

Theatrical Employees.

During 1913 an Act was passed regulating the erection, operation and general safety of all halls, theatres and cinematographs. In addition to providing for proper exits, aisles and fire protection the Act also makes it necessary for operators of moving picture machines to secure a license. This license is issued to only thoroughly capable men who have served an apprenticeship under a properly qualified operator, and have passed a certain prescribed examination.

WAGE EARNING CLASSES.

Masters and Servants.

The Masters and Servants Act, while protecting the employer against the loss and trouble of unreliable employees, also protects the employees against ill usage or wrongful dismissal. Police magistrates may release employees from unjust conditions and order the employer to pay the employee, in addition to all amounts due him, a further sum not to exceed the equivalent of four weeks' wages. As stated, this Act practically guarantees the wages of all workers besides insuring to them proper treatment by employers, even though the employee should be under contract to work for a given period of time.

Building Trades Act.

The Building Trades Protection Act passed in 1912, has for its object the protection of workmen engaged in the erection or repair of buildings, also in digging of trenches and excavations. All scaffolding must be of certain prescribed construction, of sufficient strength to carry the load it is intended to carry with a reasonable margin of safety. In all excavations over four feet deep, the walls or sides must be securely shored up so as to prevent caving in. The provisions of The Building Trades Protection Act are enforced by a competent building inspector, appointed by the Government.

Employment Agencies Act.

It does not require much study of the unemployed question to convince anyone that the industrious, hard working man, possibly with a family to support, and who is temporarily out of work, should receive some protection against unscrupulous employment agencies. Not all employment agents are rogues, and the law respecting employment agents contains nothing that will in the least work hardship on the man doing a legitimate business, but on the other hand its operation will close out the business of those who have resorted to this calling in order to make an easy living by getting something for nothing. Cases are on record where employment agents have by what is known as splitting fees kept three gangs of men moving, one gang going to the job, one working and one coming back. Fee splitting is worked by the employment agent entering into secret partnership with the foreman on the works who agrees not to hire any men except those sent out by the agency; he further