

1930 to Be «Lean Tough» Year

NEW YORK-(FP)—Nineteen-thirty will be a "lean hard, tough" year according to *Business Week*, published by McGraw Hill, which also sponsors the leading industrial and trade magazines. Intense competition, with disaster for weaker firms, is foretold. Workers can interpret for themselves the meaning of this competition in speed-up, low wages and unemployment.

Economists, statisticians, and the glorified soothsayers employed to shed prestige on big corporations have been filling the business press with their usual prognostications. Usually these oracles stress the inherent "soundness of business", namely people must eat and live and therefore will not cease all buying. Sec. of the Treasury Mellon typifies their viewpoint when he says that "I see nothing in the present situation that is either menacing or warrants pessimism. During the winter months there may be some slackness or unemployment, but hardly more than is usual at this season of the year." In this county manner does the great Pittsburgh magnate toss off the plight of millions of wretched workers.

What About the Workers?

In the deluge of words published concerning the industrial depression whose beginning was seen last summer, hardly any consideration is given the workers who bear the brunt of hard times. Statisticians bend their brains to the task of estimating whether profits will decline 15% or 25% in 1930, but no attention is paid to workers' income and hardly any more as to whether he is to have a chance to make a living.

Construction and automobiles are considered the leading forces in depression and recovery. The auto slump that started last fall continues unabated, and the industry looks to the production of 1,000,000 fewer cars in 1930. That means a smaller demand for steel, textiles, electrical equipment and all the products that go into auto building. In construction no marked recovery is expected.

Profits Rise

Workers' attention is called to the prospect that many employers will attempt to justify wage cuts with stories of falling profits. But the net income available for dividends for 1929 is estimated at \$3,500,000,000 for 550 leading industrial firms. This is an increase of 17.6% over the previous year.

Poverty Spreads in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS-(FP)—With more than 1,000 workers' families applying for charity during the first 17 days of the month, December, 1929, has seen destitution establish new records in this city unequalled during the history of organized charity.

These facts are revealed by the official journal of the St. Louis Provident Assn. family case work agency, which says that "district superintendents report unemployment the major cause of the flood of applications".

Joblessness shows the greatest increase says the report, in foundries, shoe factories, paper box factories, automobile assembly plants and construction companies. Workers over 40 years old are hardest hit. The survey takes account only of able-bodied unemployed.

Thirty-one cents of every dollar spent for relief during December, the report estimates, will go to families where unemployment is responsible for the need. This is the largest proportion of relief chargeable to any one cause. When it is considered that a family case work agency must also care for families where the wage-earner is dead, incapacitated, too old to work, non-supporting, or where earnings are insufficient for the family's support, the seriousness of the situation is apparent.

N. C. WANTS ANTI-LABOR LAW, TOO

NEW YORK—Condemnation of three Ohio workers to long terms in the penitentiary for anti-militarist agitation has suggested to the *Gastonia, N. C. Gazette* and the *Charlotte, N. C. Observer* the desirability of such a law in North Carolina to curb the union agitators.

Export Industries Will Be Hit Heavily

WASHINGTON-(FP)—Information received at the U. S. Department of Commerce and at the Chamber of Commerce of the United States shows that the coming six months will witness nationwide unemployment in the industries which supply the foreign export trade. Due to the severe business depression in South America and Cuba, caused by a drop of 35 to 55 percent in prices of coffee and sugar, and due to the steady drift of many European countries

toward hard times, American export trade faces the worse crisis since the war. Millions of American wage workers may suffer between now and July, from the collapse of foreign buying.

The Department of Commerce expert on Latin America, writing in the *Commerce Reports* for January 6, predicts serious political unrest in Brazil, Colombia and other countries of South America as a result of the present business disaster.

Pullman Co. Absorbs Notorious Union Foe

PITTSBURG-(FP)—Standard Car Corp., ruthless and conscienceless foe of unionism in western Pennsylvania, has been absorbed by the Pullman Co., whose own record against labor is unparalleled.

Typical of western Pennsylvania feudalism is Standard Steel Car's plant at Butler, near Pittsburgh. Fearful evidently of the results of its anti-union policy among workers, the company had one of the five state police barracks placed in Butler when the plant was built. The company donated the ground and many facilities.

A Company Town

The inevitable company town was built at Lyndora, inhabited chiefly by immigrant workers and their families. It was through streets lined by miserable company sheds that the police patrolled its force during the steel strike of 1919. Often these sheds had barn doors for the entrance of what the company considered its human cattle. On occasion the figure of the mounted cossack bent on mowing "guineas" and "wops", sent women and children fleeing through the doors into their sheds.

Across the street car tracks was the city of Butler inhabited by native born workers and bosses. Here the Mellon car company domination was more polite but just as effective. Years ago an old pioneer land owner and county judge controlled Butler, today his sons are in charge of the Republican city and county machines, and are physician and attorney for the car company.

Boy Scout Movement Anti-Strike

Standard Steel Car benignly fathers all civic affairs from the Salvation Army and the Community Chest to the Boy Scouts. The Boy Scout secretary once told the

Federated Press correspondent that car company officials hoped to decrease the possibilities of strikes through careful fostering of the Boy Scout movement in Lyndora.

Decline in the demand for steel cars led to perpetual unemployment in Butler, as the plant alone could have cared for the entire national demand in 1927. Orders were shuffled between the Butler and Hammond, Ind. plants as well as Osgood-Bradley at Worcester, Mass., involved in the latest merger.

In 1926 part of the idle car plant was made into a modern rolling mill unit of the Columbia Steel Co., unit of the American Rolling Mills Co. (Armco) which recently crushed a steel workers' strike in Middletown, Ohio.

This year the Austin Automobile Co., a British concern, took over another idle section of Standard Steel Car plant on the understanding that common labor was not to be paid above 36 cents an hour, the rate prevailing for such labor in all Butler industry.



FREE MEALS PASS OUT IN YUMA

YUMA, Ariz.—Free meals for out-of-workers who trudge through Yuma on their way from the valleys of California to the valleys of Arizona in quest of the illusive job are a thing of the past for the associated charities has had a large wood pile placed in the yard of the city hall. Applicants for charity will be obliged to split wood for one hour before they will be given the price of a meal.

Racketeer is Pal of Matty Woll

By Harvey O'Connor

NEW YORK-(FP)—Pres. Paul Vaccarelli of the Loyal Labor Legion is back on the first pages of the metropolitan press again. This time it is because of the inclusion of his name on a telephone list kept by a drug ring raided by federal authorities.

Matty Woll's Pal

Vaccarelli, alias Kelly, is best known in the labor world as the sole owner and proprietor of the Loyal Labor Legion a racket which fetes prominent labor men on Labor Day. Its performance on last Labor Day was held at a Long Island resort, where Mathew Woll, a featured guest, pinned a medal on Edward F. McGrady, of the A. F. of L. as the outstanding labor man of the year.

Vaccarelli also burst into the public prints recently in connection with charges by Maj. F. H. LaGuardia, Republican candidate for mayor of New York in the recent election, that the labor racketeer headed a gang of gunmen who terrorized Italian voters in the Bronx. His latest appearance in print is in connection with the sensational disclosures concerning City Magistrate Albert Vitale, whose connections with the New York underworld and the dope ring in particular are now under closest scrutiny by the federal government, the Bronx grand jury and the Bar Assn.

The Loyal Labor Legion was organized in war time to break strikes on the New York waterfront and assure loyalty to the government. Vaccarelli was later closely associated with Czar Brindell of the Building Trades Council, who rounded out his career in Sing Sing. Then he preyed on his fellow-countrymen, organizing them into municipal service unions, exacting tribute from them in turn for deals with Tammany Hall. One racket was the publication of a magazine for which 18,000 members of New York Laborers Union had to subscribe at \$2 a year.

Notorious Gangster

Vaccarelli was described in the *American Mercury* recently by Herbert Asbury as perhaps New York's outstanding racketeer and gangster and owner, in his heyday, of the "flashiest palace of sin in New York City." He was kicked out of the Longshoremen's Union by T. V. O'Connor then president, but later held a lucrative job in the New York District Council.

The Loyal Labor Legion's only apparent activity is social and is concentrated on the Labor Day affair, at which liquor and oratory are the "pieces de resistance". The culmination of the affair is the award of a medal to the "most outstanding labor man of the year." McGrady was rewarded last Labor Day for his efforts in "smashing the Left wing in the New York Needle trades."

12 Lynchings Known in 1929

NEW YORK-(FP)—Twelve known lynchings were reported for 1929 by the Natl. Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People. Not a single lyncher was punished during the year.

Among those lynched were four whites, including a white woman, Ella May Wiggins, Gastonia union organizer, who was shot to death on a highway in broad daylight.

One of the Negro victims, reported the N. A. A. C. P., was a 72-year-old man, who was brutally beaten, his hands severed, and then thrown into the Sewanee River to drown.

Philadelphia:

Meeting in Philadelphia

Comrade Max Shachtman will speak before the Liberal League Forum of Philadelphia, Pa. on Sunday, January 19, 1930 at 8 p. m. The subject of his talk will be: "The Crisis in the Communist Movement".

Philly Class

A study class in the elements of political education has been organized in Philadelphia by the branch of the Communist League of America (Opposition). The class is under the direction of K. M. Whitten. The class is open to members and sympathizers of the Communist League.

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