

Of Interest to Labor

Important News of National, State and Local Interest

COUNTRY NEEDS UNSKILLED MEN

One Million More Laborers Required for Work on Important War Projects.

NATION NOW FACING CRISIS

Business Men Told That Production of Luxuries and Nonessentials Must Be Stopped—Skilled Workers Are Also in Great Demand.

The fact that there now is a shortage in war work of 1,000,000 unskilled laborers and that the reserve of skilled workers is exhausted developed at a conference of field agents of the federal employment service.

The shortage is so serious that completion of a number of important war projects for the army and navy is being delayed, it was stated at the conference.

"The time has come for the entire nation to realize that business is no longer possible," Nathan A. Smith, assistant director, employment service, told the conference. "If we are to end the war quickly, production of luxuries and nonessentials in this country must come to an end."

Indications of how nonessentials may be combated was given when the community labor board, District of Columbia, announced a list of 24 classes of work regarded as nonessential. Employers in this class are called upon to voluntarily release their unskilled labor for war work.

Following are the industries listed as nonessential:

Automobile industry and accessories, drives of pleasure cars, cleaning, repairing and delivery of same, sightseeing cars, auto trucks other than those hauling fuel or doing government work; bath and barber shop attendants.

Bowling, billiard and pool rooms, bottlers and bottle supplies, candy manufacturers, cigars and tobacco, cleaners and dyers, clothing, confectioners and delicatessen establishments, builders and contractors not engaged in erection of structures for war work.

Dancing academies, mercantile stores, florists, fruit stands, junk dealers, livery and sales stables, pawnbrokers, peanut vendors, shoeshining shops, window cleaners, soft-drink establishments, soda fountain supplies.

LABOR SCARCITY IN FRANCE ON INCREASE.

Scarcity of labor in France has become so acute that woman prisoners have been released from jail to work, according to information received in cablegrams from Paris by the Young Women's Christian Association War Work council.

The women are employed in munitions factories and are working side by side with refugees, teachers, artists, musicians and all classes of workers. The messages said there are 1,000,000 woman workers in France.

Labor's Attitude Praised.

"The patriotic and constructive attitude of the American labor movement under the leadership of Samuel Gompers" was commended in resolutions adopted at a conference held by the National Civic federation, at New York.

The resolutions appeal for moral and material support for the people of Russia. They declare that "the first duty of the United States is to concentrate every energy and make every essential sacrifice that the cause of justice, freedom and democracy shall find its triumphant conclusion."

Chinese Labor Unsatisfactory.

"China may build ships for us in this great world war to help us crush German autocracy, but when peace returns she cannot compete with America. China in the end is dear, for it lacks the vital force you Americans are proud to possess." That's the statement made to union shipbuilders recently by William Pigott of Seattle, supervisor of wooden ship construction for the United States Emergency Fleet corporation. He based his declaration on a personal investigation made during a trip to China recently.

In Fairness to Tenants.

Governor Holcomb of Connecticut has appointed a rental adjustment commission with power to investigate all cases of rent extortion in Bridgeport. Tenants can be readjusted and evictions stopped when the question is one of extortion. Where a landlord refuses to adjust by a decision he may be prosecuted.

Object to Long Hours.

The Minnesota State Federation of Labor has asked state officials to stop women on street cars working in that state ten and twelve hours a day.

Public Welfare Departments.

There are now about fifty boards or departments of public welfare in this country.

WOMEN FLOCK TO FACTORIES

Employers Are Now Paying Living Wages and No Shortage of Female Workers is Reported.

Although the substitution of women for men has not proceeded as far in Chicago as in other sections, where war work has been more plentiful, the minimum wage for women has been removed from the field of political issues.

No longer can employers be accused of refusing to pay enough to keep girls decently. The old rate of \$5 and \$6 a week for the lowest class of shop and store work is now \$12, according to the United States employment service, with bonuses usually added which bring it quickly up to \$15 for a girl who will stay on the job.

This wage, it is predicted, will soon be made higher still. So far there has been no shortage of women for factory work. Trained factory hands are scarce, but employers some time since began to accept untrained girls. Of this class there has been a plentiful supply, taken from the kitchens of families that are getting along without servants, from laundries that have suffered a loss of business because so many young men are not wearing white collars, and from other lines of work which the war has reduced.

Not a few wives of drafted men have gone into industrial work. It is surprising, say the employment bureau officials, how many young men refused to claim exemption though they would have been entitled to it. Not only young wives with children to support, but old mothers, whose sons have gone to war, have applied for work and been taken into shops and factories.

Employers are reluctant to take women over thirty-five years old, and the employment officials says this is to be regretted, as oftentimes they would make the best employees. The complaint against them is that they are slow to learn.—Chicago Journal.

See German Wage Troubles.

The "imperial league for combating social democracy" has issued a manifesto foreshadowing serious wage troubles in Germany after the war, dissolution of the reichstag and the collapse of the middle classes. It warns against a rising of the proletariat and asks for funds to strengthen "the defensive war against social democratic aggression."

The socialist Vorwaerts of Berlin declares the appeal "opportune reminds us that after the war the second decisive battle for Germany's future begins." It urgently exhorts all workers to prepare to "fight mammonism so that at the end of the war we are not overpowered by the unendurable domination of capitalism."

The paper points out that the signatories to the manifesto are rich land owners and industrial magnates.

"More Coal!" War Chiefs Cry.

Marshal Foch, Field Marshal Haig, and Admiral Beatty, commander in chief of the grand fleet, sent messages to the meeting of the coal miners' federation at Southampton, England, urging a greater output of coal.

"Coal is the key to victory. The miners of Great Britain must help me," was the message from Marshal Foch. Baron Calthorpe, the coal controller, told the miners that the supply was 30,000,000 tons short this year. Baron Calthorpe said that among other factors making for an increased demand was the increasing flow of American troops to France. Last autumn American requirements were only at the rate of 600,000 tons per annum, but from now on they will represent millions of tons.

Labor Lack Cuts Copper.

Labor difficulties and the enormous demand are reflected in the copper mining industry of the upper peninsula in Michigan. The shortage of men has become serious, and it is understood the federal law will be invoked by the producers. A majority of the workmen who are leaving are taking up work in Detroit war material factories at shorter hours and higher pay. The result is shown by the decrease in copper produced during July, with indications pointing to a still greater decrease during August.

Idlers Forced to Work in Maryland.

George Mahone of the state compulsory work bureau, on the first anniversary of the Maryland law, the results of which have been closely observed by the officials of other states, several of which have already adopted it, said that his records show that 2,831 idlers have been compelled to go to work during the year. Of this number 1,534 registered under compulsion. Writs were issued for 985 idlers in Baltimore. Five hundred and twelve hearings were held in the police stations.

Historic Guns to Speak Again.

Two six-inch guns reposing peacefully for several years in a Seattle park, but which 20 years ago, mounted on the decks of the gunboat Conrad, aided Admiral Dewey in capturing Manila, are once more to take part in the war against autocracy. This time they will play a silent but important part. The Seattle park board has been asked by the navy department to send the guns to Puget Sound navy yard at Bremerton, Wash., there to be used in training naval recruits in the art of handling big guns.

Compensation Act Sustained.

The state supreme court has ruled that the Wyoming workmen's compensation law is constitutional.

FACTS:

Organized in 1907. We are the largest Homestead or Building and Loan Association in New Orleans for time in operation. Assets over \$1,000,000.00. We are the only Homestead or Building and Loan Association in Louisiana that lends money at less than seven per cent per annum and no bonus or premium. Our rate 6 85-100 per cent. Let us buy you a home, same as rent; weekly or monthly payments.

Dixie Homestead Association



MAYORALTY of NEW ORLEANS

MARTIN BEHRMAN
MAYOR

March 5th, 1918.

Mr. William J. Sonnemann,
Secretary-Treasurer,
Dixie Homestead Association,
1727 St. Charles avenue,
City.

My dear Mr. Sonnemann:

Permit me to congratulate you upon the remarkable showing the Dixie Homestead Association has just been able to make through the efficiency and popularity of its splendid co-operative policy. The published information in Sunday's States that the Association has authorized the announcement that it would suspend payments on its mortgage loans held on property owned by enlisted men, is not only a patriotic concession on its part, but, I am sure, will prove most gratifying to the beneficiaries, who are themselves worthy of every consideration.

This spirit of liberality and just appreciation of the services and sacrifices of our young men who are already, as well as those who will later, do battle for us in far away France, explains and approves the policy through the successful conduct of which the Dixie Homestead Association has so increased its business in a few years as to now be able to lend money to its patrons at less than seven per cent and without a bonus.

Very truly yours,

Martin Behrman

Mayor.

Some Consolation.

After carefully examining the dress her mother had made for her out of her older sister's dress, Ruth said, "Mother, weren't you the next to the oldest sister in grandma's family?" Upon being informed that such was the case, she said, "Well, then, you know what it means, too, to have to wear make-over dresses."

Keep Curb on Speech.

Most of us say a great deal more than we mean. We have a way of exaggerating things just for the sake of the picturesque. There is no reason why we should talk about our own affairs and less reason for talking about our neighbors. It is a mighty safe rule in business, as in life itself, to say only the pleasant things and keep the unpleasant things in the background—or better still, not to recognize them at all.

Martial Law.

Martial law is not a law at all in the usual sense of that term; it is really the abrogation of law. It is an order that supersedes civil law, and is employed in time of extreme peril to the state or municipality from without or within, when the general safety cannot be trusted to the ordinary administration of government, or the public welfare demands the adoption and execution of extraordinary measures.

Camphor Plantation.

The first and only bearing camphor plantation of any size in this country is located at Satsuma, Fla., says Popular Science Monthly. It contains over 2,000 acres of camphor trees which last year yielded over 10,000 pounds of crude camphor. This year it is expected the yield will be many times this amount. Florida has several other plantations, which will soon come into bearing.

Violin Resin.

For violin resin, boil down Venice turpentine with a little water until a drop cooled on a piece of glass is of proper consistency. During the boiling cold water must be added from time to time. When sufficiently thick pour into cold water; knead well, and when cold break into pieces. Expose to sun until dry and transparent. Select the best clear brown resin, melt it in a clean basin, to nearly a boil, which will clear it of turpentine and other volatile oils. Pour in paper molds.

Old and Good Song.

That very well-known ditty, "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow," is the remains of an old crusader's song of the twelfth century. It has come down to us with many variations and inestimable verbal appendages.

STEEL WORKERS WILL ORGANIZE

Men in and Near Chicago to Follow Example Set by Stockyards Employees.

HEADQUARTERS IN CHICAGO

After Formation of Unions, Recognition and Wage Increases Will Be Asked—Other News of Interest in the Labor World.

Organization of workers in the steel companies in and near Chicago has begun following a conference of officials of the Chicago Federation of Labor.

The action follows a proposal made to the American Federation of Labor several months ago that the steel workers of the country be organized as the stockyards employees were.

Headquarters will be established in Chicago. When enough men have been recruited to form a union demands for recognition and wage increases will be made, it is planned. If these are not granted federal intervention will be asked. A series of wage increases, generally at 10 per cent at a time, has already been given United States Steel workers at South Chicago, Gary, and Joliet; also increases to workers in other steel mills.

GENERAL LABOR NEWS

Prominent members of the Trades and Labor council and the board of trade in Vancouver, B. C., have formed a committee as a court of appeal and conciliation board to avert strikes, if possible.

Vancouver (B. C.) street car men are to receive a minimum of 40 cents an hour, and maximum of 51 cents an hour, two years' service to determine the maximum pay. They receive the eight-hour day and get time and a half for overtime.

The right of workers of ammunition plants to organize in trade unions or groups and to bargain collectively through chosen representatives is recognized and affirmed in an award made public by the national war board in a controversy between the Smith & Weston company, arms manufacturers, and their employees at Springfield, Mass.

For the third time within a year the wages of the employees of the Homestead and Millin Street Railways company, Pittsburgh, have been increased. The latest increase is three cents per hour and makes the wages of motor-men and conductors who have been in the service of the company more than three months 47 cents per hour.

Women engaged at men's work at the south works of the American Steel and Wire company are "holding down" their positions equally as well as the men did, according to a statement by the superintendent of the plant. They have released a large number of men for overseas duty. The women are painting wooden wheels used for colling rope and wire, splicing rope, building reels in the carpenter's shop and other articles used in the plant.

Issues between the Western Union Telegraph company and the post office department were established when Postmaster General Burleson announced that he had approved an application from the company for increased salaries for its employees. "This increase was not discriminatory in any manner," he said. The company has announced a 10 per cent increase for members of its Western Union Employees' association, not effective to members of the Commercial Telegraphers' union holding similar positions and doing similar work.

The basic eight-hour day was not established in the Bethlehem Steel company's plant at Bethlehem in the recent finding of the war labor board, the board announced in correcting the original statement of its finding. The eight-hour day previously applied to machine shops of the plant, but, under the war department's interpretation of the eight-hour law, was not applied in the board's finding, to all branches of the plant engaged in the production of steel billets, rolled steel, or other unfinished products for the open market.

For the first time in the history of Lancaster, Pa., an organization of street car men was formed there by James Maurer, president of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor. Almost a hundred men made application followed the granting of the third increase in wages for the men in three weeks by the Conestoga Traction company. The scale is six cents under that approved by the war labor board, and the men will demand an increase to meet the government scale. At the same meeting the local boilermakers were organized.

The workers in the big Krupp works in Essen threaten to strike, according to a dispatch from Amsterdam. The unrest is said to be spreading to the big industrial centers of Bochum and Barmen. The dispatch does not state what reason the workers give as cause for their threatened strike.

Herbert Bayard Swope, New York newspaper writer, has been appointed an associate member of the war industries board. Chairman Baruch announced that Mr. Swope, who has studied war problems both in this country and abroad, will sit with the board and act as assistant to the chairman.

YARD WORKERS GET ADVANCE

Increase of Ten Per Cent Awarded Employees of Oil Companies and East Jersey Railroad.

Notice was posted in the yards of the Tidewater Oil company, Bayonne, N. J., that the company had granted the employees an increase of 10 per cent in wages. The employees of the East Jersey Railroad company, controlled by the company, also benefit, and the increase, which affects 2,000 men, went into effect at once. The increase closely followed a similar raise by the Standard Oil company to its 9,000 employees in Bayonne, Rahway and Jersey City. The total increase by both companies since 1815 is 80 per cent.

LABOR ITEMS OF INTEREST

Two large shipbuilding plants are being erected in southern Chile. They will be ready for operation in September.

One hundred and sixty thousand Yorkshire (England) miners are out on strike, it was estimated. Practically all the pits in West Yorkshire are reported to be idle.

The Plumbers' and Gasfitters' union, Local No. 5 of Chicago, unanimously adopted a resolution to be presented to President Wilson, asking the privilege of using light wines and beers.

The New York municipal civil service commission announced that among steps being taken to fill the vacancies in the police, fire and street cleaning departments was the employment of women street sweepers in outlying districts.

Four thousand employees of the National India Rubber company who returned to work at Bristol, R. I., after being on strike for a month, walked out again. Police and company officials said the strike was ordered by labor leaders and that no wage demands had been presented.

Announcement was made at Louisville, Ky., that unionization of approximately 15,000 shophmen in the employ of the Louisville & Nashville railroad has been completed. Organization of the men, it is said, has been an issue between union organizations and the railroad management for many years.

Six hundred striking decorators in 23 potteries at East Liverpool, O., voted to stand pat on their demands for a 25 per cent wage increase. The possibility of a complete shutdown of the decorating shops is intimated. T. J. manufacturers announced that hereafter only essential ware will be manufactured.

Immediate payment of retroactive awards made to ship workers in settlement of wage disputes was ordered by Charles Piez, general manager of the Emergency Fleet corporation. Failure to comply with the retroactive provisions of the awards, Mr. Piez said, is "fairly general in some yards of all districts."

Officials of the United States Mine Workers appealed to Fuel Administrator Garfield to order coal operators to discontinue payment of bonuses and substitute therefor a flat wage increase. This action was taken after an all-day conference of mine district representatives with President Frank J. Hayes and other national officers of the union.

Albany, N. Y., will be the scene of the 1919 convention of the International Typographical union, if a session is held next year. A referendum will be submitted to the entire membership. The convention adopted a referendum provision for an assessment of five cents a member for money to reimburse subordinate unions for paying dues of members in war service.

An increase of \$235,000,000 a year in wages and bonuses has been secured for British railway men. The secretary of the National Union of Railway men says: "Without once having threatened or attempted a stoppage of work, we have succeeded in improving the condition of our members, at the same time keeping clearly in mind our great responsibility as a transport industry."

The railroad administration is considering the advisability of establishing a uniform pension system for superannuated railway employees, and to aid in studying the subject has instructed each railroad to report details of the system in effect among its employees. Preliminary reports show a wide variety of pension provisions, some of which work injustice on the older employees who are too proud to apply for retirement.

The strike at Bridgeport, Conn., of approximately 1,000 machinists and tool makers in three of the most important war industries in the country, which threatened to broaden and check war production throughout this district, was completely broken at Bridgeport, Conn., when a telegram from Frank P. Walsh, joint chairman of the national war labor board, was received at a meeting of 3,000 of the union men. Mr. Walsh assured them in the telegram that the minimum wage scale asked by the union will be substantially granted in the board's decision.

The Welsh miners are agitating for a shortening of their working day. They are now demanding a six-hour day by legislation.

Pressmen, matlers and stereotypers of the newspaper offices in Toronto have been granted a 6 per cent increase as a war bonus.

Telephone operators at the Tuscarawas (N. Y.) county telephone exchange withdrew their demands and returned to work after striking for higher wages, when they learned the company was under government control. The girls said they wanted to show their loyalty.

GAS SERVICE

The Gas Company of New Orleans serves over 50,000 Patrons, through more than 400 miles of mains. These mains supply gas to over 100,000 appliances. Therefore the problem of Perfect Service is obviously a difficult one.

Notwithstanding the vigilance of our supervisors, errors and breakdowns beyond our control will occur in so extensive an operation, and we would greatly appreciate the co-operation of our Patrons in advising us promptly of any shortcomings which they may note before the matter could have come to our attention. This will help us toward supplying Perfect Service, which is our aim.

LEE BENOIST,
President.

GAS COMPANY

BARONNE AND COMMON MAIN 4800