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Heavy Decline in N. Y. Jobs

Mill Bosses Plan Company Unions To Counteract Trade Union Drive

Federated Press

While right and left wing unions plan further organization in the south, the A.F. of L. unions by a "spirit of cooperation and friendship" for the employers, the National Textile Workers Union by militant class conflict, boss morale in the textile industry is bolstered by a January ideological "inventory" taken by Textile World, trade paper of the McGraw-Hill chain.

Surveying the "guide posts" needed by employers in turning back A.F. of L. overtures, even of the meekest type, this employers' organ urges more employe representation—company unions—and suggests "sound labor-extension" systems.

"Selling" Labor New Chain

It advises employers to develop company unions such as now keep workers in bondage in the great Amoskeag mills and Pacific mills, the latter with southern branches. And by "sound" labor extension it means the kind that can be fastened on the workers without evoking spontaneous strikes such as developed in the Carolinas last spring. It means preparing the workers minds in advance and properly "selling" them the new shackles.

A similar idea runs through an article on group insurance for textile workers appearing in the same issue. It suggests that this insurance should not be given workers as a gratuity but they should pay a little something for it, thus furthering "joint participation between employer and employe." The group insurance against sickness and disability, the textile organ declares, must be used to "create an entering wedge for real cooperation between employer and employe", in other words be the first step toward company unionism or "inside organization . . . useful from a social standpoint and also as a means of discussing labor problems and adjusting labor difficulties". The insurance plans are thus but a bait on the hook of the company union.

In order to get the worker to contribute "voluntarily" to other forms of inside insurance, Textile World advises that it may be necessary to have the company make a "gift of group life insurance to all employes who become members of the cooperative organization". And it is cheap at the price, it adds, being only \$4 to \$5 a year for a unit of \$500 of insurance, or less than the worker in the average cotton mill is robbed out of his pay envelope in a single week. This bribe of \$5 a year is expected to keep the spinner or weaver contented and loyal and efficient under the new stretch-out plans of operation. It is obvious from the article that by this small annual outlay the employe "indirectly benefits himself far more than he could by any other agency. The main object is to create greater productivity through establishing greater contentment."

"Moderization" Expected

Southern textile mill owners, who are specialists in the older forms of paternalism, such as cheap company shacks, controlled schools and subsidized parsons, are now expected to modernize their "employer employe relationships" by introducing the insurance features as more subtle but no less enslaving devices.

Insurance companies and powerful enemies of social insurance, state old age pensions and the like, are constantly pushing the company group insurance and more

1500 Unemployed Demonstrate in St. Louis Mayor Answers the Demand for Work or Relief by Arresting Two Leaders

By H. L. GOLDBERG

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—(By Telegram)—Under the leadership of the Communist League (Opposition), fifteen hundred unemployed workers marched through the downtown section of St. Louis to the City Hall. At a mass meeting there, demands were made upon the Mayor for work or relief. The answer of the mayor was the arrest of two of the leaders of the demonstration, Elmer McMillan, secretary of the local branch

of the Communist League, and Ralph Martin.

The numbers of St. Louis unemployed continue to grow by leaps and bounds, and thousands of workers have already scraped through an extremely bitter winter with no prospects for relief in sight, but rather a worsening of conditions. The reply of the Mayor to the demands of the unemployed shows what aid they will get from that source.

Tear Gas is «Popular» Weapon against Labor

By Harvey O'Connor

(FP)—Tear gas is becoming quite popular among sheriffs to disperse union pickets. Sheriff John J. Snyder of Northampton county, Pennsylvania, testified he used tear gas gun of the same type used by Sheriff Adkins in Marion, N. C. when bystanders insisted on watching him arrest seven union pickets at the Kraemer scab mill at Nazareth. When the onlooking Nazarenes failed to move on at the sheriff's order, he fired pointblank at them.

In all 26 pickets have been arrested for ignoring a court order that only two pickets are to be permitted in front of the Kraemer mill. Announcing that they considered this a violation of their constitutional rights, the strikers picketed anyway, the sheriff arrested seven, became angry when he found bystanders interested, shot tear gas at them and proceeded to make more arrests. Josephine Kaczor, union organizer, has been arrested so many times she has lost count; her face has been mugged for the rogue's gallery and her fingers printed for the Bertillon bureau.

It is hard to put the seriousness of the unemployment situation in the east into words. Pictures would tell the story better however. An enterprising labor photographer should be on hand in front of newspaper offices when the first edition with classified ads comes off the press. In Newark, for example there is a mob of 1,500 men in front of the Evening News plant daily, waiting to snatch the first copies from the newsboys. Groups of 50 to 200 building tradesmen can be seen standing by the four construction jobs in Newark, hoping they may be called. About the Central market, the labor cameraman could get shots of men, women and children digging into barrels looking for scraps of food.

35 Electricians Will Burn to Death in 1930

NEW YORK—(FP)—Thirty-five union electrical workers will burn to death on job-giving, death-dealing wires during 1930. That is the prediction of the Electrical Workers Journal, backed by the unimpeachable figures of the Brotherhood's insurance figures. Each year since 1922 has seen 29 to 45 deaths of union men by electrocution. Insurance statistics reveal moreover

thereby building a wall of defense against the demands for complete social insurance from the state that workers will make when they get organized. At the same time the adoption of these schemes is a part of the anti-union defense of the corporations throw up to meet the present crusades of the unions both north and south

Every Industry Reports Slump

ALBANY, N. Y.—(FP)—Not since 1920, the year of the severe panic, has any single month registered such sharp decline in employment in New York state factories as December, asserts the state labor department. The drop from November was 4% following an October-November decline of 2% in the number of jobs reported from 1,500 factories representative of all important industries.

Every industry reported the slump. All the metals showed general losses, with iron and steel mills cutting forces for the fourth successive month. Automobile plants were 15% under 1928. Machinery and electrical apparatus firms, all the clothing industries, and textiles reported workers dumped into the job market. Chemicals, glass, foods and even publishing and printing showed decline.

1929 as a whole marked an advance of four points in employment over 1928, due to the high level of industrial activity in the first three quarters of the year. The general index of employment was 98, based on the three year average of 1925-27. The average wage reached a top figure of \$30.47 in October.

Massachusetts Building Trades Workers Severely Hit

BOSTON—(FP)—Twenty-six percent of the 48,000 union building trades mechanics included in state labor department figures were jobless on Dec. 2, according to a report just released. The percentage has been rising steadily from 17.8% in November and 15% in October. In December of 1928, also a bad season for building trades workers, 23.7% were jobless.

Unemployment is much worse now, recent estimates showing half of Boston's building tradesmen on the street. Even so state labor department statistics for early month of December showed 72% of union lathers jobless; 34% of painters; 32% of bricklayers; 26% of carpenters, and 26% of building laborers. These are the most important crafts.

In Lowell 57% of all building workers were out of jobs; in Holyoke, 49%; Springfield, 24%; Lynn, 38%; Lawrence, 31% and Salem, 31%.

5,000 FEWER JOBS IN BOSTON

BOSTON—(FP)—Despite New England Council ballyhoo that that section is not decadent and has no industrial depression from which to recover, the manufactures census of the state department of labor and industries paints another picture. Figures just tabulated for Boston show a decrease between 1926 and 1928 of 5,000 workers, of whom 2,000 were dropped in the second year. The boot and shoe industry is Boston's largest, with printing and publishing second.

POLICE CALLED OUT FOR JOBLESS

PHILADELPHIA—(FP)—Seven police were summoned when more than 300 job hunters flooded the employment office of the Edward Budd Corp., auto body builders. The crowd rushed over when word was passed through the district that several men had been employed the previous morning.

NEW ORLEANS—Standard Oil of Louisiana is spreading the company union of its parent organization, Standard Oil of New Jersey, into this region. A conference has just been held by 12 representa-

that 50% of the deaths in the union result from occupational disease. Last year pneumonia—aftermath of exposure on crippled wire systems—took a higher toll than electrocution, with tuberculosis a high third. Falls from poles killed 26. Tuberculosis, pneumonia and heart

disease, the Journal points out, are occupational diseases, part of "labor's dividends". Louis I. Dublin, statistician for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., is quoted as estimating that a worker pays eight years out of his life for the privilege of holding a job. His average span of life is eight years shorter than that of his employer, of bankers, brokers and white collar employees