

AN ACT

TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR THEIR APPROVAL OR REJECTION

AT THE

GENERAL ELECTION

TO BE HELD

On Tuesday, the Third day of November, 1914,

Proposed by Initiative Petition No. 13, filed in the office of Secretary of State, July 2, 1914, commonly known as the Eight Hour Measure.

(Will appear on the official ballot in the following form)

PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 13, entitled "An act prohibiting employers from requiring or permitting employes to work more than eight hours in any day of twenty-four hours, except in agricultural labor and cases of emergency; providing for extra compensation for over-time; and fixing a penalty for the violation thereof."

FOR Initiative Measure No. 13.....

AGAINST Initiative Measure No. 13.....

Initiative Measure No. 13.

BALLOT TITLE

"An act prohibiting employers from requiring or permitting employes to work more than eight hours in any day of twenty-four hours, except in agricultural labor and cases of emergency; providing for extra compensation for over-time; and fixing a penalty for the violation thereof."

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful for any person, persons, corporation, company or joint stock association to cause, require or permit any male or female employe in his, her or its employ to work more than eight hours during any day of twenty-four hours,

nor more than forty-eight hours during any week of seven days, except that in agricultural labor an additional two hours per day may be allowed for work which is unavoidably and necessarily incidental to farm management.

Provided, however, That in case of extraordinary emergency, such as danger to life or property, or where such

eight-hour limit would unavoidably and necessarily prevent other workers in the same mine, mill, factory or other industrial unit from working the full eight-hour day the hours for work may be further extended, but in such cases the rate of pay for time employed in excess of eight hours of each calendar day shall be one and one-half the rate of pay allowed for the same amount of time during eight hours service.

SEC. 2. If for any reason any of the provisions of this Act shall be adjudged unconstitutional and invalid it shall not affect the validity of the act

as a whole or any other part thereof.

SEC. 3. Any employer, overseer, superintendent or other agent of any such employer, who shall violate any of the provisions of this act, shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined for each offense in a sum not less than ten dollars nor more than one hundred dollars for each day during which such violation continues.

STATE OF WASHINGTON—*ss.*

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State, February 10, 1914.

I. M. HOWELL, Secretary of State.

Argument Against Initiative Measure No. 13.

THE EIGHT HOUR LAW.

It would be hard to imagine any legislation more hostile to the best interests of the farmer than the proposed Initiative Measure No. 13 which would limit every laborer in the state to eight hours per day of twenty-four hours or forty-eight hours per week of seven days, except that in agricultural labor an additional two hours per day may be allowed for work which is "unavoidably and necessarily incidental to farm management," whatever that may be.

The intent of the measure is clearly to restrict field operations to eight hours per day for six days of the week and we contend that farming operations cannot be conducted successfully under such a handicap.

The farmer is at the mercy of the elements until his crop is in the warehouse and the delay, while waiting for an eight hour per day crew to harvest his crop, would result in such loss to the farmer from shattering, lodging and the deteriorating influences of the weather that it would spell ruin from the start.

Even now, it is often impossible to secure sufficient help in the harvest fields so that a scarcity of laborers and the increased cost of the wages and board for the extra men are two reasons that would prevent the employment of two shifts of eight hours each.

By this measure, the agricultural laborer is restricted to an absolute maximum of ten hours per day and no matter what wages the farmer may offer to save threatened disaster to his crops or how willing the laborer may be to earn the extra money, this law prevents it, since the penalty is the same for allowing a man to work overtime as for forcing him to do so.

Thus will the working man be deprived by law of his right to work where and when he finds it to his interest to do so.

This provision might necessitate the presence in the field of a competent witness, provided with a stop-watch, to protect the farmer from the extortion or blackmail of a disgruntled crew.

How can a farmer feed his crew when a cook can work but eight hours per day, six days in the week, and when Sunday comes and the entire crew and the cook, having worked the maximum for the six days of the week and are thereby disqualified from lifting a hand on Sunday, how are they to be fed?

Who will feed and water the live stock, milk the cows and do the thousand and one other chores required on a farm on Sunday?

The prices of most of our agricultural products are fixed by the law of supply and demand in the markets of the world and in those markets the bulk of our produce must be sold.

When this state increases the cost of production or places burdensome restrictions upon agricultural operations, the loss must fall upon the tillers of the soil because they are unable to add the increased cost to what they have to sell.

Whenever the cost of agricultural production approaches so near the market price as to wipe out the present slender margin of profit, the farmer, representing as he does the greatest natural asset of the state, will be forced out of business.

The enactment of this measure means ruin to agricultural operations in a state where, in view of the present high cost of living, it is easy to see that a blow, aimed at the farmer, will hit the prosperity of our commonwealth in its most vital part.

FARMERS' EDUCATIONAL AND COOPERATIVE UNION OF AMERICA, FOR THE COUNTIES OF WALLA WALLA, COLUMBIA AND GARFIELD, WASHINGTON.

By N. B. ATKINSON, PRES.
A. C. MOORE, Sec'y.

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State, July 20th, 1914.

I. M. HOWELL, Secretary of State.

Argument Against Initiative Measure No. 13.

THE COMPULSORY EIGHT HOUR DAY.

THIS LAW PROVIDES: "It shall be unlawful for any person or corporation to permit any male or female employee in his, her or its employ, to work more than 8 hours during any day of 24 hours, nor more than 48 hours during any week of 7 days."

This compulsory 8-Hour Day Law will destroy our present manufacturing, commercial, domestic and social systems.

Wage earners can only work 8 hours in any one day of 24 hours and not more than 48 hours in any week of 7 days. Can the employee maintain his present standard of living on such earnings? Can the employer operate his plant where no employee is permitted to work over 8 hours in any day of 24 hours, or over 48 hours in one week of 7 days?

What about cooks, night watchmen, teamsters, timekeepers, commissary men, etc.?

Can you, Mr. Traveling Man, maintain yourself and family working 8 hours in any one day of 24 hours and not more than 48 hours in any week of 7 days? Is it practicable? Can you adjust your services to these conditions? Can your employer pay you a living salary when your efforts are confined to 8 hours in any one day of 24 hours, or 48 hours in any one week of 7 days?

Mr. Wholesaler, are your profits such as to allow you to maintain two traveling men, solicitors, etc. where you are now using one and to enable you to pay them living salaries? This is what you will have to do to properly solicit your trade if this measure is adopted. You are liable even if you permit an employee to work over 8 hours in any day of 24 hours, or over 48 hours in any week of 7 days. Will it be possible for you to check up his time to see that there is no infraction of the law? How will you protect yourself?

Mrs. Housewife, can you arrange your domestic affairs so as to permit your help to work only 8 hours in any one day of 24 hours or 48 hours in any week of 7 days? Who will cook, take care of the house and children on the 7th day, or can you hire two girls where you are now using one and pay them a living wage?

What will you mothers and fathers do in case of sickness in your family,

when you cannot permit a nurse to work over 8 hours in any one day of 24 hours nor more than 48 hours in any week of 7 days? Can you take care of your sick (unskilled in nursing though you may be) the other 120 hours? Or, can you afford three nurses per week of six days and discharge them on the completion of the sixth day's service and hire three more? Read the law and think about it.

The certain result of Initiative Measure No. 13 would be that the employee's earning power would by law be reduced 20 per cent, and his living expenses increased in a like ratio.

Let no worker be misled into the belief that he will receive the same pay for eight hours that he now gets or that the industry in which he is employed could live against the competition of the world if it tried to maintain his present rate of pay for a shorter day.

Our products must be marketed in competition with those of other states and foreign countries. We are now laboring under a four-fold handicap: viz: High freight rates due to the long haul to distant markets; oppressively high taxes; relatively high wages, and high interest rates on money necessary to carry on enterprise.

Any radical lessening of the total energy put into a given industry like agriculture, horticulture, livestock, dairying, fishing, lumbering, mining or manufacturing must be followed by an equal reduction in the total amount produced, and an inevitable increase in the cost of production.

With fair laws and just treatment, Washington will make great progress in the development of her vast resources. This law would check her progress.

A fitting title to this measure would have been: "A measure to reduce the earning power of the people and increase their Cost of Living."

UNITED METAL TRADES ASSN.

By B. R. BRIERLY, *Chm. Wn. Dist.*
PACIFIC COAST LOGGERS ASSN.

By ALEX POLSON, *Pres't.*
WASHINGTON STATE FISHERIES
By JAMES SCOTT, *Sec'y.*

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State, July 22, 1914.

I. M. HOWELL, Secretary of State.