

WORK HOURS BILL HAS BECOME LAW

But Amendments Tacked on Greatly Curtail Its Effectiveness

Daily Dispatch Bureau, in the Star-Walter Hotel, By HENRY AVERILL.

Raleigh, March 24.—The maximum hour bill, in principle limiting employment of males to 55 hours weekly and of female to 48 hours, has become the law of North Carolina, although the measure has been so loaded down with amendments that its original shape is hardly distinguishable.

Its original sponsors are, in general, glad that some sort of a bill was finally passed, though they are admittedly far from satisfied with the law as it was ultimately enacted.

Representative D. Lacy McBride, Cumberland, who stuck to the bill through thick and thin, battled right down to the bitter end for its enactment, expressed the tenor of those who favor shorter hours in North Carolina. He said:

"I feel that we have accomplished

the maximum that could be expected under the present set-up in North Carolina. We have, at least, secured recognition of the principle that the workers have a right to be protected from long hours injurious to their health and destructive of their happiness.

"We now have a starting point for further improvements. Any changes in the law at later legislative sessions must almost necessarily be for the better.

The Cumberlander said he was a very personal feeling with respect to working hours, pointing to the fact that he has himself worked 14-hour night shifts in textile mills of Cabarrus county.

"When I was going to school, I worked in mills on shifts that were 14 hours long," he said, "I believe the present measure, inadequate as it is, will be of very positive benefit to thousands of North Carolina workers. We couldn't get all we wanted, but we got something."

So many amendments were added to the bill—either in the House or in the Senate—that it will be some time before a connected idea can be gained of the exact purport of the measure, which will be the law of North Carolina after July 1.

Numerous categories of employes have been excepted from the provisions and numerous exceptions in the number of hours which may be worked in "emergencies" have been made.

The outstandingly distasteful amendment to original sponsors of the bill is that which made the entire measure inoperative as to businesses in which there are no employees.

"This is discrimination of a very bad sort," said Representative McBride in commenting on the amendment. "I want it made clear that it was not advocated nor supported by those who originally introduced the bill. We fought the amendment."

The Cumberlander law-maker said that the bill would be of particular benefit to employes of the smaller textile mills, many of whom are working 11 and 12 hour shifts at present. The larger textile mills are operating on shorter work schedules than are provided in the bill, he said.

"But there are many small mills down near my home in Fayetteville, which are working their people on hours at small pay," he said.

He pointed out that the provision limiting employment of women to 48 hours weekly meant that textile mills working men and women side by side would be, in effect, forced to cut the working hours of their male employes to 48 weekly, rather than to the 55 allowed in the bill.

He adverted to reports of the McLean mill strike at Lumberton and said the maximum hour bill would prevent troubles of that sort, where reports are that the employes are working 11 and 12 hours daily, at pay rates from 10 to 25 cents per hour and with an average pay rate of 20 cents.

power interests.

The first amendment confines municipalities to operation of revenue undertakings within their limits and within territory "contiguous thereto," a vague and almost meaningless definition which is a wide open invitation to special interests to carry into court any effort by a municipality to build a power line, or an airport, or a waterworks or any other project outside its limits, opponents of the amended bill believe.

The second amendment throws further obstacles in the path of any municipality so inconsiderate of the great power interests as to attempt to give its citizens cheaper power through municipal plants. It provides that before any municipality shall be permitted to engage in any enterprise competing with a private business, it must secure a certificate of convenience and necessity from the utility commission.

A third amendment requires that bonds issued under provisions of the act must have the approval of the Local Government Commission in Raleigh.

An amendment which would have made it almost impossible to tell whether or not the bonds were legally issued, was adopted by the Senate, but finally stricken out when the House declined to confer and a conference committee was appointed.

Chrysler, Lewis Conference Yet Without Accord

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to settle the Chrysler strike involving about 80,000 persons.

CONFERENCE RECESSES WITHOUT ANNOUNCEMENT

Lansing, Mich., March 24.—(AP)—Governor Murphy's automobile strike conference adjourned at 1:30 p. m. until 3 o'clock this afternoon. Murphy's only comment was the conference so far has "been satisfactory."

None of the other conferees made any statement.

The governor denied any settlement had been reached, and said there had been no communication between any one of the conferees and any one in Washington.

The recess taken here came shortly after Representative Rabaut, Democrat, Michigan, had "announced" in the National House of Representatives a settlement had been concluded and would be announced at 3 p. m.

When the conference here resumes, the governor said, Homer Martin, president of the striking U. A. W. A., and other union officials may join the discussions, which this morning brought together Walter Chrysler and John Lewis.

LARGE SCALE EVICTIONS ON WIDE STRIKE FRONT

(By The Associated Press.)

Large scale eviction of sitdown strikers and the start of a new parley in the nation's biggest industrial dispute raised hopes today for settlement of several controversies on the strike front.

In a number of disputes employes have made evacuation of their factories and business establishments a prerequisite to negotiations on strikers' demand.

Chicago was free from sitdown strikes for the first time in a month after police dislodged hundreds of workers from plants and stores. Sit-downs also were evicted in several other states.

Prospect of peace in the Chrysler Motor Corporation strike, involving 60,000 workers, brightened after Governor Frank Murphy, of Michigan, succeeded in arranging a conference at Detroit between Walter Chrysler of the corporation, and John Lewis, C. I. O. chairman.

An orderly throng massed in

Cadillac Square in Detroit late yesterday at the call of leaders of the United Automobile Workers Union, a C. I. O. affiliate, which called the Chrysler strike. Its president, Homer Martin, hinted in his speech to the crowd a unionization drive would be carried in time to the Ford Motor Corporation

1851—Garrett P. Serviss, popular astronomer—author, born at Sharon Springs, N. Y. Died at Englewood, N. J., May 24, 1929.

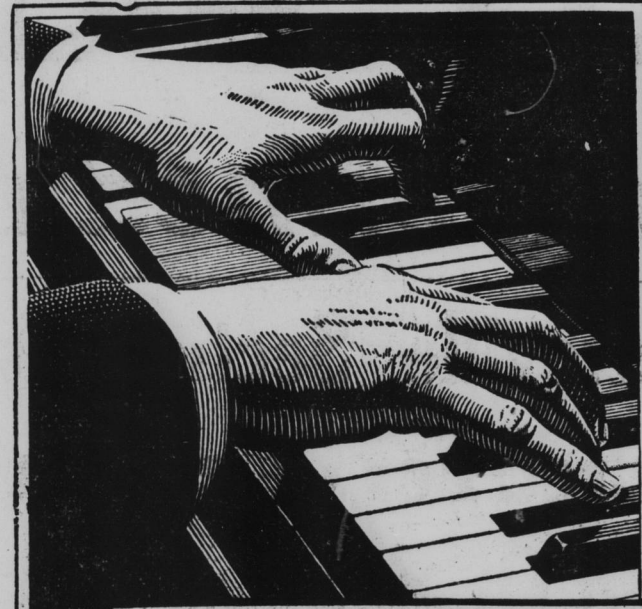
1874—Robert F. Callan, Major-general, veteran of Spanish-American and World Wars, born in Baltimore. Died in Washington, Nov. 21, 1936.

1928—Col. Charles A. Lindbergh ended five-days' free airship riding for members of Congress in endeavor to make them more air-minded.

1933—Central Union of German Citizens of the Jewish Faith brand as "pure invention" stories that Jews in Germany suffer at hands of Nazis.

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Hoey Will Decide Appointments Soon

(Continued from Page One.)

mission appointments about the last week in April. The new law provides for the appointment of ten members of the State Highway and Public Works Commission and one member from the State as a whole, to be the chairman, the ten members to be so selected that each will represent a district. These districts are to be set up by the new commission when it meets. But the governor is expected to have most of the say as to how these districts shall be defined.

The governor must also appoint a director of old age assistance, who will be in direct charge of the administration of the old age pension law, as well as make many other lesser appointments. Before July 1 he must appoint two additional Supreme Court judges, an additional superior court judge, and appoint or reappoint numerous department and divisions heads.

Governor Hoey Is Highly Satisfied With Legislature

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commendations made by Governor Hoey which the assembly ignored was his recommendation for the enactment of a reapportionment law and for a Statewide referendum on liquor control.

"On the whole, the 1937 session of the General Assembly was one of the most constructive and harmonious sessions I have ever seen," Governor Hoey said today. "The members showed a most businesslike and harmonious spirit and did a tremendous amount of work in a comparatively short period of time. They are to be commended.

"In summing up this session, I would say that the General Assembly has been economical without being niggardly; that it has tended towards the ideal without losing touch with the practical and that it has contemplated the future without neglecting present needs.

"The members at all times showed a deep insight into and understanding of the problems before them, worked hard and diligently to find a fair and satisfactory solution of these problems. They have been as liberal as they could be, considering the State's revenue limitations, though possibly not as liberal as they wanted to be.

"I feel confident that the people of the State are going to be more and more pleased with the work done by this General Assembly as time goes by and they have a chance to look at this work with a better perspective. For it has greatly increased governmental service to all the people, but with no material increase in taxes."

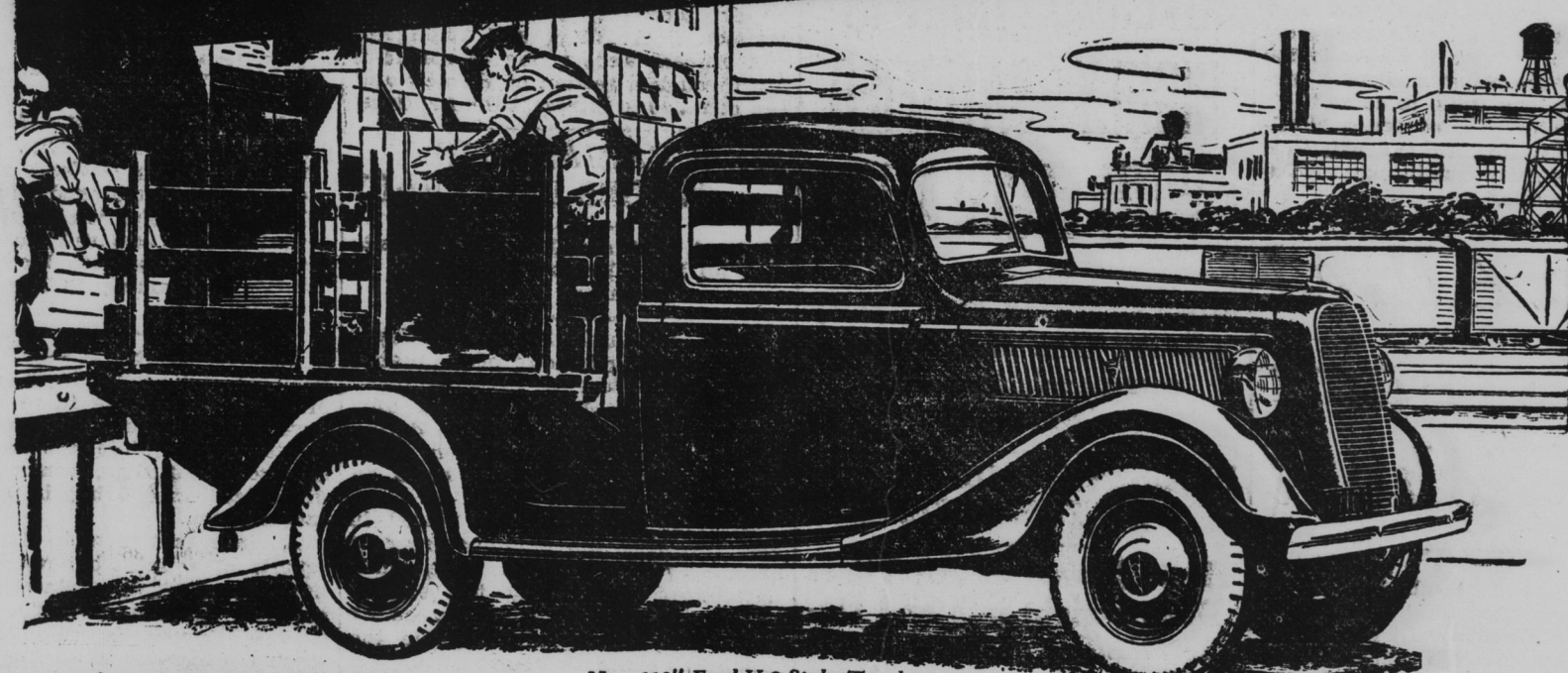
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