

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 147

House of Representatives, Feb. 7, 1917.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary, two thousand copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

W. R. ROIX, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. O'Connell of Millinocket.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN

AN ACT for the purpose of lessening the hours of labor or increasing the wages or bettering the condition of the members of labor organizations.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Section 1. It shall not be unlawful for working men and
2 women to organize themselves into, or carry on labor unions
3 for the purpose of lessening the hours of labor or increas-
4 ing the wages or bettering the condition of the members of
5 such organizations; or carrying out their legitimate purposes
6 as freely as they could do if acting singly.

Sect. 2. No restraining order or injunction shall be granted

2 by any court of this state, or any judge or judges thereof in
3 any case involving or growing out of a dispute concerning
4 terms or conditions of employment, unless necessary to
5 prevent irreparable injury to property or to a property right
6 of the party making the application, for which injury there
7 is no adequate remedy at law, and such property or property
8 right must be described with particularity in the application,
9 which must be in writing and sworn to by the applicant or by
10 his agent or attorney.

Sect. 3. No restraining order or injunction shall prohibit
2 any person or persons, whether singly or in concert, from
3 terminating any relation of employment or from ceasing to
4 perform any work or labor; or from recommending, advis-
5 ing or persuading others so to do; or from attending at any
6 place where any person or persons may lawfully be, for the
7 purpose of obtaining or communicating information, or from
8 persuading any such person to work or to abstain from
9 working; or from ceasing to patronize any party to such
10 dispute; or from recommending, advising, or persuading
11 others so to do; or from paying or giving to, or withholding
12 from, any person engaged in such dispute, any strike benefits
13 or other moneys or things of value; or from assembling in a
14 lawful manner, and for lawful purposes; or from doing any
15 act or thing which might lawfully be done in the absence of
16 such dispute by a single individual; nor shall any of the acts
17 specified in this section be considered or held to be illegal or
18 unlawful in any court of this state.

Sect. 4. That the labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce, and the right to enter into the relation of employer and employee, or to change that relation; or to assume and create a new relation for employer and employee; or to perform and carry on business with any person in any place; or to do work and labor as an employee, shall be held and construed to be a personal, and not a property right. In all cases involving the violation of the contract of employment, either by the employee or employer where no irreparable damage is about to be committed upon the property or property right of either, no injunction shall be granted, but the parties shall be left to their remedy at law.

Sect. 5. No persons shall be indicted, prosecuted, or tried in any court of this state for entering into or carrying on any arrangement, agreement, or combination between themselves made with a view of lessening the number of hours of labor or increasing wages or bettering the condition of workingmen, or for any act done in pursuance thereof, unless such act is in itself forbidden by law if done by a single individual.