

LABOR BUREAU'S CHANGES OPPOSED

Organized Effort to Resist Reorganization Appears at Hearing.

PRESENT LAWS UPHELD

Senator Knight Defends Bill Before Governor for Approval.

ALBANY, March 8.—Organized labor representatives of the State Industrial Commission and spokesmen for the City Club of New York, the Women's Municipal League and the Consumers League appeared before Gov. Miller today in opposition to the Knight-Brady bill, designed to reorganize the State Industrial Commission, which is now before the Governor for approval.

The bill was defended by Senator John Knight, one of its introducers and the head of the special legislative committee which has been studying the labor laws, and by Mark A. Daly, representing the Associated Industries.

President James P. Holland and John M. O'Hanlon of the State Federation of Labor presented a brief embodying organized labor's objections to the measure. Bernard I. Shientag, counsel to the Industrial Commission, submitted a brief for Edward F. Boyle, chairman of the commission, and Miss Frances Perkins, a member of the commission, spoke in opposition to the bill. The opponents argued that enactment of the measure would break down the existing labor laws, which are the product of thirty years' study and legislation, and that the bill does not embody the Governor's reorganization recommendations in that it leaves with the proposed single industrial commissioner, rather than with the Legislature, the reorganization of the Labor Department.

Miss Perkins said that the Labor Department should not be "flaunted" committed to the hands of different commissioners.

"The labor laws under which we are operating to-day," she said, "are a monument to the young people who lost their lives in the Triangle fire."

Senator Knight's argument was in the nature of a general reply to the specific objections directed against the bill. Mr. Daly declared that four or five years' experience with the industrial commission as at present constituted had convinced the members of his organization that the administration of the commission had been a failure. "It is good business," he said, "to substitute the so-called overhead plan for bureaucratic control, and we believe that great economies may be effected thereby."

SMITH OVERWHELMED BY ALBANY RECEPTION

Ex-Governor, as Citizen, Urges State Reorganization.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, New York Herald Bureau, Albany, March 8.

CHLSEN Al Smith came back to the State capital to-day for his first visit since he left as Governor, to appear at a public hearing of the Assembly Judiciary Committee in support of the Administration's policy of reconstructing the State Government. The gray haired attendant around the corridors of the State House said that it was the first time that a Governor had ever come back to speak as a citizen.

Mr. Smith's visit was spectacular and was a signal for a remarkable personal testimonial. Coming up on the train this morning he shook hands with scores of men and women who passed through his car and his walk up Capitol Hill was a series of similar receptions. At 12 o'clock he started from the Assembly Chamber for the Albany Club, where several friends were going to entertain him at lunch, but by 2:30 he had been able to get only half way across the Assembly corridor because of long lines of old friends. He therefore abandoned the lunch and went into the Capitol restaurant, where he ate a ham sandwich with one hand and shook hands with the other.

The constitutional amendments that were the subject of the hearing provide for consolidation of all State departments and commissions under eighteen heads, a four year term for Governor, an executive budget and the appointment of most of the State officers by the Governor. The former Governor declared that the present system was behind the times and that a private corporation conducted under the same methods would do our business in a year. He declared that the only reason the State government had not collapsed was its tremendous taxing power.

REALTY MEN SEE CHAOS, WITH LESS CONSTRUCTION

Continued from First Page.

The stagnation of apartment house and home building caused by the enactment of the laws will continue, they said, until the laws automatically expire in November, 1922.

A statement from the Real Estate Investors of New York, Inc., which includes some of the largest operators in the upper West Side and Riverside Drive districts, said in part:

"The rent laws, regardless of their constitutionality, have driven investors and builders from the apartment house field. An investor will not buy when he has to go to court month after month to secure a fair return upon his investment. A canvass of builders who have constructed hundreds of millions of dollars worth of apartment houses in past years has brought a unanimous statement that these builders will not resume their operations while the rent laws are on the statute books. The Building Department records show that practically twice as much was spent to build stables and garages in Manhattan in 1920 as was spent for the building of apartments."

Sees Only Hope in Law Changes.

The Apartment House Association, Inc., of which S. Fullerton Weaver is president and Lawrence B. Eilman first vice-president, which operates through the Grand Central and upper East and West Side zones, asserted that the builder of experience and no investor of careful judgment can be expected to build, purchase or loan on dwellings unless amendments are adopted that will make the laws less drastic and virtually repeal certain provisions. As an alternative to this the association urges the "absolute necessity" of the "building of houses directly by the State or city, or by philanthropic organizations financed by the State or city."

"We make this latter recommendation with reluctance," the statement continues. "We believe that housing thus produced will be constructed with extravagance and loss to the State or the city. We feel, however, that this housing of our citizenry is more vital to the community than the safeguarding of its funds from waste. If the building of dwellings through private initiative is to end the State must assume the obligation of creating sufficient housing space, no matter what the cost."

WANTS TO MAKE CITY USE VOTING MACHINES

Heydt Advocates Measure to Compel Installation.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, New York Herald Bureau, Albany, March 8.

In the name of honest elections in New York city Charles Heydt, Commissioner of Elections, at a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee this afternoon urged favorable action on a bill requiring the city to adopt voting machines. He declared that frauds and the necessity for recounts are unknown in places which have adopted voting machines.

"Conditions in New York city," Mr. Heydt said, "are different from those in other places. Something must be done to get a quick and proper statement of the result of an election so that it will not be constantly questioned. With voting machines election districts could be increased to include at least 700 electors without inconvenience. This would enable the city to cut down the number of its election districts from 2,700 to 2,600 and result in a saving of \$400,000 a year, besides assuring an honest count."

Mr. Heydt estimated that to install voting machines in New York would cost about \$2,000,000, and said they would pay for themselves in five or six years.

HIGH COURT DIVIDES, 4-3, IN ODELL MURDER CASE

Majority Decides Prisoner, Not Wife, Slew Kneip.

ALBANY, March 8.—The conviction of James Louis Odell, convicted of murdering Edward J. Kneip, near Rochester, on January 7, 1920, was affirmed by the Court of Appeals to-day. The court was divided. The conviction was upheld by Judges Pound, Cardozo, Sutherland and Crane. Chief Judge Hiscock and Judges Andrews and Hogan dissented.

Odell and his wife, Pearl Odell, were charged with having beaten Kneip to death in revenge for Kneip's relations with the woman before her marriage.

Both opinions pointed out that the trial judge inadvertently failed to present to the jury the question raised by Odell's testimony as to whether he actually killed Kneip. Odell swore to facts which indicated that Kneip was killed by Mrs. Odell while the husband was unconscious. The majority of the court, while criticizing this defect in the charge, thought it was inconceivable that the verdict of the jury would have been different had the omission been supplied. The minority held that the omission was a substantial error.

LEADERS HESITATE ON CAR FARE LIMIT

Legislators Fear Too Rigid Restrictions May Work Badly for Public.

COURT DELAY IS MENACE

Transit Amendments Being Put in Shape So Bill Can Be Printed Soon.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, New York Herald Bureau, Albany, March 8.

How far the Legislature should go in limiting the new Public Service Commission to be created under Gov. Miller's transit policy in the matter of power to increase or lower fares pending final adjustment of the traction problem was not determined to-day by the legislative leaders.

The Public Service Committee met to revise the numerous amendments that have been suggested but did not complete its work. Another meeting will be held to-morrow, when it is expected the committee will reach an agreement. The leaders are anxious to report out the final amendments by to-morrow or Thursday so that the bill may be reported over Sunday.

The amendment proposed is that the new commission shall not have any power over fare readjustment until the working plan has been perfected for the new system by the State, city and corporations.

Further demand now is made that the limitation be extended to provide that the commission shall have no authority over fares until the plan is actually in operation. There also is the possibility that the application of the programme may be held up by court action.

DRY BILLS' STRENGTH SHOWN IN TEST VOTE

Outcome Insures Passage Late This Week.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, New York Herald Bureau, Albany, March 8.

The first test vote on Governor Miller's three State prohibition enforcement bills came to-day in the Assembly when Charles D. Enoch, the minority leader, demanded a slow roll call on their advancement. The vote was 78 to 55, insuring their passage in the lower house. Later this week, the majority leader declared that because of the numerous amendments that had been made to the bills further progress at this time should be held up.

"These bills have been carefully considered," retorted Simon L. Adler, the majority leader, "and action on them should be taken now."

Twenty-nine Republicans who joined with the Democrats and Socialists in opposing the bills came mostly from New York and Buffalo. They were: Aronson, Baum, Bly, Brookwald, Carroll, Caulfield, Doherty, Druss, Dipiro, Fox, Gumpert, Giaccone, Halpern, Hawkins, Lieberman, J. J. Moore, Morrissey, Moses, Mullen, Neary, Nichols, Rathor, Reiss, Seelbach, Steinberg, Stitt, Ullman, Wallace and Warren.

EXPRESS CARS DETAILED

SCHLANTON, Pa., March 8.—Ten express cars attached to a Lackawanna Railroad train containing silk and other merchandise consigned from New York to Buffalo and Western points were detailed to-day at Factoryville, near here. Reports indicated that the damage to the merchandise would be heavy.

the Brooklyn, Queens and Suburban Railroad Company for permission to resume operation of the Metropolitan avenue line from the Metropolitan avenue station of the Myrtle avenue elevated line to Jamaica Avenue at an additional five cent fare. A number of citizens appeared in favor of the petition on the ground that they needed the service regardless of the proposed additional fare. The hearing will be resumed Friday. Decision was reserved upon the pending petition for resumption of operation of the Park slope trolley line during rush hours.

RAYHER ONLY SPONSOR FOR OWN LIBEL BILL

Public and Press Voice Opposition to Measure.

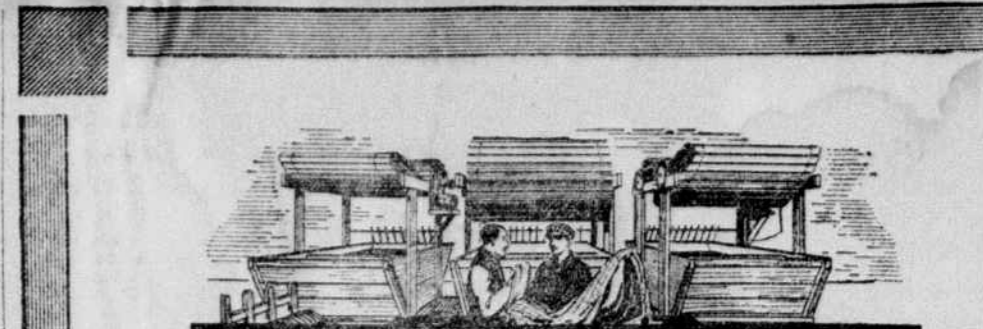
Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, New York Herald Bureau, Albany, March 8.

The bill making it a libel to criticize any race, sect or order came to-day before the Assembly Codes Committee for a hearing, but the only spokesman in favor of it was Assemblyman E. R. Rayher of New York, who introduced it. Strong opposition was expressed by representatives of newspapers and the public. Senator Duggan, who introduced the measure in the Senate, is said to have disavowed it.

Assemblyman Ernest E. Cole asked Rayher where the demand for such a drastic law came from and Rayher insisted it came from the people. Mr. Cole remarked that it was strange no one in the Legislature excepting Assemblyman Rayher had heard the voice of the people.

"This bill of yours," he said, "would make criminals of almost every writer living, to say nothing of the publishers of books long dead."

Assemblyman Martin declared the bill was a dangerous piece of legislation and should not be reported out of committee. Martin Saxe, appearing for the New York press, told the committee that if passed the bill would gag all free speech. Canon William S. Chace of Brooklyn also appeared against the measure.

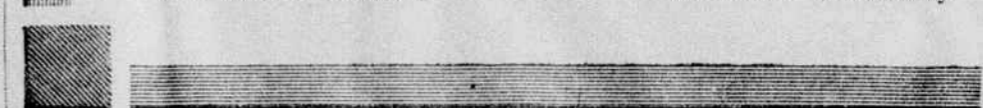


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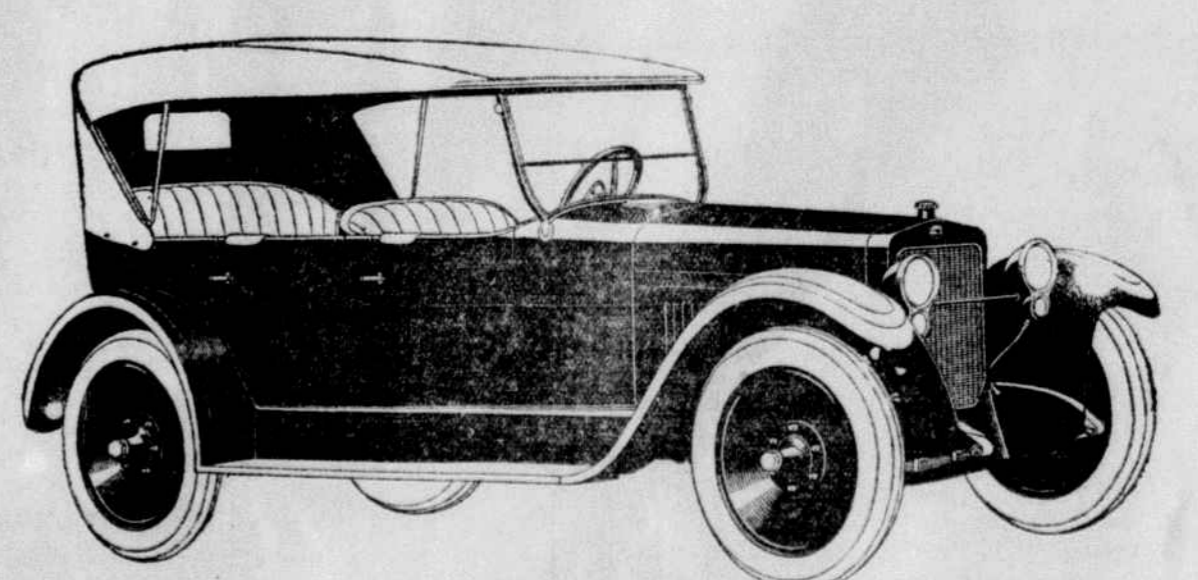
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