

OUR HOME PAGE

CAUSES OF INFANT MORTALITY

Results of an extensive investigation into infant mortality and its causes in Baltimore, Maryland, have been made public by the U.S. Department of Labor through the Bureau of Census.

The study is the latest and "in respects the most important" of the bureau's infant mortality studies. Previous investigations have been in Johnston, Pa., Manchester, Waterbury, Conn., Brockton, Saginaw, Mich., New Bedford, Akron, Ohio, Pittsburgh, Pa., Gary, Ind.)

The Baltimore study is especially important because Baltimore is the largest of the cities studied, and also because it is, in its population, the largest of its industries, and the rate of infant mortality prevailing, a typical American city.

Every employment of mothers at home, housing below the standard, short intervals between births, and the death of mother or soon after child-birth were among the conditions causing high mortality under one year of age in Baltimore. Similar conditions were found in other cities.

A summary of the findings of the report is as follows:

The mortality in the entire group was approximately the same as the 10,797 legitimate births studied in the States birth registration area for the same year.

Mortality rates markedly above average for the entire Baltimore group occurred among the colored, foreign born Polish families, and the very poor native white families.

Low mortality rates—approximately those in New Zealand, which has the lowest in the world—were found among the babies of foreign-born Jewish mothers and in families of the highest earnings group.

Breast-fed babies in every group of the population had lower mortality than artificially-fed babies in the same group.

New evidence is afforded by the Baltimore study that poverty is an important factor in infant mortality. Eliminating differences in color and nationality and considering only the babies born to native white mothers, the facts showed that infant mortality rose as the fathers' wages fell. In the poorest families studied about one baby in six died within the year; in the most prosperous families about one baby in twenty-six died within the year.

Employment of the mother away from home during pregnancy (which was chiefly in factory work) was accompanied by a high percentage of premature births and high infant mortality, especially from the causes peculiar to early infancy. Employment of mothers away from home during the first year of their babies' lives also markedly increased the hazard to the baby. Room congestion and lack of sanitary conditions in the house were accompanied by death rates above the average.

First-born babies had a mortality slightly higher than second and third babies, but among the later orders of birth the mortality rose steadily.

Babies of mothers under twenty and of mothers of thirty-five years or older showed higher mortality rates than other infants.

Births following a preceding birth by an interval of less than two years

THE COMPANY UNION AND ITS RESULTS

By ROD. PLANT
Treasurer Allied Trades and Labor Association

The Company Union, that pet scheme of the anti-union employer, has failed him. Not only has it proven disastrous, as intended, to the workers, but also has it proven so to the employer in many instances.

The hostile employer apparently considered that all of his troubles would come to an end if he could but rid himself of trades unionism, whereas it has been shown that on various occasions, this decision having been made, was but the starting point from which an endless chain of trouble began. Here is a case in point, and I could cite others which would bear out my assertions.

A certain employer decided that the trade union within his plant must

be destroyed. He succeeded in convincing his workers that the company plan of organization was best for them. Many were the golden promises he made them, in fact, a most beautiful picture of the future was painted for their benefit, the result being the acceptance of his plan.

This so called union, however, did not function very long, the golden promises were broken one by one, the dupes who had so graciously accepted them were in time discharged in like manner, and a spirit of illwill and mistrust arose amongst those who still remained in the employ of he who had so broken faith.

How could it have been otherwise? How could any intelligent man or woman retain faith in one who would destroy their only means of protection, and whose promises were but empty phrases. That spirit of co-operation which is so essential to the welfare of any business was therefore lost to him.

This is but one of the manners in which the company plan has redounded to the detriment of the employer himself. There are others also.

The organized workers decided to refrain from purchasing the products



ROD. PLANT
Treasurer Allied Trades and Labor Association.

had a higher mortality than births occurring after a longer interval.

The babies born to the 105 mothers who died within the year following the babies' birth had the highest mortality in the entire group. When the mothers died within two months after the babies' birth, the infant mortality rate became six times as high as the rate for babies whose mothers lived.

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U.S. Immigration Policy.
The U. S. Secretary of Labor has, after a month's study in Europe of the immigration problems, pronounced in favor of selective immigration. This would be done by giving American consuls the power to refuse visas to "unsuitable applicants. The immigrants to be selected would be those who have understanding and are in sympathy with American ideals."

Consider This

THE result of the best thought of many geniuses covering a period of about 150 years—and the expenditure of millions of dollars in experiments and equipment—is what you buy for a most modest sum when you turn the switch that floods your home or business place with light or gives you power for a hundred uses, for which we of the present age should be duly thankful. And the citizens of Ottawa have a further cause for gratification in their own electric service, which keeps electric rates at their present low level.

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