

WORKERS NAIL EMPLOYMENT LIE

DETROIT—(FP)—Published reports of increased employment were branded as "damned lies" by workers interviewed by Federated Press.

Ford workers, asked to comment on a recent report that most Ford workers are to go on full time, said that a layoff is now actually in progress. They claim that 35% of the remaining workers have been laid off since the big layoff of 30,000 workers last fall. This is due to the new policy of the Ford Motor Co. in letting out contracts for parts to sweatshop firms. Until recently this policy was confined to bodies and wheels but now it has expanded until the brake, housing, rear-axle and shock-absorber departments have shut down. Workers in those departments have been thrown on the street. Newspapers report from time to time the visits of parts company officials with the announcement that this policy is but beginning.

The tool department, affected by this, has already dispensed with 200 of its skilled workers and foremen admit the probability of another 200-500 being laid off.

Foundry workers laugh at the possibility of full time with the comment that cylinder blocks are stacked by the thousands in the foundry yard. They expect a shut down in the foundry within a week. Already many departments having direct connection with the foundry are working six hours a day, two or three days per week. Their wages are correspondingly low, for Ford River Rouge workers are paid, not by the day, but by the hour.

Reports of increased production are "so much hooey", according to one worker in a strategic department. Far from increasing production, he says, officials contemplate a cut from about 5,000 to 2,500 cars daily.

Ford salesmen bear out these reports. "The New Ford just ain't goin' over," said one to Federated Press. Chevrolet salesmen take up the refrain with the added point that in spite of an extension in time payments the new car just isn't selling. One Chevy salesman, of the "up-and-coming" variety lamented that he had not made a single sale in five months. "And the new Chevy is a flop," he lamented.

500 girls have been laid off from the J. L. Hudson Co., foremost department store in town. Other stores had already done so. Chrysler office workers report a cut of 40% in their force some time ago.

The Employers' Assn., which usually publishes employment statistics weekly, has not done so since the beginning of the fall. Requests for such figures have brought the response that the figures are not being compiled.

Inconspicuous statistics from three companies show the factual situation in the auto industry. Buick reports January 1929 shipments as 7,299 compared with 13,008 of January 1929. Reo reports a slight decrease of 229 and Hupp, a larger firm, reports a decline of 1,400.

No wonder the city welfare department reports "the worst situation in 35 years", with over 14,000 families directly dependent on it for their subsistence!

POLISH CONDITIONS GROW RAPIDLY WORSE

WARSAW—(FP)—Unemployment is rapidly growing, and all industries except coal mining are depressed. Agriculture is suffering despite the export bounty on grain. Government allowance for unemployment relief is only \$1.80 per month for a man with a wife and child. The minimum subsistence cost for 3 persons in a family is estimated at \$13.00 per month. LONG HOURS, LOW WAGES, FOR FOUNDRY WORKERS

WASHINGTON—Average full-time hours per week in foundries in the United States in 1929 were 51, and in machine shops 50.3, while foundry wages averaged 82.4 cents an hour and machine shops wages 83.3 cents an hour, says the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

MASS UNEMPLOYMENT IN ROCHESTER ROCHESTER, N. Y.—Alarmed at the number of unemployed, the Rochester city council has voted to establish an emergency unemployment bureau to handle "all new cases which present themselves to the private agencies who will, in turn, refer them to this bureau." It is estimated that out of a working population of 100,000, 25,000 are idle.

Over 8,000,000 Women Toil at Low Wages

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that these so-called restrictions have not been lived up to, and have been placed upon the statute books as a concession to certain groups that have conducted campaigns for their enactment.

Long Hours for Women

Referring to the wages of women workers, Mary Anderson, director of the Women Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor, speaking recently in Kansas City, Mo. stated that

"The approximately 80 reports already published by the Bureau, stress the fact that thousands of women still fail to receive a living wage and that thousands still toil more than 8 hours a day and 48 hours a week, many as much as 10 hours daily and 60 hours a week, and some much more. In too many instances women are forced to work in crowded, poorly ventilated, dirty workrooms, to strain their eyes because of glare or insufficient light, to stand all day or sit continuously in a cramped up with unguarded machinery and their health jeopardized by lack of comfort and sanitation in plant service equipment."

Of course, Miss Anderson as an official of the United States capitalist government will not advocate any drastic changes to better the conditions of the working women. It is only the women workers themselves by being organized in militant fighting unions and fighting shoulder to shoulder with the men workers for equal pay for equal work who will be able to better their conditions. They must become active advocates of increases in wages, the abolition of speed-up, sanitary working conditions and a shortening of hours. In such a struggle they will also develop issues of special importance to the women workers.

From all parts of the country reports of the long hours and low wages of the women workers are received. The Newark, (N. J.) Trades and Labor Council, an American Federation of Labor body, reveals that girls' working hours are 12 to 14 hours in many big stores, including the powerful Sears-Roebuck corporation. Their report also points out that laws that are supposed to limit the hours of labor for women are difficult to enforce because fines are nominal and girls who complain are discharged.

Reports from Albany, N. Y. state that

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and powerful district of the Party in Berlin. The Wedding Opposition too has short-comings, characteristic of the German Left Wing of 1923-26, which it has not completely overcome even to-day. This is particularly true of its ultra-left position in the trade union question. The best of these Left groupings has maintained itself in the Pfalz district, where it publishes a paper called "The Pioneer."

The catastrophic development of the party since the Sixth Congress has alarmed these scattered Left groups. In the past few months the scattered Wedding groups have again united and begun to discuss, seriously and actively, the basic problems of the party.

These forces that have set themselves into motion are still weak, here as opposition in the Leninbund, there as Left faction in the party, at first in Wedding and Pfalz.

But one thing is clear: the old forms of the struggle with its outlived traditions and watch-words — of which the German Left had more than enough — must be surmounted. The new trend of the Comintern and the Communist Party of Germany since the Sixth World Congress demands more elastic, theoretically more deeply grounded and active factions than the past.

Despite a thousand difficulties in the struggle against innumerable obstacles and difficulties, the pieces are gathering inside and outside the party that will build the Left wing and that will have to understand how to represent and to apply the basic teachings of the international Leninist Opposition in Germany.

BUILDING ON THE CRUTE IN PENNSY HARRISBURG, Pa.—(FP)—In January showed an unprecedented decline in building and construction in Pennsylvania. Building permits dropped 17.5% compared with January, 1929. Philadelphia reported \$2,719,000 in permits this January against

during January of this year two women and five boys and girls died of injuries received on the job, according to the state labor department. The sharp decrease of employment in New York state is accompanied by the lowering of safety precautions, which is usually the case during industrial depressions. Of course, the amount of men killed during the same period was larger than that of women, nevertheless the latter are daily facing the same risks as the men.

Night Shifts in Auto Plants

The Federated Press reports that in Detroit women are working 12 hour night shifts in the Briggs Body plants, a flat violation of the state labor law. Wages, run from \$10 to \$14 per week. Before the unemployment crisis, the women workers were able to earn as high as \$18 weekly, but the plant taking advantage of the surplus labor, cut the pay, knowing that under present conditions there are many jobless who would replace them.

When celebrating International Women's Day, March 8, the working women of America must declare emphatically their determination to fight for better working conditions:—equal pay for equal work, end of the speed-up, raise in wages, sanitary working conditions, reduction of hours and no night work.

The women workers have shown in many past struggles that they were militant fighters and in the future will again show that they can fight courageously for the rights of the working class. Who will forget the bravery of the wives of the coal miners who in a score of struggles have fought shoulder to shoulder with their husbands on the picket line in spite of the machine guns of the bosses thugs. They have been among the most active participants on the picket line in the needle trades struggles in New York, the textile strikes of Passaic, New Bedford and Gastonia and many smaller strikes throughout the country.

International Women's Day is a time for the militant women workers to rededicate themselves to the class struggle and prepare for future activity. The Communist League of America (Opposition) calls upon all women workers to join in the celebration which is held every year for the working women of the world when they measure their victories and defeats of the past twelve months and prepare for future struggles.

Reveals Crime of Archangel Expedition

By Federated Press

The leading article in the American Mercury for March is the Archangel Adventure, written evidently by an American army officer who went through that criminal piece of British muddling for which Woodrow Wilson was generously ready to pour out American lives and treasure, all to no avail. The return of 75 bodies of American middle western soldiers, uselessly and tragically sacrificed on the Arctic Russian soil from which they were exhumed last fall, is the occasion for returning to that 12-year old wild goose chase against the Soviet Union.

Right at the outset the Mercury author states that the adventure "cost hundreds of lives, millions of dollars and an immense amount of suffering."

Wilson lightly promised American cannon fodder and American dollars to the British general staff and on August 18, 1918, announced that the doughboys would be used to guard war material for czarist Russians against the revolution. In addition they were to get control of the northern arm of the Trans-Siberian and its feeder railroads from the Bolsheviks. The author points out that the Bolsheviks had already taken all the war material there would have been to guard and that a very much larger total force would have been needed to grab the railroads.

He concludes: "From the 102 caskets shipped to the United States from Archangel in 1919; from the 75 that arrived in New York the other day; from those waiting disposition in France; from the hundreds of lonely unmarked graves in the tundra—Yakoc, British, French—there comes no staging. I should hate to be the staff man who planned that dream of a winter march through Arctic Russia."

That brainless crusade was all for democracy. Another is now being planned in

STALINISM IN CHICAGO I. L. D.

CHICAGO—On Monday, February 3rd the Chicago Joe Hill branch of the International Labor Defense held its regular elections—well organized. I say organized advisedly as I noted several comrades present who otherwise do not attend much, neither to meetings nor to work of the I. L. D. Knowing them all well, I soon observed that they were members of the official Communist Party brought there to vote. Why that was "necessary" became clear to me later.

Comrade J. R. Booth had been our branch educational director for a long time, being elected unanimously: his program had in the past been accepted without opposition. His very active work for the movement and for the I. L. D. in particular had always been recognized; at one meeting he alone brought in 25 new applications for membership. His general working class record is well known, including one year and a half in jail for opposition to the last world war. He was now again nominated for the position of educational director to succeed himself but that started the "works". Those Party members brought there to vote objected to the nomination on the grounds that comrade Booth supports the Opposition—the Trotskyites—no other reason was advanced.

Narrowing Down Labor Defense

Although not on the "inside" but still having heard enough discussion from time to time about the "new line" it is quite clear that this is what has been put into operation in the I. L. D. and used against comrade Booth. There used to be a time when the I. L. D. had room for all revolutionary and class conscious workers who were ready to fight for labor's prisoners and for the working class movement in general; but that is all over now.

Comrade Booth defended his right to continue in active work for his class. He reminded the voters of the act that while he himself, a "Trotskyite", had been present defending the "Freiheit" during the severest days and nights of attack by the bourgeois zionists he had failed to see these voters present. He stated that no organized caucus could prevent his active work for his class even though they may prevent his being elected for the post for which he was nominated. They might even carry through their threats of expulsion; but, turning to the other branch members he asked them not let such Stalinist tactics interfere with the work of the branch or break it up. "Whether outside or inside," said comrade Booth, "I will continue to work for the I. L. D., and I ask you all to do likewise."

A couple of members, not belonging to the party, spoke against the objections made to Booth's nomination and when it came to election things had been carried so far that all the non-party members present abstained from voting one way or another, not wanting to take part in such manipulations. Thus the party caucus won a victory; but a few such victories and there will be no I. L. D. branch left.

—A BRANCH MEMBER

No Murder Charge Against This Judge

By FRANK L. PALMER

DENVER—(FP)—"Passing the buck" from one city to the other struck a snag in "Justice" Court in Denver. It was noticed for a day however and then forgotten.

A father was brought into court for failure to provide for his family. "I can't get work," he pled. "Then I'll give you 90 days," the judge thundered. "I couldn't support them any better if you did," the desperate father countered, with some apparent justification.

"I'll sentence you to 90 days in jail and suspend sentence to give you 48 hours to get out of town and take your family with you."

Some way he got an old Ford and started through the Colorado winter to "get out of town". The baby was ill but fear of the judge was strong. In a Nebraska town the pleas of the mother that the baby be taken to a doctor, even if there were nothing to pay the bill, was agreed to.

The baby was dead.

Murder charges have not been filed against the judge.