

Humanitarian Program Goes Into Effect Today

By JACK RILEY
(In Raleigh News and Observer)

North Carolina will undertake Thursday the administration of social legislation broad enough in scope to touch every family in the state. So comprehensive will be its nature that few will escape its direct results and none will avoid its indirect influence.

The dirtiest street urchin and the banker's son, the aggressive young worker and the feeble old invalid, youth and age—all will grasp the helping hand of the State.

July 1 North Carolina will set out to assuage the hardships of physical handicap, to allay the helplessness of old age, to encourage and protect the worker at his machine and to dispel the shame of ignorance.

Six gigantic warriors on human ills will begin a battle to free the prisoners of social and economic bondage in a humanitarian army the size of which has never before been mobilized in the history of the state.

Those warriors are: Assistance to Aged Needy, Aid to Dependent Children, Aid to the Blind, Maximum Hours Law, Child Labor Law and Free Textbooks.

Aid to Unfortunates

More than 24,000 needy aged, who by virtue of poverty or incapacity must look to others for subsistence, will enjoy monthly benefits of from \$8 to \$15 dependent upon the extent of their needs. These monthly payments will go to persons eligible above the age of 65 years. Four million dollars or more will be expended annually for this alone, half the expense borne by the Federal government and the other half by State and counties.

For dependent children, more than \$1,500,000 will be spent annually to relieve the misery of 22,000 children hitherto faced by poverty and the charity of their friends. Their monthly assistance will range from \$4.50 to \$8. This payment will be shared equally by federal, state and county governments.

Nearly 2,000 blind throughout the state will feel the security of \$170,000 a year distributed by the state commission for the blind.

Will Require Time

All three benefit plans go into effect Thursday, but it isn't as simple as all that. The registration of 60,000 eligibles for assistance and the allotment of their individual needs is no small task.

In that respect, the assistance plan extends its effect to the men and women who will administer the laws and receive more than \$300,000 annually to starch their white collars. The administration as provided for by legislative act requires an intricate and extensive network of relief agents, holding their jobs by political appointment.

Upon these workers rests the responsibility for investigating every case where financial assistance is needed in North Carolina, certifying the eligibility of the individual and getting the certificate through the state board of allotment and appeal.

Those eligible for assistance are expected to file their applications "very promptly," but officials assigned to the administration see little chance of forwarding the long-awaited relief checks before August 1, a month after the law is effective.

New Labor Laws

Another phase of the state's humanitarian undertaking and one that will go into effect promptly after July 1, is the legislation designed to protect the working people of North Carolina against exploitation—the maximum hours and child labor laws.

Rent by exemptions attached to the model bill by the 1937 general assembly, the new labor laws lost much of their appeal to those fighting on the side of labor. Yet, the final acts hold much of benefit for the working man and form a solid foundation for far-reaching labor legislation.

Major A. L. Fletcher, who as Labor Commissioner, will administer enforcement of the statutes, says of the maximum hours law.

Maximum Hour Law

"This law brings to more than 200,000 workers in North Carolina a sharp reduction in hours of labor. North Carolina has had the longest legal work day for women of

any state in the union, 11 hours. The new law reduced it to nine and replaces a 55-hour week with a 48-hour week.

"Henceforth there has been no limitation for men. The new law provides a 10-hour day and a 55-hour week for many thousands of North Carolina workers. I am proud of this as I am of the gain for women, because few states in the union have done anything at all, along this line."

He estimated that the new law will apply to approximately 95,000 cotton-textile workers, 2,000 in woolen mills, 12,000 in silk and rayon, 30,000 in hosiery and underwear manufacturing, 20,000 in tobacco factories, 18,000 in wood-working and 25,000 in miscellaneous establishments.

Child Labor Law

Under the 1937 child labor law, children under 16 will be removed from factories and hazardous occupations, children 16 to 18 will be required to show employment certificates to work, and minors under 18 will be prohibited to work in any store, cafe or other establishment where beverages of any alcoholic content was sold.

Children 14 to 16 will be limited to eight hours a day vacation employment and six hours a day after-school hours work. Those under 16 may not be employed before 7 o'clock in the morning nor after 6 o'clock in the evening.

Free Textbooks

The state will spend \$1,500,000 a year to supply free books to 170,000 students.

Rightly the taxpayer may raise the question: "Do I get my money's worth from this huge program demanding millions in additional revenue?"

High governmental officials point to the stabilizing effect and the increase in public confidence and morale as definite changes that will return to the taxpayer a good part or all the money he turns into humanitarian channels.

Enacted in 1937 for two years duration, these laws face two possibilities in 1939: enlargement on the strength of their initial success or rejection because of their failure.

The failure of the 1939 legislature to make sufficient appropriations for the existing agencies would mean the collapse of the whole social security program, nurtured through federal foster fathers.

North Carolina, however, foresees no such conclusion but rather an increasing public consciousness of the social responsibility of the fortunate for the unfortunate.

For North Carolina these efforts are comparatively new. Two years will tell.

State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

Q. Please give me the dates of farm and home week at State college this summer. I have seen two different dates announced.

A. Farm and home week will be held August 2 to 6, Monday through Friday. Delegates should register Monday, August 2, as the opening exercises will be held Monday evening in Riddick Stadium. Rooms in the college dormitories will be assigned free to visitors as long as space is available. After that, visitors may secure rooms nearby the campus at a nominal price. John W. Goodman is general secretary of farm and home week and those desiring information about the program should write to him at State college.

Q. What steps can be taken to prevent infestation of my chickens with worms?

A. There is no method that will guarantee the absolute elimination of worms, but the worm hazard can be reduced to a minimum if the ranges are kept free from low areas that hold moisture for a long period of time and if the breeding places for immediate hosts such as snails, dung beetles and house flies are destroyed. The dropping boards should be screened and when cleaned the droppings should be removed far enough from the range so the birds cannot get to them. It is also well to plow up the ranges used for rearing chicks each year and sow this in a good grazing crop. If these precautions are taken the worm infestation will be reduced to a minimum.

Pulpwood Prices Set By Forest Service

Regulations governing the sale of pine pulpwood stumpage from national forest land have been announced today by Joseph C. Kircher, regional forester of the U. S. forest service. Of special interest to private land owners in the slash pine section will be the minimum price of \$1.00 per standard cord for pine pulpwood stumpage sales on national forests in region 8.

As in the case of saw timber sales, pulpwood stumpage must be sold on competitive bid basis in accordance with the department of agriculture regulations. Payments are based on actual measurements of timber after it is cut and stacked by purchaser, and in no instance will bids of less than \$1 per cord be received. Mr. Kircher stated that the minimum price of \$1 was set because he believed that unless at least that much could be secured for stumpage, it was better business to hold it for future sale.

A standard cord contains 128 cubic feet of stacked wood. If four-foot wood is cut, a stacked cord will measure 4x4x8 ft. Units used by the pulp and paper industry may contain 1 1/8 or 1 1/4 cords, depending on whether the lengths are 4 1/2 or 5 feet. The price per cord sometimes depends on its accessibility to a mill.

"Pulpwood from national forests," said regional forester Kircher, "will be obtained primarily from thinning and improvement cuttings."

A farmer is a farmer only when he is farming and when he engages in other business or employment he comes under the social security act.

Employment Service Places 2,239 In Week

Private placements by the North Carolina state employment service reached in all-time peak during the week ending June 12 when 2,239 private placements were made. Of this number, 1,725 were temporary placements in agriculture or seasonal work.

Other peak weeks in the private placement record were on May 1, 1937, when 1,730 private placements were made and on February 20, 1937, when 1,679 private placements were made.

Private placements for the week of June 12 constituted of 66.5% of the total 3,364 total placements. This record brings the percentage of private to total placements well above 50%, for the current fiscal year.

During the week, the Sanford office of the Employment Service made 1,071 private placements, which is the largest number of private placements ever made by any one office of the state employment service in a single week.



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