

Unemployment Stalks The Middle West

Charity organizations and welfare departments in middle western cities face a situation in February, 1930 which is without parallel except for the winter of 1921-2. Tens of thousands of unemployed men and women walk the streets looking for work, with rent overdue and food credit exhausted.

The Chicago "slave market" is thronged with men. All day long they crowd the sidewalks in West Madison St., spilling over into the side streets and alleys and gathering in mobs in front of any employment office that advertises for help. Most of the employment office windows have chalked up the sign "No Shipment Today".

Only 44% Work in Toledo

A census of employment taken in Toledo shows that for every hundred men working in February, 1929 there were 44 men working in February, 1930. Some of the more important plants are practically closed down and there is no chance for work outside of an occasional snow-shovelling job.

Estimates place the number of unemployed in Detroit somewhere between 100,000 and 125,000. Day after day they gather before employment offices in lines four deep that extend for blocks. An ad for one man will bring a thousand applicants.

Cleveland has faced hard times for the last three years. Unemployment there is as severe as it is in other neighboring cities, but since it is of longer duration many of the "out-of-works" have drifted to other places, looking for jobs.

The Charities of Louisville, Ky. are facing a late winter and spring in which relief demands from the unemployed, evicted and other distress cases are overtaking their budgets. Present demands indicate a need for the year 1930 of about double the amount of money available.

"Welfare" Dept. Jammed

The Detroit Welfare Department, a city institution, cared for about 7,000 families in November, about 9,000 in December and about 11,000 in January 1930. Toward the end of January the office of the department was daily jammed with applicants of whom about one in eight received assistance. In addition to the charity distributed by this public organization, the usual private agencies in Detroit found their hands more than full.

Hoover's prosperity conferences have received far more public notice than the lines of unemployed waiting outside the factory gates all through the industrial section of the United States. They do not provide jobs, however, as hundreds of thousands of desperate workers know to their cost. Many of the jobless are loyal supporters of the Republican machine. Most of the balance voted for Al Smith in 1928. Empty stomachs and eviction notices provide the basis for disillusionment.



Men versus Machines

HILL STATION, Pa.-(FP)—A veteran pick miner, experienced through over 20 years of coal mining in the Pittsburgh coal area, has figured out the operator's book-keeping in deciding whether to use cutting machines at the coal face or a miner with the old time pick. It's the question of leath versus replacement cost.

"We used to do all the mining by hand," he says, nursing a foot on which 150 pounds of slate had fallen in a mine entry. "Then the machines began to come in but they were expensive and not always efficient. We still had them on even terms. But the machine cutters constantly got better and faster. We began to lose out.

"Now the machine does almost all the

work in the pit where I work. We pick miners still get a small share but it does not cheer us much to know why. Anywhere that a machine can safely go we have no chance. But if it is dangerous for the machine, the boss sends us in.

"In some places a fall of rock might smash the machine and that would be a loss of \$4,000 to \$5,000. But if we get killed the maximum compensation under Pennsylvania is only \$3,000. So the company saves at least \$1,000 by taking a chance on a miner's life instead of on its expensive machinery.



35'000 Jobless in New Jersey Industrial Center

TRENTON, N. J.—Investigation of appalling unemployment in New Jersey is proposed in a bill introduced in the state legislature. Estimates of unemployment in this state run into the six figures, with 35,000-40,000 jobless in Newark and surrounding cities. The situation is most severe in Camden, Newark and Jersey City. In Caldwell, a Newark suburb, hundreds of colored workers are jobless and almost starving.

Both the Johnson & Johnson medical supplies plant at New Brunswick and the U. S. Metals & Refining Co. at Carteret are reported to have laid off hundreds.

Where to Buy The Militant

LOS ANGELES, Calif.: Belmont News Co., 101 East 5th St.; Western News Stand, Box 604, Arcade Station.

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. McDonald's 65 Sixth St.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Gale's Book Shop 300 Tenth St. N. W.

PITTSBURG, Pa.: P & A News Co., 220 Federal St., N. S.

CHICAGO, ILL., Cheshinsky's Book Store, 2720 W. Division St.; Horsley's Book Store, 1623 W. Madison St.; and on various newsstands.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.: Joe Angelo, 431 No. We'ey St.

BOSTON, Mass.: Shapiro's, 7 Beach St near Washington; Andelman's, 291 Tremont St., Newsstand, 38 Causeway St.

ROXBURY, MASS., Goldberg's Store, 536 Warren St.

DETROIT, MICH.: Aidas Book Shop, 1713-24th St.; and on various newsstands.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.: Engelson News Co., 234-2nd Ave. So.

KANSAS CITY, MO.: Buehler's Book Store, 220 West 12th St.

ST. LOUIS, MO.: Foster's Bc Store, 410 Washington Ave.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.: Newsstands at 19th and Market, S. E. Cor.; 15th and Market, S. E. Cor.; 13th and Market, N. W. cor.; Warwick's News Depot, 262 S. 11th St.; 11th and Market, N. W. cor.; 5th and Market, S. W. cor.; 5th and Pine Sts., N. E. cor.; 9th and Locust Sts., N. E. cor.

BUTTE, Mont.: International News, 121 So. Arizona.

SEATTLE, WASH.: Raymer's Old Book Store, 905 Third Ave.

TACOMA, Wash.: Raymer's 1317 Pacific St. St.

TORONTO, ONT., CANADA: On various newsstands.

NEW YORK, N. Y.: On various newsstands in New York and Brooklyn; Blederman Bookstore, 2d Ave and 12th St.; Rand Bookstore, 7 East 15th St.; The Militant, 25 Third Ave.

CALGARY, ALTA., CANADA: Boston News Co., 109-8th Ave. West

In addition to the stores listed above, The Militant also can be obtained through members and Branches of Communist League of America.

Taxi Maintenance Men Join Strikers

PITTSBURG—This city's embattled taxi drivers are standing firm in the fourth week of their strike for union and better wages. Maintenance crews in the scab Parmalee garages have joined the strikers.

Although cars that venture on the streets carry large signs that interference with their operation is a violation of a strikebreaking injunction, the order is cheerfully ignored. Deputies, privately paid at \$10 per day, accompany the cabs in their occasional sorties on downtown streets.

An interesting sidelight is thrown on the character of these deputies by the arrest of one who relieved a friend of the change from a \$50 bill after he had paid for the guard's dinner. Strikebreakers imported from Philadelphia and New Orleans are involved in arrests for traffic law violations and figuring in smashups caused by their ignorance of Pittsburgh traffic.



CLEVELAND—Five hundred taxi drivers have signed up and affiliated with the Cleveland Federation of Labor.



REPORTS BODE ILL FOR AUTO SLAVES

DETROIT—Two reports, appearing here over the week-end, bode ill for employment prospects of Detroit auto workers. One from Chicago, states that "the Chicago Automobile Show drew a record attendance, but available data on sales indicate a sharp decline in comparison with last year".

The other, from the Oakland plant in Pontiac, states: "As a result of the recent installation of a new machine in the sheet metal plant of the Oakland Motor Car Co., production of hood rod clips has been speeded up to 220 a minute.

"Previous to the installation of the machine, hood clips were produced on four machines at the rate of 150 per hour. With the new installation only two hours work is required to turn out a months supply."

BIRMINGHAM WAGES MISERLY

By T. S. RAWLINGS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.-(FP)—In this steel city a worker is lucky to have any job at all in January, and doubly lucky if he is making enough to keep out of debt. Common labor, mostly colored, is getting as low as 20 cents an hour; carpenters, as low as 35 cents, bricklayers are being offered 50 cents and machinists 45 cents. Young men and women in offices are getting \$7 to \$10 a week. The cost of living though in Birmingham, is as high as anywhere else in the country.

Perhaps the Chamber of Commerce is no different than similar bodies elsewhere. At any rate they can tell you where John Smith moved when he left his previous address (for the benefit of the credit houses and loan sharks), where he works and how much the various open shop firms pay. But on constructive information concerning economic conditions in the district the Chamber is mum as an oyster.

No easy going organizing methods will catch on here. Real fire will be needed to fight back at the long unchallenged sway of the iron and steel, coal and textile barons who shaped this Alabama into a heaven for profiteers and a purgatory for labor.



WEAVERS WALK OUT IN CAROLINA MILL

WILMINGTON, N. C.—Forty weavers of the Delgado cotton mill in Wilmington have walked out in protest against the stretchout system.

The strikers refused to accept their pay checks after they had read a bulletin posted at the mill announcing the wage cut. They are unorganized.

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then your subscription to the Militant has expired. Renew immediately in order to avoid missing any issues.

Help Us to Sustain The Militant

A labor paper, particularly a revolutionary organ, does not receive the big advertisements and subsidies, without which a capitalist paper is unthinkable. The Militant is no exception to this rule. It must depend entirely upon readers and supporters for its existence and growth.

The Militant was founded because it fills a special and urgent need in the labor and revolutionary movements. It has been maintained by a group of devoted workers, who understand the value of adherence to the fundamental teachings of the great leaders of our movement, Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky. These teachings are not strong if they are limited to small groups; they become a powerful weapon for labor's liberation when they are made known to the whole working class—honestly and truthfully. This is the task set itself by the Militant.

This great work can be carried out effectively only if the existence of the Militant is secured. For this purpose, it is necessary to establish and strengthen a systematic SUSTAINING FUND. Such a fund will not only enable us to print a whole series of most valuable books and pamphlets. The Militant has on hand a number of manuscripts by L. D. Trotsky. They include: "What is the Permanent Revolution?" "The Struggle for the Chinese Revolution", "Europe and America", "The Great Organizers of Defeat: a Record of Five Years of the Comintern", and many others. If the SUSTAINING FUND of the Militant is assured, we can proceed to the immediate publication of these Bolshevik classics.

The sooner donations accumulate for the FUND, the more rapidly can we proceed with this important job. Every dollar counts doubly now. We are depending upon all our readers and friends to act with speed. The blank below is for your use. Fill it out now!

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