

**OREGON'S EXPERIENCE WITH MINIMUM  
WAGE LEGISLATION**

BY

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## PREFACE

THE State of Oregon has shown considerable initiative in formulating and trying progressive legislation. In spite of the fact that its population is in many ways conservative it has given trial to direct legislation, workmen's compensation, mothers' pensions and similar welfare legislation. Such experiments cannot fail to be of interest to all who are possessed of a social consciousness. Yet even though one be not dominated by the concept of "welfare economics", experiments such as this by the State of Oregon with minimum wage legislation prove interesting and significant simply as laboratory studies in the working of general economic theory.

Enough years have now elapsed, sufficiently varied in character, to make useful a careful survey of the concrete results of this type of legislation. This study, as its title indicates, attempts to analyze some problems of minimum wage legislation specifically in the light of Oregon's experience. The problems cannot be said to have originated in Oregon but the history of the application of the legislation to this state does throw light upon them. Interest centers in such an act because of its bearing upon human behavior. The author hopes that the study may not only help to reveal the significant changes wrought in human behavior by the Minimum Wage Law but may also through analysis and emphasis lead to further improvements in the way men act in economic society.

It is a pleasure to express my sincere appreciation to Professor Henry R. Seager for his interest in this work and for the encouragement and counsel which he gave to me while I

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
CHAPTER I	
History of Minimum Wage Legislation . . . . .	11
CHAPTER II	
The Content of the Oregon Law . . . . .	22
CHAPTER III	
Background of Business Conditions in the State of Oregon . . . . .	29
CHAPTER IV	
The Question of Constitutionality . . . . .	35
CHAPTER V	
The Wage Setting Process . . . . .	50
CHAPTER VI	
The Bargaining Process . . . . .	62
CHAPTER VII	
Bases for Wage Adjustments . . . . .	75
CHAPTER VIII	
The Conferences and Hearings . . . . .	87
CHAPTER IX	
The Minimum Wage Rates Established and Their Relation to Cost of Living . . . . .	94
CHAPTER X	
Wage Rates Other Than the Minimum, Earnings and Associated Problems . . . . .	127

*CONTENTS*

	<i>PAGE</i>
<b>CHAPTER XI</b>	
Regulation of Hours and Working Conditions . . . . .	153
<b>CHAPTER XII</b>	
Problems of Apprenticeship; Inexperienced Adults and Minors . .	171
<b>CHAPTER XIII</b>	
Effect on the Efficiency of the Employee and Her Retention in her Occupation . . . . .	185
<b>CHAPTER XIV</b>	
Economic Effects of Minimum Wage Legislation upon Employers.	200
<b>CHAPTER XV</b>	
Employer Points of View . . . . .	213
<b>CHAPTER XVI</b>	
Some Conclusions . . . . .	224
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b> . . . . .	229
<b>INDEX</b> . . . . .	233

## LIST OF TABLES

	PAGE
TABLE I Dates of Passage of American Minimum Wage Laws . . . . .	20
TABLE II Oregon Statistics, 1910-1925 . . . . .	32
TABLE III Statistics of Portland, Oregon, 1910-1925 . . . . .	33
TABLE IV Distribution, Weekly Wage Rates, by Establishments, Massachusetts . . . . .	54
TABLE V Wage Distribution of Saleswomen, Two Establishments, New York . . . . .	55
TABLE VI Summary of Oregon Industrial Welfare Commission's Wage Orders, Experienced Adults . . . . .	95
TABLE VII Summary of Payroll Study, Portland, Oregon, 1917-1918 . . . . .	112
TABLE VIII Estimated Increases in Cost of Living, Portland, Oregon, 1917 . . . . .	114
TABLE IX Distribution of Expenditures in Weekly Wage. . . . .	115
TABLE X Index Numbers of Cost of Living in Pacific Coast Cities from 1914 to 1926 . . . . .	124
TABLE XI Weekly Rates of Pay before and after Oregon Minimum Wage Determinations, 1913-1914 . . . . .	129
TABLE XII Summary of Successive Wage Reports on the Mercantile Occupations in Oregon . . . . .	130
TABLE XIII Summary of Successive Wage Reports on the Laundry Occupation in Oregon . . . . .	130
TABLE XIV Average Weekly Earnings before and after Oregon Minimum Wage Determinations, 1913-1914 . . . . .	131
TABLE XV Wage Distribution Shown by Laundry Investigation, Portland, Oregon . . . . .	141
TABLE XVI Piece Rates in Fruit Industry, 1922 . . . . .	147
TABLE XVII Wage Rates for Women in Oregon Industries Reported by Oregon Bureau of Labor for 1926-1927 . . . . .	152
TABLE XVIII Summary of Oregon Industrial Welfare Commission's Wage Orders for Minors and Inexperienced Adults . . . . .	179

*LIST OF TABLES AND CHARTS*

		<small>PAGE</small>
TABLE	XIX Comparison of Average Rate of Pay and Average Earnings before and after Wage Determinations, 1913-1914 . . . . .	193
TABLE	XX Existing Apprenticeship Schedules Set by Pacific Coast States . . . . .	206
TABLE	XXI Comparison of Existing Wage Rates and Hours Set by Pacific Coast States . . . . .	207

**LIST OF CHARTS**

CHART	I Index Number of Cost of Living in Oregon Compared with Oregon Minimum Wage Rates . . . . .	119
CHART	II Comparison of Minimum Wage Rates in Oregon, Washington and California Mercantile Occupations. . . . .	122
CHART	III Comparison of Minimum Wage Rates in Oregon, Washington and California Manufacturing Occupations . . . . .	123
CHART	IV Index Number of Oregon Minimum Wage Rates Compared with Index Numbers of Union Wages, Farm Wages and Cost of Living . . . . .	125

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## INDEX

- Adkins v. The Children's Hospital, 35, 42, 47-49
- Administrative machinery, 24-28
- Amendments, cannery exemption, 161-162, 217; emergency clause, 162-163
- American minimum wage laws, dates, 20; reasons for, 20, 22-23; types of, 21
- Apprenticeship, wages, 96-98, 178-180, 182; effect of modern industry, 171-172; provisions of the law, 172-173; interstate comparisons difficult, 173; importance, 174; definition, 174-175, 177; training, 175-176; periods, 177-178; number permitted, 182-183
- Arbitration, relation to minimum wage, 11-13, 15; wage basis in, 78-79
- Australia, arbitration system, 11-13; wage board system, 13-15; experience under the laws, 15-17; election of 1929, 17-18
- Bargaining power of women, weakness of, 55-57, 64-67; effect of law on, 68-72
- Bargain theory of wages, 60
- Brandeis, Louis D., 35, 41
- Brief for District of Columbia Law, 47; for Oregon Law, 41-46
- British Trade Boards Act, 18-19
- Business conditions in Oregon, 31-34
- Capital investment, 117, 205-206
- Cases testing Oregon Law, 36-41
- Cave Committee report, 19
- Chamber of Commerce, Portland, support for law, 214; opposition meeting, 216
- Collective bargaining, definition, 67-68; under the minimum wage law, 68-72
- Competition among employees, 64-65, 189; by wage cutting, 201-202; interstore, 203; intercity, 204-205; interstate, 205-208
- Conference hearings, 26, 88-93
- Conference personnel, 26, 89-90
- Constitutionality, 35-49
- Consumer's League of Oregon, report, 22, 105
- Content of Oregon law, 23-28
- Cost of living, provided for in law 24, 102-103; family life, 62-63 117-118; relation to wage rates 103-104, 118-126; discussed in conferences, 104-118
- Depression of business in Oregon 31-34
- Deprivations of property, 38-39, 45 200-201
- Displacements, at end of apprenticeship, 182-183; checks on, 196 198; women by men, 196-197 experienced adults by minors and inexperienced adults, 197-198; of unemployables, 198-199
- District of Columbia Brief, 47
- Due process, 36, 38-39
- Early wage regulation, 11
- Earnings, 131-144
- Economy of high wages, 195
- Effect of law, on bargaining power of women, 68-72; on organization of women, 72-74; on wages above the minimum, 133-144; or men in industry, 170, 225-226; or unemployables, 198-199; on employers' attitude, 217-218; see also, Earnings, Efficiency, Hours Sanitary conditions
- Efficiency of employees, testimony of employers, 186-188, 195; affected by new basis of competition, 189-190; affected by standard of living, 190; affected by mental attitude, 190-192; affected by labor turnover, 192; measurement difficult, 194-195; limits of increase of, 195-196
- Efficiency of employers, basis of competition, 202-203; economic possible, 210-211; stimulated, 211
- Emergency permits, 162-164

- Employers, on Commission, 24; in conferences, 89-90; opposition, 213, 214-217; change in attitude, 217; support of law, 217-223; see also, Efficiency
- Endowment of children, 17
- Enforcement, inspection, 27-28, 148-149, 219; officials, 27-28; powers of Commission, 27-28; wage collections, 28, 148; difficulties, 145-146, 148-150; settlements out of court, 148, 150; somewhat localized, 149; complaints, 149-150; checks on evasions, 150-152; effects of U. S. Supreme Court decision, 152; cannery opposition, 161-162; emergency permits, 162-164; in orchards, berryfields, hopyards, 166, 167, 219; violations, 219; see also, Prosecution
- Experienced workers' wages. See Wage rates, minimum
- Flexibility as to hours, 154-155, 157-158, 160-161
- "Ford tramp", 146, 167
- Frankfurter, Felix, 35, 41
- Freedom of contract, 36, 39-40, 47
- Hobson, J. A., 191
- Hours, ten-hour law, 153-154, 161; number per day, 153-155; number per week, 153-155; minors, 154; special hearings, 157-158, 161-162, 216; rest periods, 158-159; night work, 160-161; overtime permits, 162-164; relation to earnings, 164-166
- Hoxie, R. F., 69
- Human behavior, affected by legislation, 225
- Index numbers, 118-126
- Individual bargaining, 63-64
- Industrial conditions during experiment, 31-34
- Industrial democracy, 227
- Industrial Welfare Commission of Oregon, personnel, 24-25; powers, 25-28; see also, Hours, Wages, Enforcement, Sanitary conditions
- Industrial Welfare Commissions, Pacific Coast Conference, 207-208
- Inexperienced worker. See Apprenticeship
- Inspection, 25, 27-28, 149, 219
- Intercity competition, 204
- Interstate competition, 205-207
- Interstate conference of commissions, 207-208
- Interstore competition, 203-204
- Labor costs, 208-209
- Labor organizations among women, 64-67
- Labor turnover, 192
- Laundry Owners' Association, 220-221
- Laundry wage rates, 130
- Liberties curtailed, 44-45
- Living wage, content of, 82-86
- Low wage levels, 51-53, 55-57
- Men in industry, 170, 225-226
- Mental attitudes of employees, 190-192
- Mercantile wage rates, 130
- Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association, 221
- Minimum comfort level, 84
- Minimum does not become maximum, 133-144; relation to wage fund theory, 133-134; testimony, 135-139; experience other than in Oregon, 138-139; Oregon's experience, 139-140; O'Hara, Rev. E. V., 139; wages above the minimum, 140-144, 218-219; business practices, 142-143
- Minimum emphasized, 226-227
- Minimum health level, 84
- Minimum wage legislation, Australasian, 11-15; British, 18-19; American, 20-21; other, 21; Oregon, 22-28
- Minors, wage basis, 25; wage setting, 87; wage rates, 96-98, 178-180; hours, 154; prohibited occupations, 169
- New Zealand, legislation, 11-13
- Night work, 160-161
- Occupations covered, 27
- Opposition of employers, 213, 214-217; due to misunderstanding, 216
- Orchards, berryfields and hopyards, 166-167, 219
- Oregon, an industrial experiment ground, 29-31
- Oregon brief before United States Supreme Court, 41-46
- Oregon business conditions, 29-34
- Oregon Laundry Owners' Association, 220-221

- Oregon Supreme Court decision, 36-41
- Organization of women in unions, 64-67; effect of law on, 72-74
- Organized labor's attitude, 73
- Overtime permits, 162-164
- Pacific Coast conference, resolutions of, 207-208
- Penalties for violations, 28
- Permits, aged and infirm, 27, 198; emergency overtime, 162-164
- Personnel, of Commission, 24; of wage conference, 26, 89-90
- Piece rates, 26, 101-102; relation to cost of living, 103-104; rulings, 144-148; fruit and cannery, 145-148
- Pin money fallacy, 62-63
- Police power, 36-38
- Productivity theory of wages, 57-58
- Profits, 208-212
- Prohibited occupations, 168-169
- Property rights, 38-39, 45, 200-201
- Prosecution, authorized, 28; resorted to, 149; avoided, 150
- Prosperity, effect of law on, 208-212
- Protection to women's wages, 150-152; see also, Enforcement
- Public representation, 25, 26
- Rest periods, 158-159
- Rowntree, Seebohm, 188, 192, 210
- Royal Commission, report on Australian legislation, 16-17
- Sales, daily, of clerks, 194-195
- Sanitary regulations, 24, 25, 166-167
- Savings, relation to minimum wage, 110; "saving wage", 84
- Scope of law, 23-24; limitation to women and minors, 19-20
- Simpson v. O'Hara, 36-42
- Six-day week, 156-158
- Six-o'clock closing, 203-204
- Smith, Adam, 191-192
- Social discovery, 224-225
- Spirit in conferences, 91-93
- Standards set up in Oregon law, 23-24
- Stettler v. O'Hara, 36-42
- Strikes, relation to minimum wage laws, 12; declaration of wage bases, 76-78
- Sub-marginal producers, 209-210
- Subsistence level, 84
- Subsistence wage theory, 58-59
- Supply and demand, 59-60
- Support of law, 213-214, 217-218, 219; of sanitary provisions, 218; of wage rulings, 218-219
- Survey, social, 22-23, 105
- Sweat shops, relation to minimum wage, 12, 14, 20
- Testimony offered, types of, 90-92; inexpert, 90-92, 106-108, 110-111; expert, 91, 111-115; of women in conferences, 110-111
- Transfers to new apprenticeships, 183
- Turnover of labor, 192
- Types of American minimum wage laws, 21
- Undertime, 164-166; effect on earnings, 164-165; checks on, 165-166
- Unemployables, 198-199
- Unemployment. See Displacement, Unemployables
- Uniformity in wage rates, 99-101
- Unions, weakness among women, 65-67; effect of minimum wage laws on, 72-74
- United States Supreme Court, Oregon decision, 41; District of Columbia decision, 47-49; social and economic views, 47-48, 228; effect on enforcement, 152, 227-228
- Violations, 149, 151-152, 219; penalties for, 28
- Vocational training, 151-152, 175-176
- Wade, Hon. Charles G., 16
- Wage bases, minors, 24, 25; declarations in strikes, 76-78; in arbitration agreements, 78-79; in minimum wage laws, 79-82; in Oregon law, 81-82; for inexperienced adults, 102-103, 104
- Wage conferences, 88-93, 106-118
- Wage fund theory, 133-134
- Wage rate rulings, variations as to occupation, 98-99; as to locations, 98-99, 204-205
- Wage rates above minimum, mercantile, 127-130, 140-142; laundry, 130, 140-142; miscellaneous, 130, 152; effect on employers' attitude, 218-219
- Wage rates, minimum; experienced women, 95-96, 98-99; apprentices, 96-98, 178-180; relation to index

- number, 118-121; comparison of Pacific States, 122-126; compared with other wage rates, 126; see also, Piece rates
- Wage rate reduction, 17
- Wage regulation, causes, 1, 12, 20
- Wages, low levels, 51-53, 55-57; unstandardized, 52-55
- Wage theories, 50-51, 57-61
- War, effect on Oregon conditions, 31, 34; problems created, 117, 157-158, 163
- Webb, Sidney and Beatrice, 60-61
- Wise, Hon. Bernhard, 15-16
- Women at home, 62-63, 117-118

## VITA

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