are many girls and women working in retail stores in New York, as elsewhere, who are either wholly or in part supported by members of their own family, their own wages going mostly for the purchase of fashionable clothing and befeathered "creations" for their hats. These constitute the "swell dressers" of the department stores, and other shops where stylish apparel lends dignity to the establishment at no extra expense to the boss. These "ladies" who work only for pin money, finery, etc., are "the better class saleswomen" referred to by Mrs. Maud Flowerton. To lump these darlings of fortune in with the "worse" class of saleswomen, they who work to earn bread and coal-oil,—is indeed outrageous! Why should the question of "immorality" be raised in connection with their "low wages"? Why, indeed! If any such are given to fornication, it's not a question of low wages with them, but more likely of high living, or flying, not of necessity. Besides, it's no business of those interfering "reformers, economists and sociologists," anyway. Such talk about low wages and the temptation to supplement the weekly wage of \$6 by other means should be discouraged. It may be all right as applied to the "lower class of saleswomen," they who work for bread rather than feathers, but the investigation is too inclusive; it falls to take account of the "better class," the voluntary wage slaves, for revenue only. It's positively shocking, and may have had effect on the (marriage) market.

DOESN'T LIKE MINIMUM WAGE LAW NEITHER
 Mrs. Flowerton said she was opposed to a minimum wage law, also. Any woman who has to be even a "better class" saleswoman and bear up under the name of Flowerton, even if it is Maud Flowerton, might well shrink from a cruel minimum wage law. Gracious! If poor girls who have to work to keep from starving, and therefore can't keep their wardrobe up to "the latest effect" are to be paid as much as the "better class of saleswomen" who have some one to feed and shelter them, in what will the superiority of "the better class" consist? It's really too horrible, all too horrible to contemplate, these "breaks" made by meddling investigators, reformers, etc.

HOW THE LOWER CLASS SALESWOMEN FEEL ABOUT MINIMUM WAGE LAW
 Letters from girls employed in stores and shops describing their wage conditions were read at the hearing. One girl wrote:

"I am a clerk in one of those stores which give \$20,000 to charity at a time. I have been working three years, and never got an increase."
 Another girl wrote: "I am without father, mother, or brother to give me a helping hand, and am living on \$5 a week. I pay \$3 for my board, \$1 for lunch and carfare and have one whole dollar left to dress on and keep up appearances."
 Rome G. Brown, of Minneapolis, testified that low wages were not responsible for immorality among working girls. He held that immorality was due solely to individual character. Of course. Why should Rome G. Brown "hold" otherwise?
 It was announced that Louis D. Brandeis, who opposed Mr. Brown before the supreme court, would be called by the commission on January 22.

APROPOS OF LOW WAGES AND MORALS

While it would never do for the ruling and befuddling class to admit that the system that favors them ruins the workers whom they miseducate and exploit, nevertheless, their bluffs at "fair-mindedness" and "honest investigation" often result in turning the light of knowledge into some pretty dark regions. Here are some examples; think them over.
 On page 28, the report of the Pittsburg Morals Efficiency Commission says:

Too great emphasis is usually laid upon the influence of women's low wages in promoting the tendency to vice. Then figures are furnished to prove that the vast majority of prostitutes received low wages and come from poor parents.

Next the report (page 30) says: "No woman can sincerely say she was driven to a life of shame by low wages and the high cost of living, when there are hundreds of homes unable to secure help, where she could have earned board and lodging and \$5 to \$8 a week besides." Yet (page 29) figures are given to show that out of 506 prostitutes, 169, or a full third, had been in domestic service.

And later, on pages 39-40, the rescue homes are mentioned which fit fallen women for domestic service. Have reformers no sense of humor? Finally out of 531 prostitutes there were only two freethinkers! Doesn't it beat all how free thought fosters immorality?

BOSSSES NOT OPPOSED TO POLITICAL ACTION

Joe Ettor Goes to Jail
 Declaring war against war and against capitalism, the cause of wars, Joseph Ettor, who believes only in "direct action," was treated to a little of both "direct" and "political" action last Tuesday by the bosses of Bellaire, O. Joe is in jail.
 The charge against Ettor comes under the head of political action, namely, "treason." Wonder if Joe can beat this with "striking on the job."
 Some of our readers will remember Joe as the revolutionist who gave such a nice reading here in Everett during what was intended to be a debate with the editor of The Washington Socialist.

CITY'S LURE OF VICE BECKONS TO JOBLESS, HUNGERING WOMEN

By NIXOLA GREELEY-SMITH
 (In the New York Daily Call.)

There are just three times as many women on the brink of starvation in this city as ever before in its history of famine and despair.

"More women are unemployed and looking vainly for work in New York than at any past time—that I can say. But figures are impossible to get," replied Miss Melinda Scott, president of the Women's Trade Union League, when I asked her to tell me how many women are out of work here.

"I know there are 15,000 idle waist makers alone; that there are thousands of white goods workers, garment workers and women bookbinders seeking employment. But how many thousands? Ask the Russell Sage Foundation. They've got the time and the money to collect such facts. Why don't they?"

I had asked the Russell Sage Foundation and they didn't know. Nobody knows accurately. From one source I gathered that there are 20,000 women stenographers out of work in this city. From another that there are 18,000 girl clerks of department stores walking New York's grim pavements in search of work.

Elizabeth Dutcher, of the Retail Clerks' Union, had this to say: "In normal times 100,000 clerks are employed in New York city. Many of these are idle now, as the stores laid off hundreds of employees in November. In the union we get only the most ambitious, intelligent girls. Thousands of girl clerks are too indifferent or too thriftless or poor to pay union dues. In normal years in New York 20,000 extra clerks are employed for the holiday season. This year only 2,000 were employed, leaving 18,000 without work."

SEES EVIL IN LOW WAGES
 Miss Josephine Goldmark, of the National Consumers' league, said that it was a matter beyond question that the low wages undermined the morals of the workers. She said that she was surprised when she saw so many of them good under the circumstances. She thought it was foolish to talk of efficient living on \$6 a week.

Dr. Henry Seager, professor of political economy in Columbia university, believed that if there was to be a minimum wage law it should apply to men as well as women and minors.

Dr. Edward T. Devine, of the school of philanthropy, was on the stand for a short time and was followed by Miss Mary Van Kleeck, who made an investigation for the commission a short time ago. She advocated the establishment by law or otherwise of minimum wage boards. She thought a woman should not be paid less than \$9 a week. Very low wages led to a lower moral tone among the workers, she said.

At the request of Miss Charlotte Bangs, a writer, a girl was put on the stand who said she had been for many years working in a store at \$6.50 a week, sometimes working 10 and 12 hours a day. Girls were insulted at times, she said, and the conditions tended to bring about immorality.

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