

CLERKS MAY QUIT IF THEY WISH BUT SACHS WON'T

Hibbing Merchant Declares Miners Need to Have Stores Open at Night to Save Them From Drunkenness.

HIBBING, Jan. 12.—If Hibbing clerks want to unionize and "knock off" work at 6 o'clock or "any other old time satisfactory to the majority of merchants" it will meet with the approbation of Thomas Sachs, local clothier, but he does not intend that anyone shall dictate to him what hours he himself shall work.

"There was published in the Hibbing newspaper a statement that certain clothing merchants were preventing the early closing hour from going into effect by holding out against the clerks' union," said Sachs. "This includes me, and I'm here to say it is not true. I told Tom Godfrey, another merchant, that all of my clerks could join the union and quit work at any time specified, but if I want to stay in my own store that is my privilege.

"The miners, from whom we get a bulk of our trade, start work at 7 o'clock in the morning and work until 6 o'clock at night. When they come

to town at night for clothing they will find no one here to serve them. If they have checks in their pockets they will have to jump on the street car and get over to Buhl, where they will spend their money for booze. By the time Saturday night comes they will have no money left to pay for needed clothing nor for supplies already purchased.

"This means much to the merchants. When the saloons were open here the mining companies established stores in the locations where they supplied men with necessaries to prevent them coming into town and getting drunk. That would most likely result if the stores adopted the rule to close at 6 o'clock.

"The first of the month's pay days was today. They will continue until January 30. Now is the time when the merchants, especially clothing merchants should keep open at night, when the biggest part of our business is done, for then the miners come to town."