

**MEXICAN**

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"People say that we are bringing them here for you to feed and take care of, but I want to say that you haven't fed any of them, unless it be indirectly," said he.

**Mexicans Dislike Montana.**

"If the people of this community don't feel that the Mexican is rendering a service worth while by coming here to do the labor that the farmers cannot get any one else to do in the field, why they should not allow them to come. But you go ahead and keep them out and see what will happen to your community."

Mr. Hogarty said that it was a difficult matter to get Mexicans to come to Montana for several reasons, chief of which is that Montana has the worst reputation of any state in the union among the Mexicans themselves. "They say to each other," said he, "that we treat them like they treat their burros, that we do not want them among us." He also said that there are more than 30 other states which are competing with Montana in the effort to obtain Mexican labor and that the only source of supply is Texas and New Mexico.

When members of the audience began to fire questions at Mr. Hogarty that of wages was given considerable attention. Mr. Hogarty said he didn't believe that the farmers growing beets could afford to pay more than \$25 an acre for best work and that the average Mexican of the inexperienced class now working in this territory earned \$3 a day during the 60 days his services are demanded in the beet fields.

**Need Other Work.**

The reason many Mexican families have required assistance is that they could not get enough other work besides the beet field work to enable them to make a living. He said that while the sugar company was supporting them, he didn't see why it was the sugar company's business to do so. He said the sugar company paid \$26,000 in taxes and that the farmers of Yellowstone county pay \$100,000 in taxes, and that a certain share of each went into the poor fund.

Discussing the matter of wages it was brought out that many of the Mexicans can make as high as \$6 a day in the beet fields and an individual instance was cited in which a crippled Mexican made \$12 a day when the weather was good. This assertion was made by O. K. Orimstad, who further declared that comparing them hour for hour the Mexicans were the highest priced class of labor he has on his ranch, which employs 25 men and pays from \$50 and found for single men to \$75 with house rent to married men and \$75 and found to shepherders. \*

## Mexican\_Labor\_Defended (cont)

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