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THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1937

MINIMUM FEDERAL WAGES

The so-called minimum-wage bill for federal employees, now pending in both Houses of Congress, shows considerable strength, particularly among the labor unions which have affiliate branches in the Government Service.

Sponsored by Sen. William J. Bulow (Dem.) of South Dakota, and Rep. Robert Ramspeck (Dem.) of Georgia, chairmen, Civil Services Committees, the bill calls for a minimum rate of $1,200 per annum in certain grades of the classified service and would also increase some grades which are now above the proposed minimum.

To establish a $1,200-minimum rate for unskilled Government workers would not, it is claimed, greatly increase the total cost of the present federal payroll.

According to observers, however, there are several factors to be considered by Congress in considering such legislation. A minimum of $1,200 per annum for such employees, they point out, is far above that for like work in private employment, and for Congress to increase the scale of pay for unskilled employees above the relatively high rate which the Government now pays employees for that class of work would cause general dissatisfaction among employees doing like work in private life. This argument, they clami is clear when it is considered that the Senate has just passed the wage and hour bill, in which the minimum is 40 cents per hour. This minimum for even semi-skilled workers would not exceed $832 per year, which is $368 less than that minimum proposed for unskilled workers in the Federal Service.

Another objection raised against the proposed minimum-wage bill for federal employees is that it does not take into consideration the relative costs of living in the different parts of the United States. An annual wage of $1,200 per annum will go much further in supporting a family in some parts of the country than in others, commentators point out.

The relative difference in the cost of living based upon the locality where the wages were to be paid was one of the most vexing questions considered in the passage of the Black-Connery bill in the Senate. Why, many are asking should not the same question enter into the consideration of the Bulow-Ramspeck measure in determining a minimum wage for unskilled federal employees?

Yet another feature which Congress should consider in passing upon the provisions of the minimum-wage bill for federal employees, according to observers, is the likelihood that federal employees of the higher brackets will demand that their salaries be proportionately increased. If this demand is not likely to take place, commentators ask, why the pressure among federal employees that they become members of labor unions?

Already the representatives of the unions are asking that the minimum-wage provisions in the Bulow--Ramspect bill be increased to $1,500. This rate of increase is asked in light of statistics issued by the Department of Labor which show that $1,500 is the minimum amount, with theclosest budgeting, upon which an average family of four can be maintained.

The apparent program of the unions is to have the Government set the standard for private employers to follow. But it is a mooted question, according to many observers, whether the Government ought undertake to determine the wage and salary standard on an arbitrary basis, irrespective of the scales paid for like work in private employment.

In any case, there is a constant fluctuation in the cost of the materials which go to make up the itms of food, clothing and shelter, regardless of the wages paid, and all of which must be based on the economic law of supply and demand.

MEASURING EMPLOYMENT

Adminitrattion spokesmen have at length conceded the usefulness of an unemployment census in the United States, and a Senate resolution, suddenly passed a few days ago to provide one, awaits action in the House of Representatives. The survey is expected to cost between $4,000,0000 and $5,000,000, to be taken from relief appropriations.

Although President Roosevelt a few months ago questioned the value of such a count, and Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, now says rather unconvincingly that it is not essential to the administration of relief, Mr. Hopkins does say "a thorough census of both the employed and the unemployed" is needed for guidance of agencies endeavoring to stabilize employment.

In one important respect the resolution sponsored by Senator Hugo L. Black fails to fulfilll the specifications of Mr. Hopkins's statement. That is, it would direct the gathering of complete figures as to the number of unemployed and partially employed; but it would give no information as to the number now gainfully installed in jobs. If such a census is to have maximum value, it should provide at the same time a count of both the jobless and the employed for purposes of comparison.

In fact the number of employed at any given time can be determined with a great deal more certainty than the number of unemployed. For, as statisticians point out, whether a person considers himself unemployed may often depend on whether, for very good reasons, he seeking employment or not. For instance, a person who has retired but whose income fails may be thrown into the labor market again. Or a student whose father has lost his job may withdraw from school and become a job seeker, where he was not before. The questions involved in ascertaining just what is partial employment are even more complex. It is well that a board of six administrative officials and statisticians is to make up the list of questions and classifications to be used in this census if taken.

One further recommendation should be made. If a census of employment or unemployment it to have continuing value, it must not be merely a one-time affair but there must be provision for repeating the canvass at suitable periods to indicate the trend from time to time. A count of the gainfully employed is included in each decennial census. Perhaps this could be taken more frequently or the Department of Labor indexes of employment inmanufacturing be expanded to include other types of employment as well. Then when unemployment compensation systems go into effect in all states under the Social Security Act the registrations of unemployed with the United States Employment Service will form a more definite index than they do now.

It is to be hoped that in a permanent way the measurement of employment and unemployment can be approached through some such means.

What's What About Social Security - - -

As another service to its readers, the Cecil County Star, each week will give authoritative answers to questions on the Social Security law. By special arrangement with Luther Becker, Manager of the Social Securi Board office at 300 Court Square Building in Baltimore, the Social Security Board has consented to pass on the accuracy of answers to questions on Social Security, which may be asked by employers, employees, and others, through the Cecil County Star. Address inquiries to the Editor, the Cecil County Star. Answers will be given here in the order in which questions are received. This is an informational service and is not legal advice or service. In keeping with Social Serurity Board policy names will not be published.—Editor.

(36) QUESTION: I have just started in business and am desirous of knowing what information I should keep in order to make monthly reports under the old-age benefit taxing title of the Social Security Act.

ANSWER: The SS-1 form on which you will report the amount of taxes deducted from your employees and the amount you pay requires: (1) Number of employees; (2) taxable wages paid during the month; (3) employer's tax (one percent of No. 2); credit or adjustment (which will not apply to first return); (5) total employer's tax; (6) employees' tax (one percent of No. 2); (7) credit or adjustment (no application in first return); (8) total employees'tax; (9) total amount of taxes (No. 5 and No. 8). You should also be sure and have each employee's account number.

(37) Q. How can I get a job in the old-age benefits office?

A. The Federal Bureau of Old-Age Benefits is a department of the Federal Government. All employees, with the exception of a few experts in the Bureau, are taken directly from Civil Service registers.

(38) Q. What must a person do in order to qualify for old-age benefits?

A There are three requirements which qualify a person for old-age benefits: (1) He must be at least 65 years of age; (2) he must have earned not less than $2,000 total wages from employment, not specifically exempted from the Act, after December 31, 1936, and before the age of 65; (3) he must have received wages from employment in some day in each of five years after December 31, 1936, and before the age of 65.

(39) Q. Who collects taxes under this Social Security Act?

A. The taxes provided by the Social Security Act are collected by the Bureau of Intrenal Revenue, governed by such rules and regulations as the Bureau may make and subject to such penalties as are set forth in the Act and regulations issued thereunder.

(40) Q. How mny people must be employed in a store to have that store come under the Social Security Act?

A. For the old-age benefit section, one person is sufficient to bring a store under the Act. For the unemployment compensation section under the Federal Act, eight or more employees are necessary. Under the State acts this varies according to the different States from one to eight persons.

Colosseum Goes Wild

The Colosseum of Rome, a ruined amphitheater now two thousand years old, is so given up to the wild that a whole book has been devoted to descriptions of the wild flowers to be found amid its ruins.

"ENTERTAINMENT" ★ "ON THE AIR" ★

ROBERT EMMETT DOLAN'S badminton court has become a gathering place for the stars of the Sunday Night Party program. Strict rule maintained by James Melton, master of ceremonies of the show, and Dolan, its musical director, provides that all broadcast business and discussion must be finished before badminton play begins.

Robert Emmett Dolan

Johnny Scott Trotter, the band leader of the Thursday Night Music Hall, studied to be an architect at college but, as he puts it, turned out to be "only a band leader." Recently he has put his architectural knowledge to good advantage in building a new house. Bob Burns helped him out by suggesting a patio on each side of the house for all day sun.

Rudy Vallee heads coastward this Fall. It won't be to make a picture, however. It will be for a three or four weeks engagement at a Los Angeles hotel. His Variety Hour, of course, will come from there during the engagement.

A movie executive once said that he would have hired Dorothy Lamour to work in pictures for her voice

DOROTHY LAMOUR

alone. It was her voice alone which got her on the radio, but she also has a glamorous personality and appearance. She also has enough sense of humor to gag back and forth with Charlie McCarthy at those Sunday night broadcasts.

Raymond Paige, "Hollywood Hotel" maestro, has furnished evidence of his right to the title "sportsman." Paige travelled all the way from Hollywood to spend one day at the Vanderbilt Cup Races at Newport, R. I.

B. A. Rolfe, is known among vocalists as "the good luck musicmaster." Many singers heard on B. A.'s programs have been awarded lucrative long-time contracts on other shows. The latest is Reed Kennedy, who has been signed for the new "Pause That Refreshes" series.

Another young actress, given her first real radio chance by M. H. H. Joachim, director and author of

DOROTHY KNOX

"Your Unseen Friend" on CBS Tuesday nights, is headed for stage and screen stardom. She is Dorothy Knox, who recently was starred with Hal Le Roy at the Milford, Conn., Playhouse.

Peter Van Steeden, musical director of "Town Hall Tonight," is one of the most sought after men in New York. Peter is one of the few persons who possesses Fred Allen's vacation address.

Colonel Jay C. Flippen, genial stage and radio master of ceremonies was chosen to pinch-hit for Harry von Zell during that versatile mikeman's three-weeks vacation, starting late in August. Flippen who has his own outstanding local shows in New York, adhered to Harry's practise of presenting noted guest stars with Oscar Bradley's orchestra.

Colonel Jay C. Flippen

Where Sulphur Is Found

While sulphur compounds are widely spread throughout the earth's crust, the free element occurs in appreciable amounts only in a few regions. Low-grade deposits of it are found near the volcanic regions of Sicily and Japan. Exceedingly pure beds of it occur deep in the ground in Louisiana and Texas; here it is mined by sinking pipes to the beds, melting the sulphur with live steam, and then pumping it to the surface as a liquid. Most of the sulphur brought out of the ground does not come from sulphur mines, but is present as an impurity in coal and petroleum.

Room for Explorers

The great wilderness territory accessible at Sun Valley Lodge in Idaho, is greater in area than Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island together. It boasts a chain of mountain lakes so numerous and remote that many have never been mapped or even named.

Oldest Fortified Spot

An army survey reveals that Old Point Comfort, originally called Cape Comfort by the English settlers who established the first permanent colony at Jamestown, has been continuously fortified for a longer period than any other spot in the United States. Old Point Comfort, jutting into the Chesapeake at the tip of the Virginia peninsula, and famous for more than a century, was first fortified with rude earthworks thrown up in 1609 as a protection against Spanish men o' war. From this simple beginning has grown Fort Monroe, largest inclosed military reservation in the world.

Neck for Hand

A clock in the Church of St. Nicholas at Koge, Denmark, has only one hand, and that hand is the neck and bill of a goose. It points out the hours, letting travelers guess at the minutes.

Cooks' Council

By FRANCES PECK
Heinz Home Institute

QUICK COOLER

GOOD WAY to stave off a heat wave in a menu is to tuck a crisp cool salad in between hot courses. This cubed tomato salad now is guaranteed to take down the temperature of any summer supper: Start with 6 medium sized well ripened tomatoes, skin them, and cut each tomato into sections from top to within ½ inch of the bottom, spacing the cuts about ½ inch apart. Then turn the tomato ¼ way around and make the same number of cuts in that direction so the whole top of the tomato will be cubed. Plant each tomato in a lettuce cup, separate the sections a wee bit, and salt to your taste. Finish off with a topping made by merging 1 cupful shredded cabbage, 1 cupful diced cucumber, 1 small onion, diced, 1 teaspoonful sugar, ½ teaspoonful salt, and 3 tablespoonfuls Sandwich Spread.

MEN-FOLK FARE

Here's a sizable salad that will please the men-folk of your family—tomatoes stuffed with Kidney Beans. Try it sometime for the main course of a cool summer luncheon. It's easy done so: Take a medium sized can of Oven-Baked Red Kidney Beans, put the Beans in a strainer and pour boiling water over them. Then drain and cool. In the meantime you can be chopping 1 cupful of celery to mix with the Beans along with ½ teaspoonful salt and 2 tablespoonfuls India Relish. Moisten with Mayonnaise and set aside in the refrigerator to chill. When ready to serve, fill 6 tomato cups with this Bean merger and garnish with slips of watercress tucked under the tomato lids. Nestled in a crisp lettuce cup, this makes a salad of noble proportions.

SUMMER DAINTY

Another recipe that will make your eaters salad conscious is a mixed fruit salad served in a cantaloupe shell. To begin with, take a whole cantaloupe, cut it in half and scrape out the seeds. Then scoop out the pulp in little balls with a French vegetable cutter. Combine these melon balls with ½ cupful fresh pineapple wedges and ½ cupful pitted bing cherries, and pile lightly into the melon shells. Finish off with a dressing made by blending equal portions of whipped cream and fruit salad dressing. Makes a perky salad garnished with a sprig of mint leaves dusted delicately in powdered sugar . . . Now for the Fruit Salad Dressing, blend together 4 tablespoonfuls sugar, 1 teaspoonful salt, 1½ tablespoonfuls flour, 1 egg, ½ cupful pineapple juice, ¼ cupful orange juice and 4 tablespoonfuls Pure Cider Vinegar. Stir thoroughly after the addition of each ingredient, then cook over hot water, stirring constantly, until thick. Add a tablespoonful butter when done, mix well, and set aside to cool. Grand for any kind of fruit salad.

PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Benjamin of Wilmington and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas McCrossin of Washington, D. C., spent Sunday with Dr. and Mrs. Frank Benjamin of Leslie.

Miss Betty Jane Benjamin of Leslie underwent a tonsil operation at Union Hospital last Tuesday.

Mrs. William C. Feehley and grandson Jackie Burkley, are spending two weeks at Chalfonte-Haddon Hall, Atlantic City.

Mrs. H. R. Shank and Mrs. Ann Goodnow are enjoying a visit to Atlantic stopping at Chalfonte-Haddon Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry D. Cook, of Little Neck, N. Y., are the guests this week of Mr and Mrs Jessie E. Pierson.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gilpin, of Philadelphia, were guests last week-end of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse E. Pierson.

Miss Miriam Jane Jeffers is vacationing at Ocean City, Md.

Mrs. J. H. Sloan, entertained the sewing Circle at her home on North Street Wednesday evening of last week.

Mrs. Russell Kirk and Miss Margaret Kirk spent last Saturday of last week in New Yrk City.

Mrs. Wirt Bouchelle's "Gleaner Group" were entertained at Mrs. Arthur Cameron's cottage on Elk River, Tuesday evening.

Mrs. Stewart C. Strickland entertained Mrs Fred E. Strickland and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cleaves and family of Newark last Sunday.

James Stichberry, Jean Jenkins, Camillius Kirk and Ann Foster spent Sunday at Camp Wright on Kent Island and Annapolis.

Mrs. Frank McCool is recuperating at Salisbury following an operation for for the removal of tonsils.

Miss Grace Satterfield returned Friday evening from avisit to Wildwood, New Jersey.

Mrs. Chester Ringgold entertained Wednesday at a bridge luncheon.

Miss Rita Borland and Mr. E. Howell EEvans have returned from a visit with Miss Borland's brother, Mr. Alton A. Borland at Boston, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. John M. McCool have returned after spending a few days at Atlantic City.

Mrs. Elwood Boyd, Mrs. Russel Kirk and Miss Rachel Pierson spent Thursday in Philadelphia.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Warburton, Jr., spent last week in Atlantic City.

Mrs. Francis M. Keefer entertained at a Bridge luncheon Thursday.

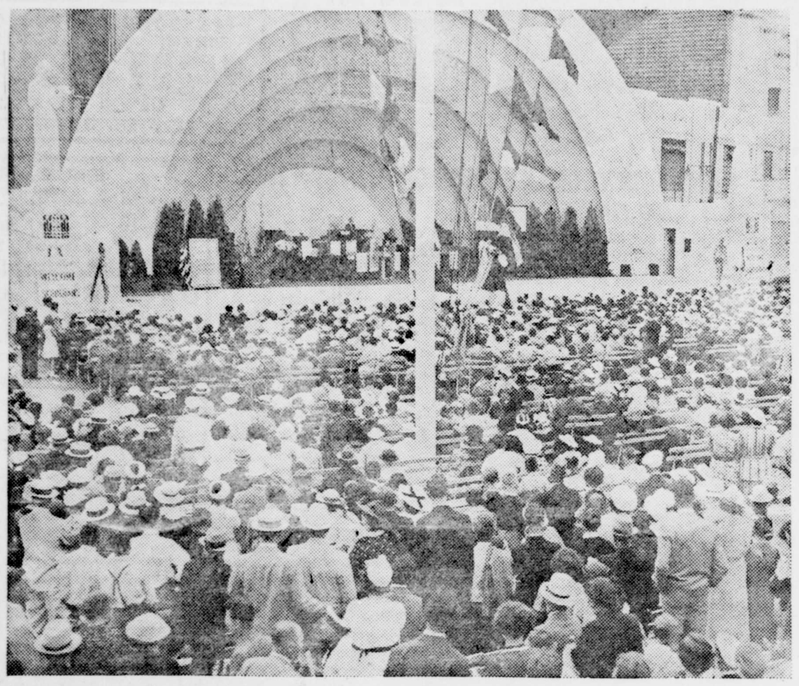
Mrs. John Carroll is seriously ill at her home on West Main street.

PERSONALS Continued

Rev. Albert E. Thomas and family enjoyed a trip to Washington, Natural Bridge of Virginia, Luray Caves, Sky Line, Va., and other places of interest last week.

Miss Patty Ward has as her guest this week Miss Betty Duncan of Salisbury.

Radioland is Feature of Great Lakes Exposition



ONE OF THE MANY FREE attractions at the colorful 150-acre Great Lakes Exposition at Cleveland, which continues open into September for the delight of millions of visitors, is the huge Sherwin-Williams Radioland shell on the Esplanade, where orchestras, radio stars, vaudeville acts and ceremonial welcomes to distinguished visitors are held. Free seats for more than 4,000 people are provided and the shows are given several times daily, with Billy Rose's dramatic show, The Aquacade, right next door.

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