

ADVOCATE PUBLIC DEFENDERS; ALSO REFORM IN JAILS

Judiciary Committee Hears Proposed Measures of Humanitarian Nature.

(Special to The Farmer.)

Hartford, Feb. 24.—Several philanthropic movements which have crystallized into proposed laws were discussed at hearings before the committee on the judiciary yesterday afternoon, notable among them measures to provide public defenders for the criminal courts, and to provide for investigation of the county jail system of the state.

Criticism of the operation of the county jails of the state, and especially of the Fairfield county jail in Bridgeport, was made in the argument for a jail investigation by Attorney Ralph O. Welles of Hartford. He pointed out that reports showed the prisoners in Fairfield county jail earn three cents a day, while in other county jails of the state the prisoners earn many times that sum.

State supervision of the jails, he believed, would solve the problem. Hastings H. Hart, representing the Russell Sage Foundation, who recently completed an investigation of the New Haven county jail for civic organizations, argued eloquently for the proposed unification of the jail system, under state control.

Senator Hemenway opposed the legislation only in so far as its proposed verbiage would tend to delay immediate improvement. While he did not oppose an inquiry, he believed that all were agreed that conditions especially in New Haven, are not what they should be, and that to await the report of an investigation committee before making such changes would be folly. He was assured that improvements were even now under way in the New Haven jail.

Several measures that received the support of Senator Hunt, and several other lawyers called for the appointment of defenders as public officials, to have the same standing in the criminal courts as the public prosecutors of criminals.

The present system of appointing lawyers haphazard, to defend criminals who have no representation in court, was roundly condemned. Definite cases were cited anonymously to show that innocent men have suffered through its workings. While the proponents of the legislation were not in accord on all the measures in detail, they were agreed as to the principle.

None appeared at the hearing on a measure introduced by Senator Mead providing for a state allowance of \$150 annually for blind persons, 20 years resident of the state, whose income is less than \$300 annually. Representative Corbett argued in detail for the bill which would create a legislative counsel bureau, to prepare legislation in proper form, and be of general service in the enactment of laws.

Judge Bennett Draws Panel of 30 Jurors

A panel of 30 jurors has been drawn for the jury term of the civil superior court which starts next Tuesday in this city with Judge Bennett on the bench. The panel is as follows:

Bridgeport, Samuel W. Gedhill, George Malone, Thomas Stewart, Fairfield, Oliver C. Jennings, Richard Staples, Greenwich, Amos W. Avery, Charles M. Berry, Isaac Ferris, Monroe, Eugene Peck, Charles E. Purdy, New Canaan, Robert I. Ogden, Solomon L. Searles, Newtown, Charles E. Hawley, John H. Cummins, Norwalk, Clarence L. Brush, William M. Keeler, Manice De F. Lockwood, Ridgefield, Frederick C. Lee, William Stanton, Stamford, Frank Jessup, James A. Morrell, Augustus H. Raymond, Stratford, George T. Jewell, Samuel C. Lewis, Weston, Edgar E. Perry, Henry Saunders, Westport, Edward C. Nash, Albert U. Nash, Wilton, Reuben V. Geopple, Henry A. Peacock.

Schulte Cigar Store Co. to Establish Here

Samuel Howard of J. C. Berkwit & Co., in conjunction with Pease & Elman of New York City have sub-let for the Schulte Cigar Co., to Jacob B. Lederer for a gentleman's furnishing establishment a portion of the ground floor in the property on Main and Golden Hill streets, and have sub-leased a space in Main street, adjoining the Schulte Cigar store to Joseph Josephson of New York for a men's hat store.

The Schulte Cigar Co. will open a branch establishment in the corner portion and will make their one hundred and twenty-eighth link in their chain of stores.

Possession will be taken by all the new tenants on or about March 15, 1917, after alterations have been completed.

Mayor Mitchell of New York, has ordered a city-wide survey of the food situation.



Highest Standard of Excellence

From the beautiful finish of the surface, clear through to the most secret interior parts there is the same high purpose to make the Weaver Piano superior to all others. The result is a new high standard of excellence in Piano quality.

Sold in Bridgeport only by Piquette Piano Co.

60 Cannon Street

Also Agents for the Sonora and Grafonola Talking Machines and Records.

CONNECTICUT LOYAL

"You can depend on the loyal support of Connecticut."

"MARCUS H. HOLCOMB, Governor."

By "Tip."

Connecticut's behind you, Uncle Sam; The spirit of the great past lives today, The spirit that made men leap to the fray.

In bygone days has come again to stay, Ready to do her part, as in the past, United, staunch and steadfast to the last.

Connecticut is loyal, Uncle Sam.

You did not call in vain in Sixty-One

For MEN, when men were needed, nor to-day Will you find any who would seek to stay.

Your hand, regardless of how hard the way, The way you lead is ours to take, and all Are ready to obey you at your call— To sweep in Freedom's name forever on.

Connecticut's behind you—no vain boast, No idle chatter from a state distraught, No maddened frenzy for a war unsought.

But resolution reached on sober thought To raise the Stars and Stripes unto the skies As ever in the past, and mobilize For Right and Liberty, a mighty host.

BOYS IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES INCLUDED IN MILITARY ENROLLMENT

Those who are in charge of the Connecticut military census, now being taken under the direction of Governor Marcus H. Holcomb, are determined that the enrollment shall be complete.

The census-takers are seeing to it that the inventory of the state's resources in men includes all who live within the borders of Connecticut. In addition to this, however, the men at the state headquarters in Hartford are arranging to include in the census all Connecticut boys who are students at "prep" schools or in colleges, and have secured catalogues of all leading colleges and "prep" schools to aid them in this work.

At all colleges and schools outside the limits of the state where there are a number of Connecticut students, arrangements are being made with the school authorities to have one Connecticut boy at the school appointed as a census-taker there, and this student will take the enrollment of all at the school whose homes are in Connecticut.

These census-takers will receive commissions from the governor similar to those issued to men within the state who are taking the enrollments. The schools and colleges in the state will be included in the census, and the enrollments in them will be taken by the census-takers of the towns or cities in which they are located.

Every effort will be made to have this military census absolutely complete.

VOLUNTEERS EAGER TO AID IN CAMPAIGN FOR CHRISTIAN UNION FUND

The distinction of being the first captain to complete the organization of her team for participation in the forthcoming ten-day drive to secure \$135,000 for the Bridgeport Christian Union belongs to Mrs. George H. Edwards.

In consequence of taking the lead on all the other captains, both men and women, in filling the ranks of her team, Mrs. Edwards' team will head the women's division.

Captain Edwards has surrounded herself with some of the most prominent, active and influential women of Bridgeport, who make known in no uncertain terms their intention of carrying off first honors in the competition between the 25 teams—15 men's and 10 women's—during the 10-day campaign.

Those who will serve with Mrs. Edwards are Mrs. William C. Hawley, Mrs. Henry W. Hincks, Mrs. Alice Ives, Mrs. Robert Eames, Mrs. William G. Rockwell, Mrs. Harry H. Read, Mrs. Murray H. Capin, Miss Ethel Sterling, Miss Carol Sterling and Miss Eugenia Barker.

Miss Chary Smith will head a team in the women's division, as will Miss Betty Payne. Miss Alice Bullard will be an active worker on one of the teams.

Thirteen of the 25 team captains have been "signed" to date. The following have sent in "signed contracts" and promise to be on hand with bells on with full complements when the "umpire" cries "play ball" on the evening of March 5.

James M. Saxton, George Catlin, Abner Mitchell, A. M. Emshard, H. A. Goldstein, Frederick Harrison, W. C. Hawley, John N. Sheppard, J. E. Ellwood and Frederick Morgan.

Among the "players" who have attached their signatures to "contracts" are Carroll Hogue, John T. Hubbard, R. S. Sprott and R. M. Hay. The ranks of the several teams are being constantly augmented.

The fund for the Christian Union will be procured entirely by volunteer workers, working in accordance with a scientifically accurate plan, which includes a carefully compiled card index system of probable givers. This plan has been devised by Frederick Courtenay Barber and Associates, of 1 Madison avenue, New York city, and is the result of years of experience in the field of philanthropic finance. It eliminates all possibility of lost energy, wasted time, or duplication of effort on the part of the workers and, in short, puts the entire campaign on the most efficient basis possible. No worker is supposed to call on a probable giver without having the card bearing the giver's name in his possession.

TODAY'S ANNIVERSARIES.

Two great poets died on this date, John Keats in 1821, and Thomas Moore in 1853. Charles Bonaparte, father of Napoleon the Great, died in 1785. Louis Philippe abdicated the throne of France and fled the country in 1848. The "six men of Dorset" the first "martyrs of modern trades unionism," were put into jail and later sentenced to seven years in prison for banding together to improve the condition of English farm laborers in 1843.

FUNERAL DESIGNS AND BOUQUETS

JOHN RECK & SON

OLD LAW WOULD PREVENT SUNDAY PREACHING HERE

Gymnastic Clergyman Could Have Been Arrested for Recent Sermon.

Hartford, Feb. 24.—The judiciary committee, sitting in the musty old Senate chamber under the searching eye of an equally old revolutionary general who looked down from an oil painting like some watchful spirit of liberty, heard the rather surprising assertion yesterday afternoon that Billy Sunday could have been arrested and imprisoned for a year, fined \$100 and put on his good behavior as the result of the sermon he gave in Middletown a few weeks ago. All this could have been done, the judiciary committee was told, under a "blue law" put on the statute books of Connecticut in 1642, and which is still as powerful as it was in the days when Connecticut ducked its witches at the end of a board. When written on the books the law provided a death penalty for anyone taking exception to the Scripture or who in any way failed to treat the subjects of holy writ with reverence. Aside from the death penalty, the law is as good as ever, it was said. Probably for the first time since 1642 a committee of the General Assembly heard the law read in the halls of the Capitol and listened to appeals for its repeal. The law follows:

"Any person who shall blaspheme against God, either of the persons of the Holy Trinity, the Christian Religion or the Holy Scriptures, shall be fined not more than \$100 and imprisoned in a jail not more than one year, and may also be bound for his good behavior."

Theodore Schroeder, who said he represented the Free Speech League, was the first speaker to appear before the committee to ask that the law be repealed. Mr. Schroeder told the committee that the law was part of a system of the colonial days and would work havoc to-day, if enforced.

The law, he said, was written at a time when the union of church and state was an actual fact and when theological qualifications were necessary for office holders.

The law, Mr. Schroeder pointed out, violated at least five sections of the constitution, among them being the right of free speech, the right of liberty and the right of happiness and the right of equality. No man, he said, had ever undertaken to define what blasphemy means or what the trinity means. The statute does not define the blasphemy of God and the law to-day could not be interpreted according to the theological conceptions of 1642.

"If you deny the truth of witchcraft to-day," Mr. Schroeder told the committee, "you cannot live up to this law. This statute would make it impossible for such a man as Billy Sunday to deliver his sermons in Connecticut. If you do not believe that the whale swallowed Jonah or the story of Adam and the rib in the Garden of Eden then you are in for it, according to this law. A statute of this broad scope ought not to be allowed on the books."

OPPOSITION TO BILL TO STOP NEWSGIRLS SELLING IN STREET

Hartford, Feb. 24.—The judiciary committee found itself face to face with the sociological problems of the times, from the support of inebriates on the state farm to the sale of newspapers on the street by newsgirls and the night work of boys in bowling alleys, at its hearing yesterday afternoon in the old Senate chamber.

The bill prohibiting the sale of newspapers on the streets by girls was confronted by two groups diametrically opposed to each other on the question. Christine J. Haas, representing the Hartford Council of Jewish Women strongly favored a measure which would impose a fine of \$20 on girls for each offense of selling news papers on the streets.

O. A. Phelps of Hartford told of an instance involving a newsgirl who was assaulted as the result of carrying on her work on the street.

Nathan B. Stone, president of a business college in New Haven strongly objected to a state-wide bill to prevent girls from selling newspapers on the street. He said he knew of at least two girls in New Haven who were earning their living in this way and that if they were prevented from selling papers they would be losing their livelihood. He couldn't see how the business offered more temptations than the average work which took women on the highways.

Miss Mary Hall, superintendent of the Good Will club of Hartford strongly objected to any measure which would prevent the girls of the ranks from selling newspapers.

Miss Mary C. Wells of Newington, was against the idea of girls selling newspapers on the street. She told the committee that girls went into the saloons to sell their papers and followed up drunken men because they never asked for change.

Miss Caroline M. Hewins, librarian at the Hartford Public Library, said she had known many newsgirls who had made their living selling papers. She was not entirely in favor of the plan to allow girls to sell papers on the streets.

The bill providing that no child under 14 years of age shall be employed on bowling alleys and preventing boys under 16 from being employed on such alleys without certificates from the educational authorities resulted in keen discussion before the members of the committee who heard all sides from the glowing accounts of the money saved by the lads to the alleged evils of the work. Bowling alley proprietors before the committee urged that no change be made in the present law.

A. P. Hayes and Herman Wiseman of Waterbury appeared against the measure. The speakers said the boys of certain alleys in Waterbury made as high as \$12 a week and were given a chance to earn a clean living and earn money to go to college.

Chairman Klett asked Mr. Wiseman if the boys were over their studies in school. Mr. Wiseman said such might be the case but he pointed out that alley owners did not want to



BOCK BEER

On Draught
—AT YOUR FAVORITE CAFE

In Bottles
—FOR THE HOME

Order A Case Today

The Connecticut Breweries Company

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., U. S. A.



interfere with the school studies of boys and that school certificates should not be issued to boys who cannot carry on the work and their studies as well.

Miss Hall favored the plan of employing boys on bowling alleys and saw no harm in the practice.

Miss Wells was against the plan of employing boys on bowling alleys. She said some of them worked far into the small hours of the morning and many of them were without certificates.

SALVATION ARMY SERVICES.

The services at the Salvation Army, 30 Elm street, at 8 o'clock this evening will be conducted by Adjutant J. N. Abrams, in charge of the corps at South Manchester. The usual Sunday school and bible class will be held at 1:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon and the meetings at 3 and 8 o'clock will again be conducted by Adjutant Abrams.

Farmer Want Ads. One Cent a Word.

PERSONAL TAXES NOT BEING RAPIDLY PAID

Despite the fact that the tax collector's office is open night and was open during the holiday yesterday, those liable for personal taxes are not paying up. Less than half the 35,000 persons liable for the tax have paid.

Lists of delinquents are being prepared in the collector's office and at the end of next week will be submitted to the prosecuting attorney with a request that warrants be issued.

The tax is payable on or before next Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock. The collector's office will be open from 7 to 9 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week, as well as during the regular daytime office hours.

Several buildings of the famous Cockerill works, at Seneffe, five miles southwest of Liège, Belgium, were destroyed by fire, at a loss of \$500,000.