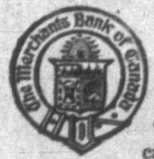




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HAWAIIAN LABOR MEN OPPOSE IMPORTATION OF CHINESE LABOR

Washington. Coolie importation for peonage on Hawaiian sugar plantations was given a severe blow here today when Hawaiian labor representatives, accompanied by President Compters of the American Federation of Labor and fully-a dozen other labor representatives appeared before the House Committee on Immigration.

President George W. Wright of the Honolulu Central Labor Union gave the committee a complete account of the plantation labor situation and made it clear that, entirely aside from the principle of Oriental exclusion, there is no economic cause for the importation of coolies.

As important as any statement made by the labor representatives was a statement of Congressman Baker, of Oregon, member of the Committee on Immigration.

"The proposed joint resolution, if adopted," said Congressman Baker, "would make Hawaii an island of criminals. It would let down the bars to every criminal class anywhere in the world. And once on American soil they could go anywhere on American soil without passports."

"REMEDY—Follow the approved industrial methods and endeavor to increase the efficiency of your employees by effecting a right understanding with them. Recognize the principle of collective bargaining and signify your willingness to meet with representatives of your employees in a conference which we will arrange and to which we, as representatives of the Central Labor Council will be present as the third party acting as mediators. We will guarantee that if this is done in the right spirit of cooperation on your part it will be met in the same spirit by our employees and an agreement reached whereby you will gain the friendship of your men and increase their efficiency to normal. As one of the chief matters to be considered at such a conference we suggest the establishment of a new wage scale based upon the cost of living, details as to flexibility and determining factors to be worked out later."

"If this increased efficiency does not then relieve your shortage, and the return of workers drawn back to the plantations by incentives offered, still falls short of your requirements, we believe that plenty of new labor can be recruited in the Philippines, with the co-operation of the Filipino labor commission."

Chairman Albert Johnson, conducting the hearing, made what labor representatives declared to be a studied effort to tamper with President Wright and to discredit his testimony, but to no avail. At the conclusion of the day's testimony Chairman Johnson was obliged to compliment the labor men upon the fairness of his testimony.

Under the terms of the coolie importation bill, the subject of the hearing, it would be possible to import approximately 50,000 Chinese coolies to Hawaii upon proclamation that an emergency exists requiring such labor. The coolies would be brought to the islands in bond and would remain in a state of peonage in the islands.

ORGANIZE THE FARM WORKER?

Will the effort to standardize the wages of farm labor in Saskatchewan have the ultimate result of forcing this class of labor to organize, asks the Regina despatch of the Montreal Star. The suggestion is not beyond the bounds of possibility and it follows the announcement that henceforth farm help in Saskatchewan will be paid \$60 a month until the harvesting season and at the rate of \$4.00 per day during that period. The scheme to standardize harvesters' wages is one that has long been sought by the farmers themselves, but with the harvesting season about two weeks away difficulties in making the plan operative were seen. In former years harvesters have gone to work for the farmer prepared to offer the highest wages. Naturally the needs of some of the farmers have been more urgent than those of others with the result that the hiring of harvesters has become something of the nature of an auction sale. What will happen this year? The farmer will offer the harvesters the new wage but will this farmer's neighbor finding his grain ripening rapidly and unable to secure a sufficient supply of help, be prepared to stand by and see his chances of a good crop disappear? The answer will be given in about a month from now.

With the advent of 20,000 harvesters the Provincial Government is even now going into the unemployment question; for as has been the case in other years many of these men will remain in the Province after the work in the fields has ended. The Saskatchewan Bureau of Labor is now making a survey of the situation for in many quarters there is a fear that the coming winter may bring distress to the urban centres of the Province. With a good crop and good prices would have the effect of reducing unemployment, neither are yet assured. One of the most serious matters with which the employment officials have to contend with is the problem of the man who refuses to accept the going farm wage and, according to the Provincial Government, "efforts will be made through the employment service to keep a record of this class of individual in order that he may be properly dealt with when he applies for help next winter."

Firefighters' International Chief Visits Ottawa

International President Fred Baer, of the Firefighters is visiting Ottawa this week and is attending the Provincial Conference of Firefighters, gathered from all sections of Ontario, meeting at the Windsor Hotel in the Capital City for three days. The majority of the representatives are affiliated with the International and this gathering is expected to result in a general affiliation, through an agreement of mutual advancement.

HARVEST LABOR MOVEMENT

The movement of the great army of farm labor for the harvest fields will soon be upon us, and we read with satisfaction of improved methods of mobilization of this force which the provincial labor bureaus have set in operation for the season and which it is to be hoped will give the full advantages planned. Statistics which Professor D. D. Lesolier has compiled in the north-western states and which he will purchase for Saskatchewan this year are interesting as showing the composition of the army of harvesters in the grainfields on both sides of the line. A census of 15,757 harvest laborers taken in the United States practices shows that no fewer than 4,762 were drawn from the ranks of general labor and 2,192 were classed as mechanics and with some 1,400 drawn from stores, offices and colleges. Regular farm laborers numbered only 2,260. It is the concern of the bureaus of labor to place all this help as effectively and expeditiously as possible, for it is pointed out that serious loss of time and money happens to the laborers by faulty arrangements and faulty intelligence. Paper makers of Salem, Ore., have organized and affiliated with the International of that craft.

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