

"Comparison of Wages by Districts Shows Union Miner holds Great Advantage"

The Federal Coal Commission, as a part of its report on the earnings of miners, compared the earnings of districts and states. The northern states east of the Mississippi include Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The southern states east of the Mississippi include Alabama, Kentucky, Maryland, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

The states west of the Mississippi include Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

In the survey of the mines within these groups there were 1,177 union mines and 751 non-union mines as in operation in 1921. From data obtainable from these operations the commission made its comparisons of earnings.

The commission took up the work of the tonnage men first.

The percentage of mines with a small number of starts irregularly distributed throughout the year, accounts in part for the relatively large number of names appearing on the pay roll during the year. For the sixty-seven Indiana mines, 13,552 tonnage men were reported, of whom 540 were machine miners, 7,401 pick miners, 4,535 loaders and 75 worked in two tonnage occupations. The average number of tonnage men employed was 8,655.

Machine miners with 148 starts earned \$1,500 to \$1,600. In the same earnings interval pick men made 186 and loaders 179 starts. Locating average earnings approximately by the average number of starts made by tonnage men—130—we find machine miners making \$1,400 to \$1,500 in 138 starts, pick miners \$1,000 to \$1,100 in 142, and loaders the same earnings in 132 starts. The full year tonnage men had a higher average, since the median is \$1,550, with 25 per cent of the miners earning more than \$1,850.

In Illinois the most regular operation was by mines in the northern area. However, the difference in days did not counteract the difficult mining conditions, and earnings for the year were lower in Northern Illinois than in any other of the areas.

A table is given to assist in comparing the earnings of full time tonnage men in Illinois and Indiana. Southern Illinois shows the highest earnings for the group in 1921. However, the curves of Central Illinois and Indiana follow it closely. The upper 30 per cent of the men in the Belleville district also follow the trend of the other districts. The other 70 per cent, however, fall in comparatively lower earnings groups. For example, 40 per cent in the Belleville district earned but \$1,200 while the same proportion of men were earning between \$1,400 to \$1,500 in the other districts.

Figures show eight mines in Michigan employing an average of 1,083 men. The concentration in numbers of tonnage men in this state is found in earnings between \$1,800 and \$2,000 for an average of about 227 starts. Loaders made \$1,800 to \$1,900 in an average of 226 starts.

The Panhandle area in Ohio had an unusually good year of operation. The average starts for the 42 mines discussed for earnings were 193. The absenteeism of tonnage men was 13 per cent, leaving an average of 167 starts per man. For this working time machine miners secured \$1,700 to \$1,800, pick miners \$1,600 to \$1,700 and loaders \$1,200 to \$1,300.

In Northern Ohio, the 30 mines tabulated average 163 starts with working time for tonnage men 151 starts. Machine miners in the normal working time for the year earned \$1,600 to \$1,800. Loaders made \$1,200 to \$1,300 in a slightly longer period.

The Hocking field had a poor year with very irregular operation in 1921, the report says. The 108 starts shown by the 41 mines in this compilation is far below the average of all mines in the United States. Tonnage men worked less than 100 days. We must, therefore, regard the earnings opportunity afforded as less than 1-3 of a full-time working year. Machine miners' earnings for the average starts range from \$900-\$1,200, pick miners slightly over \$1,000 and loaders \$700-\$800.

The various groups of states or districts were taken up separately, the commission and the earnings of each group studied. The report says:

"In order to secure a comparable basis for stating earnings by the various fields discussed in the major sub-divisions of this report, the time worked to make \$1,000 has been selected and areas compared on the basis of this unit. It must not be assumed that the \$1,000 to \$1,100 interval in the normal earnings for any area for the year. There is no presumption in the selection as to whether earnings for a given field were higher or lower than this unit or not.

In the central competitive field there is a range in number of starts worked by loaders of 130-169 to earn \$1,000 to \$1,100 in the different districts. Four of the areas, Indiana, Michigan, and two Ohio districts fall in the 130-139 start period; the Panhandle, Ohio, and Northwestern Pittsburgh in the 140-149. All parts of the central competitive field have a fairly uniform distribution of time within a period of twenty starts. Southern Ohio with a working time of 160-169 is also an exception. Central Pennsylvania is ten starts above the competitive field with no difference in working time in union and non-union mines. Other non-union areas in Pennsylvania have thirty starts more working time than the central competitive field, with the exception of Somerset, which is within the 20 start range of the latter. The \$200 group shows no significant shift in the relation of areas. The central competitive field from 140-160, Central Pennsylvania between 170-180, and the non-union fields of Pennsylvania occur in the same order as in the \$1,000 interval already discussed.

Pick miners earning \$1,000 fall within the 120-150 range of days in the central competitive field. Central Pennsylvania worked 150-160 starts. The non-union areas of Pennsylvania bear the same relationship to each other and to the other districts for loaders as for pick miners, the upper limit of the central competitive field and the Westmorland and Connellsville being two and three intervals higher.

In the southern union field pick miners earned \$1,000 in 130-150 starts in all districts except Fairmont, which is 10 starts higher. Harlan and Maryland, which are 20 starts higher, and

Alabama, 30 higher. To make \$1,200 time worked in all districts ranged between 150-170 starts except in Piedmont, which was 10 starts lower, Alabama and Maryland 10 and 20 starts higher. Loaders for the same area range from 130-150 starts for \$1,000, except Virginia, and Fairmont, which are each 10 starts higher and Alabama and Tennessee, which are considerably higher. Men in the same occupation in five areas earned \$1,200 in range of 10 starts, (150-160); in 3 others between 170-180. Four areas have a higher average with the Alabama being highest in the whole southeast field.

"In the union parts of the southeastern fields, pick miners to make \$1,000 worked 140-150 starts except Fairmont, which had ten starts less and Kanawha and New River, 20 each less. It should be noted that these two fields fall ten starts below any other field in the southern area. There is no change in the relative position of the fields in the \$1,200 interval. The averages for three districts are located between 150-160, with Kanawha and New River 10 and 20 starts lower. Time for loaders in the same area in three of the fields was between 130 and 150 for \$1,000 earned, with New River 120-130. The \$1,200 interval, ranges from 160-169, with New River, Panhandle, and Tennessee 10-20 starts lower."

West of the Mississippi, pick miners in most of the districts made between 130-150 starts to earn \$1,000-\$1,100. Montana ranged ten starts lower, Arkansas and Wyoming were 30 starts lower. The only state west of the Mississippi above 250 starts (?) is Missouri. The \$1,200 interval shows the same relationship between states in distribution of starts.

Loaders earning \$1,000-\$1,100 worked 130-150 starts in all states with two exceptions: Arkansas was 20 and Wyoming 30 starts lower than the lower limit.

In the central competitive field and Central Pennsylvania, the report shows, the time required for day men to secure \$1,000-\$1,100 is fairly uniform when one takes into account the differences in the major occupations compared. Blacksmiths are equally divided between the 130-140 and 140-150 day periods, five fields working in each class. There are two fields with carpenters working 150 days. Brakemen are located in the two intervals considered, as are drivers. Motormen in one area fall below 130 days. Timbermen are mainly in the 140-150 period with two fields as low as 130 and one at 160 days. Seven areas have 140 days for trackmen, four 130, and one 160. Considering all outside occupations, workmen earning \$1,000-\$1,100 in five areas occur in the 140 interval of days, five in the 150, and two in the 160. Inside men work about 10 days less in nine out of the twelve areas. When all the inside occupations are averaged, nine fields work 140 days, one 10 days less and two others ten days more. Summarizing, it will be seen that there is a range of about twenty days in time worked for both inside and outside men, with a concentration about the 140-150 period.

For the north-east union field, the concentration is in a wholly different interval and tends to be about thirty eight-hour days higher for the same earnings. Detailed consideration would show also a greater deviation above and below the 180 interval where the concentration occurs, than was noted for the unionized fields of the central competitive area. The northeast union field has about an equal distribution in the 140-150 and 150-160 days range with seven cases where some one of the occupations is above 100 days. The tendency is for inside men to make \$1,000-\$1,100 within a spread of ten days, mostly concentrated in the 140-150 interval. Only three exceptions are found to this. Outside men are about evenly divided between 140 and 150 days with a skew towards the 150 group.

Passing to the non-union areas in the southeast, a strikingly different picture is presented. A greater scatter is apparent, with a massing from 140 to 190. The variation in time worked is phenomenal and there is a spread in days found in no other area. In Alabama, blacksmiths, drivers and trackmen, as well as carpenters, brakemen and motormen, work more days than in any other state.

Because of the more regular operation west of the Mississippi the earnings of skilled occupations tend to be concentrated in the higher earnings interval. The \$1,200-\$1,300 interval is therefore used as a unit for comparing working time among occupations in these fields. It is interesting to note that the time worked tends to arrange itself about the 160-170 unit. The massing is about equal in each of the ten day limits above and below this unit.

Perhaps the most concrete way to state the differences in earnings opportunity west of the Mississippi, is to point to the fact that for \$200 more in earnings, the days worked are 20 less than in the Southeast and Northeast non-union fields. Compared with the central competitive field, this means that 20 days more were worked to secure the extra \$100, or about the same working time as the central competitive field shows for \$1,200. No further detailed comparison is made of the separate occupations, since the earnings of a full year day men were discussed in Chapter IV, of Part I. The variations can best be understood by consulting the tables accompanying this report which are presented for every region considered.

The report says in its conclusion:

"Since the main purpose was to find out how much opportunity for earnings the industry afforded in a year better than 1921 than either the northeast union or non-union. Ten per cent earnings of full year men.

The same geographical grouping has been followed as in 1921. However, owing to the paucity of data, areas instead of the major coal fields have been totalled.

Taking the northeast union territory, ten per cent earned \$1,380 or less in 1920, while 10 per cent earned \$1,760 or less in 1921. Thirty per cent earned \$1,760 or less in 1920, as against \$1,150 in 1921.

One half of the men earned more than \$2,030 in 1920 and one-fourth more than \$2,370, while in 1921 one-half earned more than \$1,430 and one-fourth more than \$1,830. It will be seen that for the two years there was a difference in earnings of five to six hundred dollars. The non-union area in the northeast ranged \$100 to \$200 higher in 1920 though it was considerably lower in 1921; with the exception of the lowest 20 per cent.

"The southeast union division was lower in both 1920 and 1921. The non-union groups in the southeast, do not follow the trend of the men fall at or below \$1,350, 30 per cent at or below \$1,653 in 1920. One-half were above \$1,870, with one-quarter above \$2,195. 1921, for this division, was about \$600 lower for 70 per cent of the men. The difference was three to four hundred for the upper 30 per cent.

"The non-union groups in the southeast do not follow the general conclusions drawn for the extensive study for 1921 concerning earnings in union and non-union areas, since earnings are more than \$100 higher in the non-union than in the union areas of the southeast. This is probably due to the small representation for Alabama, Tennessee and Virginia fields, where earnings range lower than in West Virginia and in Maryland, which are most fully represented. When 1921 is compared with 1920 for this non-union sub-division, there is found to be a difference of only \$200 to \$300 in the annual earnings of the two years. One-half of the men in 1920 earned more than \$1,730, with one-half in 1921 earning more than \$1,375.

"West of the Mississippi annual earnings range higher in union and non-union sub-divisions than in any eastern field. This is equally true whether one considers 1920 or 1921, assuming always that comparison is being made for the same year. There was very little difference in the union and non-union groups for 1920. In 1921, the union groups were higher than the non-union by a difference of \$200 to \$500. In 1921, 70 per cent of the men earned more than \$2,000, 30 per cent more than \$2,660 in both union and non-union divisions.

"IT MUST COME SOMETHING MUST HAPPEN"

FRAGMENTS OF A PEOPLE'S LIFE.

Though the General Election has turned our attention from Europe for the moment, the problem remains. These little sketches show that the German people have been sinking deeper and deeper into the slough of despond.

At Moabit.
The night is cold and rainy. A strong wind penetrates one's overcoat and sends shivers through the body. The street stretching down to the Town Hall of Old Moabit is dark and unfriendly. One would like to be near the cosy and warm fire of an English drawing room. But here I am outdoors somewhere in Berlin, somewhere in Germany, a poignant feeling keeping body and soul in its clutches.

Before the high gates of the Town Hall I see a black throng of people, hundreds, maybe thousands. I am amongst them, one of them. The sound of innumerable voices rings in my ears, the key-note of which is a compound of dullness, anger, hope, and desperation....What are they doing here at this late hour?...The door of the building opens at intervals and each time a bundle of men and women are allowed to enter....

"...We are getting our dose," explains a middle-aged poorly-dressed, but clean-looking fellow to me. See all these people here, they wait for hours they wait the whole night until the morning to get huge amount of 20 milliard each.

He laughed bitterly.
"Cursed enormous-sounding amount! It buys—do you know it buys! He clutches a button of my coat. "Just half-pound of margarine or just one loaf of bread, for which, if you want to get it, you have to fight before the bakers shop. What seemed to be a something in the beginning of the week is now a bare nothing. Take these twenty-milliards of marks into your hand and blow on them...they are gone. Children have to eat of that, must live on that."

He raises his fist and all of them men and women, telling each other the old tale of misery, they raise their fists; they get those sparkling eyes of restless agony which threatens danger and the subdued voices mutter through clenched teeth the words "It must come, something must happen."

In the train from Berlin to Leipzig on my right a well-dressed gentleman with the so-called "shimmy" boots and for coat. His well-fed face looks very self-possessed and content. On my left an elderly and rather poorly-dressed man with a kind, yet furtive expression. Opposite, a fat woman and well clad lady with piles of parcels.

It is a cold and chilly morning; one winder is open. I feel rather cold and more so probably does the gen-

eraleman on my left, because he rises to close it.
"Oh, no, I beg you," shouts the fellow on the right, "let the fresh air enter; I don't think you look old enough to feel the cold already."

A forced smile appears on the face and back he drops into his seat, shivering. The gentleman on my right takes out his wallet and I see a pile of real five and ten-dollar notes in there; then he makes some calculations in his note book. The fat lady opposite opens one of her parcels, and starts in an old German-like manner a second breakfast, which consists of many rare foodstuffs which I have not seen nor had for weeks. For half an hour she smacks her lips.
Her conversation with the fur-coated gentleman reveals that she is the wife of a well-to-do farmer. The gentleman is a timber merchant who sells his goods for dollars only, and who is well provided with all desired worldly goods. His workmen, of course, he pays with silver paper mark but they can manage to exist.
The fellow on my left smiles wearily and he mutters: "It must come something must happen!"
At the Market Hall of a working-class district of Berlin: At all the entrances and scattered here and there, are green-clothed policemen; the merchants must be protected against possible riots and looting.
I approach the stand of a potato dealer. Twelve milliard marks is the price for ten pounds. The people are greatly agitated. The last only in the queue seem to be depressed because it is possible that when their turn comes there are no more potatoes left. What will happen then? Tomorrow the vegetable may be twice as expensive, and incomes are not increased within twenty-four hours.
"I can't buy any more bread," a woman is declaring, "as it is too expensive. And, oh, God, tomorrow it will be double. I have just enough money left for a few potatoes. But this is only one thing, and I can't buy anything else. Where is this all going to lead us to?"
At a grocer's stall there is a sudden rush. "What, yells a robust woman, just an hour ago you asked twenty milliard for an egg, and now you want forty. That's sheer robbery, that's filthy profiteering. Don't stand by that, come on people; give it to him, drag his show down."
There is a general outburst and uproar, and immediately dozens of hands are thrust out to the well laden shelves. At this moment the police come to the rescue of the howling stall-holder. "Oh, yes. Of course, the 'greens'!"
The crowd disperses, but Mrs. A. murmurs to Mrs. B. "Our men can't earn enough for the daily bread. Something must happen; it must come."

FRANCE SEEKS SUGAR WORKERS
Representatives of the French sugar industry are said to have visited Prague for the purpose of engaging 2,000 Czechoslovak workers for the French sugar factories and refineries. It is reported that the Central Labor Bureau of Prague will raise no objection to the migration of these work-ers.

LABOR EXODUS TO EUROPE.
Algerian labor reports now a large exodus of Arabs and Kabyles to

France and Belgium, to which higher wages have attracted them from the devastated regions of Algeria.

LABOR SHORTAGE IN ONTARIO
Unprecedented development in the mining and lumber industries of northern Ontario has caused the first shortage of labor in many years, the demand for workmen far exceeding their supply. Increased wage scales are in effect and the absence of labor disturbances is noticeable.

OUR OVERSEAS COLUMN

NEW ACT NEEDED TO DEAL WITH RENTS

Lower Rents Called For: Confusion in the Courts: Advice to Tenants.

By J. SILAS WHYBREW
Hardships are being created under the latest Rent Restrictions Act, and new legislation is called for in the following article.

Mr. Whybrew demands the removal of certain anomalies, and also argues that rents must be reduced.

In view of the possibility of a new Rents Committee being set up, it is important that the information Mr. Whybrew asks for should be supplied promptly.

Judges in a Muddle.
The Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Act, which became law as from July 31 last, is playing widespread havoc with the domestic affairs of thousands of tenants.

It may rightly be regarded as the most mischievous piece of legislation that the late Government was guilty of perpetrating.

At the present moment, in all parts of the country, whole families are living in dread of the day when they are due to leave their homes in consequence of the orders for possession made in favor of the landlord.

The Act enables an owner to obtain possession without offering other accommodation or proving the existence of any sort of available accommodation.

The Rent Acts were admittedly passed owing to the lack of small houses in every district. In face of this, to make it possible for people, old and young, to be evicted from their habitations without any shadow of evidence that another roof is available, is against the elementary claims of decency and humanity.

Bias in the Courts.
Of course, it is provided that the judge shall decide if an application for possession is "reasonable," but from what viewpoint?

Many judges are obsessed with the "reasonableness" of "the rights of property," and consider that because a person has bought a house over the head of a tenant he is entitled to possession, quite regardless of the effect on the present occupiers.

That explains the enormous number of "orders for possession" made, not only by judges, but magistrates as well.

Surely the one meaning of "reasonableness" for the purpose of the operation of the Rent Act should be that some kind of accommodation is available in the locality, within the means of the parties affected.

There is need for an investigation into the methods of the County Courts in relation to the Rent Acts, both as regards the conduct and ruling of judges and those of registrars. The investigation would probably point to the need of setting up House and Rent Courts.

Meanwhile, the advice I would offer to every tenant who has had an order for possession made against him, if he has been unable to obtain other accommodation, is to apply to the Court for a further extension.

What is the Law?
Not only is there a property bias but numerous conflicting rulings make it imperative that there should be a revision of the law.

Cases have arisen which make it necessary that "actual possession" should be clearly defined.

Both the "Licensing Journal" and a recently published work on the Rent Acts, 1920 and 1923, as applicable to Scotland, held the view that the words mean that the landlord must be living in the house with the intention of continuing to use it as his home.

Other legal experts are not so definite in their interpretation of Section 2 subsection (3) of the Act.

Nevertheless tenants who have recently taken on houses and rooms at large increases of rent in excess of the amount allowed by the 1920-23 Acts should accept what the above-named publications state, until the contrary is proved.

The point recently raised by Sheriff Menzies—that a notice, to be legal, must be signed by the landlord or give his name and address—must be settled.

The book on the Rent Acts referred to above—which secretaries of tenants' organizations in Scotland will find a very useful work of refer-

ence—takes the view that the notice is good if it gives the name of the factor for proprietor.

Lower the Rents.
The permitted increase of rent must be reduced.
When the provisions of the Rent Acts were under review by the Onslow Committee of inquiry, evidence was submitted by the National Labor Housing Association and Federation of Tenants' Leagues that, as wages had been substantially lowered, the increases in rent permitted under the 1920 Rent Act should be reduced.
This view was pressed on the floor of the House of Commons in the stages of the original Bill by Labor M.P.'s.

Wages are on a lower scale than six months ago. A reduction of the present 40 per cent, and 50 per cent, allowed under the 1923 Act should be considered.
It is quite evident, also, that while local authorities are dominated by landlords and house agents and their mutual friends it is impossible to obtain the certificate to prove that the premises are unfit for human habitation, so that the increase of rent can be suspended.
Such councillors are ignoring the reports of their medical officers of health and the sanitary inspectors, whether action is taken under the provisions of the Rent Acts or Public Health Acts.
At present the only course open appeared to be to take the local authorities to the High Court to urge that a writ should be issued directing them to discharge their duties.
The Act might be amended so that the possession of the certificate is not essential, providing that other evidence is submitted as proof of defect.
New Inquiry
Whatever new measures the new House of Commons may be called upon to discuss, the whole of the working class in the United Kingdom will readily endorse the immediate consideration of a further Amending Bill dealing with various clauses in the present Act, which bear harshly on tenants and tend to maintain 'Leit standard of living on a lower level than would otherwise be the case.
As, no doubt, fresh evidence will be required if the whole question of the operation of the Rent Acts is to be thoroughly overhauled—and by a more representative committee than previous committees have been—shall be glad if all tenants and secretaries of tenants' organizations will send me (at 136 Hampstead-way, London, N.W.11), particulars of cases that should be presented and press cuttings of Court proceedings.

WHAT THE MINERS ASKED
Higher Minimum Wage and More of the Surplus.
The demands made by the miners are—
(1) An increase in the minimum wage from 20 per cent to 40 per cent above the standard rates.
(2) A greater percentage of the proceeds of the industry to be credited to wages under the profit-sharing clause.
(3) Fuller information as to what is charged against the industry as "other cost." The miners believe that certain charges which are now debited to revenue account are really capital charges.
These demands have been before the owners for several months.
At the owners' suggestion a joint sub-committee was set up to give exhaustive consideration to the proposals.
That committee met on Wednesday and Thursday of this week.
Owners' Replies.
The outcome of these negotiations is understood, as follows:
1. Minimum Wage.—The owners refuse to agree to any increase.
2. Division of Surplus.—The owners could not agree that profits should take 13 per cent (instead of 17 per cent as now) of any divisible surplus.
3. Other costs.—The owners said they would see whether it was practicable to give the information asked for.
A large proportion of the miners are now on or about the minimum.
Continued on page 4.

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

Patronize White Laundries Who Employ White Labor



Entered at Ottawa Post Office as Second Class Postage.

The Canadian Labor Press
 THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS
 PUBLISHED BY THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS, LIMITED
 A NATIONAL SANE LABOR PAPER.

Ottawa Office: 134 Queen Street.
 Toronto Office: 79 Adelaide St. East.
 Montreal Office: Room 26, 223 St. James Street.
 Phone: Queen 751. Phone: Main 4122.

LABOR PARTY IN ENGLAND PROMISE MANY REFORMS

From all appearances the working man in England is indeed burdened with many grievances and they have a good deal more troubles to contend with than we have in Canada as a resume of the platform of the newly elected Labour Party will show.

One of the big ideas of the Labour Party is the Capital Levy which they consider is the logical solution to reducing England's huge war debt and only effects those people who should and can well afford to share the burden. The Capital Levy will be a special tax to reduce the war debt and will be imposed once only. It is on private fortunes of over twenty-five thousand dollars and does not touch industry in any way. Neither is the levy at the same rate on all fortunes but a graduated scale would be used. On the first twenty-five thousand dollars of an individual's fortune there would be no tax but if a man had over twenty-five thousand dollars and up to thirty-thousand dollars, he would pay five per cent only on the amount over the twenty-five thousand. The scale gradually increases until we find that on fortunes of over five million dollars, the amount of the levy would be sixty per cent. On the scale proposed the levy should yield on a conservative estimate, three million pounds, sufficient, that is to say, to wipe out nearly half the debt, apart from owing to the United States Government (allowing for the fact the greater part of the debt now stands below par on the stock exchange), and to reduce the annual debt charges by about one hundred and fifty million pounds. The seriousness of the situation is apparent when it is considered that the proportion of the national expenditure that is devoted to the payment of interest on the War Debt has risen from ten per cent in 1918 to 42 per cent in 1923 and the interest paid now amounts to nearly one million pounds per day. While the Capital Levy plan has met with the strongest opposition, the Labour Party contend that the need is urgent if England is to get back to a sound basis of industrial activity and when you require money you have to go where the money is. They also state that the Capital Levy is the only practical plan yet suggested for stopping the enormous leak of money from the revenue of the country.

Old age pensions, re-establishment of fair wage boards, the unemployment question, taxation of land values, improved position of the farmer and better treatment for the returned soldier are among the other serious problems that are to be taken up by the Labor Department.

Federated Press Chief Purveyor of "Red" Propaganda in U.S.

The Federated Press is the chief propaganda distributing agency in America of the Communists and Bolsheviks of Russia. This agency is the medium through which the great mass of propaganda favorable to the red flag of general destruction in Russia is being circulated in this country. These facts should be kept in mind in reading the following statement which was issued by Ellis Searles, editor of the United Mine Workers Journal.

By ELLIS SEARLES

My attention has been called to an article recently issued by the Federated Press, and unfortunately, published in a number of labor publications that have been misled and beguiled by that outfit, in which an attack of ridicule is made on the series of articles given out by the United Mine Workers of America exposing the destructive activities of Communists in the American Labor Movement. The Federated Press falsely alleges that the articles were the product of a man who was closely connected with non-union coal operators, and that he peddled them around among anti-unionists who refused to buy them and that he then sold them to me. That statement is wholly untrue, like much of the other matter that is sent out by the Federated Press.

I started an investigation of Communist boring-from-within activities last February. The trail led to an amazing disclosure of disloyalty to both the United States and the organized labor movement. I soon found that the task of following that investigation was too great for any one person to handle, and I hired several persons to assist in the work. One of these persons was B. C. Clarke, who, the Federated Press falsely says peddled the articles around. Clarke did not offer the articles for sale to anyone. They were not Clarke's articles. They were my articles. I am the author of the articles, not Clarke. I directed Clarke's work and the work of the others who helped in their preparation. The Federated Press did not like the articles because they told some truths about that organization.

In one of the articles these statements were made:

"The major propaganda distributing agency of the Communists is the Federated Press."

The Federated Press has not denied that statement.

through the central Communist organization, under instructions of the Communist International at Moscow." The Federated Press has not denied that statement.

"It has been financed and promoted by the Communist International at Moscow. This agency is the medium through which the great mass of propaganda favorable to the red flag of general destruction in Russia is being circulated in this country."

The Federated Press has not denied that statement.

Instead the Federated Press has sought to discredit the articles by side-stepping and insinuations.

The article recently sent out by the Federated Press further proves that that outfit is a deadly enemy of the American Federation of Labor and the legitimate trade union movement in general.

Another very significant fact about the matter is this: One of the articles issued by the United Mine Workers of America said the Communist propaganda and the Communist activities were directly responsible for the massacre of more than twenty men at Herrin, Illinois, in June, 1922, and facts were presented proving that statement to be true. THIS CHARGE HAS NOT BEEN DENIED BY THE COMMUNISTS NOR THE FEDERATED PRESS. Both have side-stepped the issue. If the charge had not been true the Communists and the Federated Press would have pawed up the earth and raised a mighty rumpus. But they did not. They merely attempt to cover up the devilishness of the Herrin affair by first ignoring it and then by poking ridicules at the expose.

Communists and their defender, the Federated Press, have a lot to answer for to the trade union movement and the American public. If Communist activities did not cause the Herrin massacre let them produce their proof to the contrary.

If the Federated Press is not the propaganda agency of the Russian Communists and Bolsheviks let it produce its proof to the contrary.

When these two aggregations clear their skirts of these things they will be in better position to ask the people to believe the stuff they send out.

The Fight For Better Homes and Lives

The new year is likely to be marked not only by the advent of political Labor to power, but by growing movements of the industrial side of the Movement for better conditions and higher wages. Throughout the ranks of the workers there is a deep feeling that they have endured privation and hardship long enough and that every effort must be made to raise the standards of comfort and home.

Dockers have already made known their intention of seeking advances in wages. A million miners are balloting. Railwaymen are closely watching the companies' manoeuvres for an attack on their basic rates. Engineers are beginning to think in terms of a forward movement. In building and in almost every other great industry the attitude of defence is changing to one of attack.

Saturday's decision of the delegate conference of the Miners' Federation to take a ballot throughout the coal fields on the question of ending the present wage agreement shows clearly the change in outlook and method. Those who rely on the fact that three months' notice must be given after the miners have voted and who are inclined to shut

their eyes to the new situation, are acting unwisely.

There is not the least likelihood that the ballot will be favorable to the continuance of the agreement; yet there are few signs that the owners are ready to modify their present views. Everything, therefore, points to the deadlock which may end in the miners resorting once again to industrial action in the effort to improve their lot.

Nor, in the present temper of the great shipping magnates, is the outlook for peace in dockland much better. With a few days the notice for an increase of 2s. a day will be given by the men's representatives. Unless that request is heeded, unless the cuts made since the summer of 1922 are restored, the possibility of a great national dock strike will have to be reckoned with.

Here again it will be prudent in the employers and the nation to recognize that the men are in earnest. This move is no "bluff"; it results from a deep-seated determination to win back some of the losses that, in the period of retreat, have been forced upon a very hard working and an indispensable body of workers.

The reason for these and other struggles for decent conditions of life is plain. As a result of an attack on wages, unexampled in its fury, the workers of this country have lost, at least a thousand million pounds a year. They were told that reduced wages would result in production costs being cut, and that work would then be found for the unemployed. Nothing of the kind has happened. There are still two millions either without work at all or on short time. Yet still the cry for lower wages goes up, in engineering, in wool, in cotton, in the whole range of industry there is intermittent employment and "standings off." Thus two millions of workers, with six million wives and children, have to go short of the necessities of life.

It is an appalling thought that by far the greater number of workers in the country's main industries are worse off now than they were before the war. That is the reason for this new movement towards an advance in wages, and it may be added that only by such advance can anything immediate be done to restore industry. Industry is depressed because too little money is being spent by the mass of the nation and because our foreign markets are not what they were. These will take a long time to restore, but the other evil can be remedied at once. Rises in wages would mean greater prosperity all round.

Should employers prove obdurate and see short-sighted to see this, 1924 will be a year of industrial strife. But should a Labor Government be in power, the workers will not, as hitherto, find the dice loaded against them. They will know that the Government is not under the control of financiers and industrial magnates; they will have, for the first time in their history, sympathy and a feeling of comradeship towards them at Westminster and in Whitehall.

STRIKE RECORD DECLINES IN SWITZERLAND.

Strikes, lockouts, and labor disputes in Switzerland have declined steadily since 1918, according to the Federal Labor Office, which has recently surveyed this labor phase of Switzerland's 300,000 industrial workers.

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International Federation of Trade Unions

SECRETARIAT NOTICES

We have arranged with the German Trade Unions to pass on the following appeal. We ask not only the members of the organizations affiliated with us in all countries, but all who would like to help German children to send gifts.

It is requested that all donations be sent to the address: International Federation of Trade Unions, Amsterdam. Post Box 1065.

International Federation of Trade Unions.

J. OUDEGEEST,
 JOH. STSSENBACH,
 Secretaries.

Help for German Working-Class Children.

Privation and hunger are making terrible ravages in Germany. Starvation wages, gold mark prices, unemployment and short time work are daily reducing the strength of the German working classes. The greatest sufferers of all, are, however,

The Children of the Working Classes.

Various charities unconnected with Labor are beginning to collect crumbs from the tables of the rich for the poorest of the poor. But Labor itself, is anxious to take a hand in the work; not only foreign labor, but even German Labor, burdened though it is with its own privations. The rescue

of the children of German workers must, in so far as this is possible, be

The Work of the Workers Themselves.

The Local Committees for Workers Welfare and the Association of the Friends of the Children have undertaken the task of relieving this distress. Our work must be to assist them in this task. We have no intention of organizing any new Executive Committee, which would only serve to swallow up much of the funds provided; we aim at using the already existing organization and strengthening their hands, so that they may give help where it is most needed. These organizations, namely, the Workers Welfare Committees and those of the Association of the Friends of Children cover so large an area and are so well managed that there is every guarantee of their furnishing speedy and efficient relief. We therefore ask all comrades at home and abroad who, despite their own privations, are both able and willing to give to the hungry children of the workers, to send their gifts to us; they may rest assured that the whole of the fund thus accumulated will go direct to the purpose for which it is destined, namely, the feeding of workers' children in Germany.

Our Children are Starving. Give quickly and according to your means. The greatest sufferers are the workers of the Rhineland and the Ruhr. Therefore we make a special appeal to you

Help the Rhineland and the Ruhr.

The complete economic collapse in the Rhineland and the Ruhr district

has brought unemployment to two-thirds of the population. Millions of cold and hungry children share unwarmed rooms with careworn parents, invalids and old people. Death is knocking at their door. Those who have still a little strength left are making their last effort to earn a crust of bread.

SHORTAGE OF DOMESTIC LABOR IN ENGLAND.

Although there are 237,000 unemployed women in England and Wales, there is a serious shortage in the supply of domestic servants. Accordingly, a special committee has been making observations of the causes of the shortage and has submitted recommendations to the Minister of Labor regarding matters of training, hours and conditions of employment, and distribution, which, it is thought, may make this type of employment more attractive.

SWEDEN.

Up to the first of October, 1923, there were reported 18,821 persons as emigrating from Sweden, of which the greater majority, it is said, emigrated for the United States.

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OUR HOME PAGE

HOME COOKING

BRIDES GET COOK BOOKS.

Holding to the theory that good biscuits, or even fairly good biscuits, have a great deal to do with the success or failure of a marriage venture, the county clerk of Clarksburg, W. Va., will issue a cook book for the bride along with each marriage license.

PIES 'N THINGS

MASHED POTATO VARIATIONS

To rice potatoes add one tablespoon butter, one teaspoon salt, few grains pepper, and one-third cup hot milk. Beat with fork or with tennis racket whisk until creamy, reheat and pile lightly in hot dish. It is better to leave potatoes rough than to pat or smooth them. The milk may be scalded in a small saucepan on the top of the potatoes, and the butter and seasonings measured directly into the milk, then all together may be added to the potato. If milk is not scalded before being added to the potato, the left over potato will probably be sour and unfit for use the next day.

SPANISH POTATOES.

To two cups mashed potato add one canned pimento cut in small pieces or forced through a puree strainer.

SAVORY POTATOES

To one teaspoon chopped water cream add one teaspoon chopped fresh mint leaves.

POTATO THORNDYKE

To mashed potato add one-third measure of banana cut in one-fourth-inch cubes. Fill with mixture empty banana skins from which one section of skin has been removed. Place close together in pan and bake 10 minutes. Sprinkle with grated cheese. Put under gas flame until cheese is melted and top is delicately brown.

POTATO FONDANT.

Pile mashed potato lightly in a greased baking dish. Pour over one-third cup heavy cream and sprinkle with one-half cup coarse stale bread crumbs. Bake in hot oven until the crumbs are brown.

GARNISHING FISH

Parley, lemon, bacon, tomato, anchovies, cheese—these are the garnishes we use to make our fish dishes look appetizing, and also to add taste. Lemon is used more than anything else to take off the greasiness—the "fishiness"—of some strongly flavored fishes, and particularly on flat fish. Because of that, it is also combined with other flavorings.

AMONG WOMEN

Badu, a tiny island off the coast of Australia, is ruled by a woman.

Statistics show that nine-tenths of the women of China cannot write their own names.

India's only woman ruler, the begum of Bhopal, has proclaimed prohibition in her state.

Miss Nina Neuenfeldt of Detroit, Mich., 21 years of age last March, is said to be the youngest woman lawyer in the country.

Boxing matches between women, which have been a feature of Berlin's night life for months, have been prohibited by the police.

Mrs. Mary A. McLane, of Mobile, Ala., celebrated her 100th birthday by registering and qualifying to vote in the election last November.

Dropping of Latin as a required subject is suggested by Bryn Mawr students in a formal report to Dr. Marion Edwards Park, the president.

The distinction of being the first state to establish mothers' pensions belongs to Missouri, the law having become effective there in 1911.

Starting with a capital of \$85, Mrs. Alice F. McDougall of New York, has in the last sixteen years made a half million dollars selling coffee at wholesale.

Miss Margaret Clarke of Louisville, Ky., has been appointed a clerk in the American foreign service and will immediately take up her duties at Tangier, Mexico.

The governor of North Carolina, Cameron Morrison, appointed Mrs. Palmer Jerman, of Raleigh, a director of the Atlantic and North Carolina railroad. She is said to be the first woman to hold such an office in the state.

Women are more careful drivers than men," said R. R. Wilson, head of the taxi corporation that introduced the women to the driver's seat of a taxi-cab. "Women do not take the long chances common among the men chauffeurs. They are more obedient to the regulations, obeying them not only when there is a traffic policeman around, but at all other times as well. They do not loiter, but pay strict attention to business. And they take an interest in keeping their machines as neat as possible, giving their cars such attention as they accord to their own appearance."

Before putting away rubbers rub them with plain vaseline and dry them with a soft cloth. Your rubbers will stay soft and look like new.

If you have a steel clothes line, wipe them with a little kerosene oil in cold weather and the clothes will not stick to the line.

To keep baby covered at night, and at the same time avoid the use of pins, sew a double piece of tape on each corner of the sheets and blankets, long enough to tie to the rungs of the crib using care that the coverings are not drawn too tightly.

To remove hot water marks from polished furniture, dampen a cloth in denatured alcohol and rub lightly over the spots. Let stand for a half day to dry. If all marks are not removed, apply again after the furniture is dry.

To Clean White Satin. White satin can be cleaned by rubbing with bread crumbs, which have a little moisture. White kid gloves can be freshened the same way.

Soot on Woodwork. Soot on woodwork can be removed with kerosene.

To Beat Eggs. To beat eggs quickly, add a pinch of salt.

HOME HINTS.

Remove tar with kerosene, then warm water and soap.

Add bread crumbs to the hamburger steak to make it tender.

Press ribbons on the wrong side and there will be no iron shine.

A little kerosene will remove all grease and paint from the hands.

Keep a little camphor gum in the drawer in which you keep your silver and it will not tarnish.

Nickle or silver ornaments may be kept right by rubbing them with a woolen cloth saturated in spirits of ammonia.

A piece of raw potato dipped in baking soda will be most effective in banishing tarnish from your silver.

To remove the onion odor from the hands wash in a little cold water to which a teaspoon of dry mustard has been added.

A tar stain should be softened with grease, then rubbed with a rag dipped in turpentine. After subsequent washing the stain will disappear.

When scrubbing a rug on the floor try kneeling on a cushion. It makes the work much less tiresome. It is also a relief to hot, aching feet on ironing day to remove shoes and to stand on a cushion.

How to Sew thin Silks—Cut strips of paper about one inch wide and hold it under the seam you are sewing. This will keep your material from drawing, the paper can easily be torn from the seam, your seam will be easily made and not puckered as usually happens when we attempt them without it.

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INTERNATIONAL LABOR NEWS

FRANCE.

A sort of proportional representation was adopted prior to the election of 1919. The system was very mixed and resulted in some queer returns. Now a new electoral bill is before the Chamber of Deputies, and a number of Deputies are anxious to revert to the old system of single membered constituencies with the second ballot.

Both the President of the Republic, Alexandre Millerand, and the Prime Minister, Raymond Poincare, are opposed to any reversal to the old method. Millerand has, indeed, threatened to exercise his veto against the Bill if it becomes an Act. So there is more of the makings of a crisis over Electoral Reform than over the entire question of the Franco-German relations.

Dr. Wilhelm Marx, the Centre Party representative for Düsseldorf East, has at last constituted a stop-gap Ministry. Dr. Gustave Stresemann, the former chancellor, becomes Foreign Minister, and Dr. Gessler, the representative of the Reichshwey Commander, General von Seeckt, is again Minister of Defence. The Ministry has been formed only with the object of avoiding a dissolution of the Reichstag at the present moment.

Herrmann Muller, on behalf of the Social-Democrat Reichstag group, had a conference with Dr. Marx last Thursday. It appears that the new Chancellor is favorable to replacing the present "military" state of siege by a "civil" state of siege. "Vorwärts" hopes that the new Cabinet will be able to carry on until it is possible to proceed freely with the new elections. The "Sozialdemokratischer Parlementsdiens" ("Social-Democratic Parliamentary Service") says:

"The attitude of the Social-Democrats towards the new cabinet will be determined by its programme. We consider this Government a transitory one. If it secures a vote of confidence on Tuesday, we shall judge it by each of its acts and deduce from them the necessary consequences. We can take it, then, that the new elections, which must take place normally next June, will be advanced."

The Slump in Textiles. Depression is seriously affecting the textile industry and short time is extending. Though the depreciation of currency, when moderate, helped German export trade, the utter collapse of the mark has reduced things to chaos. The States of the old dual monarchy, and also those of the Balkans, are competing with the textile industry in Germany. Czecho-Slovakia and Poland, for instance, have almost ousted German textiles from Turkey.

The October report of the Textile Workers' Union is representative of the conditions in the industry. While 11.5 per cent of its members were

out of work, as much as 63 per cent were on short time. Of these about 7 per cent were only working up to eight hours per week, 14 per cent to 24 hours, and 16 per cent more than 25 hours. The position has grown worse since then, and more than half the membership is working less than 25 hours weekly.

ITALY.

The question of the preliminary agreement between Italy and Soviet Russia signed in 1921 was discussed last week in the Italian Chamber. Jacini, for the Catholics, supported the resumption of the ordinary commercial relations with Soviet Russia, and Lazzari and Riboldi, for the Communists, called for the complete recognition of the Soviet Government.

Mussolini declared the Fascist Government would not put any obstacle in the way of the recognition of the Russian Soviet Government. It would be much more convenient, he said, to have a regular ambassador from Russia than the kind of representation they had at present. Recognition would be useful because it would facilitate economic relations between the two countries.

It is only logical that Mussolini having followed the example of the Russian Bolsheviks in dictatorship, should be a supporter of recognition of the Russian Soviet Government by Italy. But what will our "Morning Post" now think of its protegee?

RUSSIA.

The Soviet Government announces that it intends to introduce a new Customs tariff. Among its provisions is a higher duty on coal for the protection of the Russian coal industry against British competition.

Just like any capitalist Government, eh?

UNITED STATES

An urgent warning against the slightest cutting of the Budget for the Army is contained in the report to Congress by John Wingate Weeks, Secretary for War, who reaffirms his previous recommendations that the strength of the Regular Army should be increased from its present limit of 12,000 officers and 125,000 men to 13,000 officers and 150,000 men. He says:

"This strength is considered the minimum necessary to make effective our national defence programme. With less isolation than ever before, with a greater need to be able to defend our own independent purposes, we are in a state of unpreparedness comparable only with that of Germany among the great nations. Our new defence policy is a new one, and if sincerely supported would enable us to defend our purposes while adhering to our peaceful traditions."

UNSKILLED IMMIGRANT LABOR

Unskilled labor in Cuba is showing a surplus, which is largely due, it is said, to immigrants who are coming in from southern European countries.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR NEWS

ENGLAND.

On January 1, 1924, the new "Workman's Compensation Act" passed by Parliament in November, 1923, and modifying the existing law on workmen's compensation and employers' liability became effective.

On December 3, 1923, the wholly unemployed on the live registers totalled approximately 1,194,700, a decrease of 23,524 under the preceding week. Practically no change for the week was noted in the number working short time and drawing benefits for intervals of unemployment.

GERMANY.

In order to stimulate production and hasten the return to normal economic conditions, an agreement has been approved by the Association of Mine, Operators and the Miners' Unions, under the terms of which the operators will improve the mining machinery and technical methods, and the workers will perform one extra hour of labor each day, without overtime pay. At a later date, an increase in wages will be considered.

At the beginning of last month the total number of persons asking employment in the Breslau district had increased, in one week, from 87,000 to 97,000, while the number of wholly

unemployed persons was 75,000 or 10,000 more than those reported at the end of the previous week.

Reports from 70 of the 103 public employment bureaux show that on November 15, 1923, nearly 250,000 persons were out of work, while nearly 500,000 were working on short time. On the same day of the year, 1922, 85 employment bureaux reported a total of only 25,853 unemployed.

PORTUGAL.

Wage differences and disputes on account of hours and conditions of labor brought about a strike of seamen and marine firemen late last year which, at that time, had practically tied up all Portuguese ocean steamships.

SWEDEN.

A continual decrease in the number of Sweden's unemployed is reported by the Unemployment Commission. During the year 1923, the total gradually declined from 45,900 to approximately 11,000 persons.

BOLIVIA.

Laws providing for better conditions of labor, an eight-hour day, the prohibiting of night work by women and children, and special regulations applying to industrial accidents, are among the legislative measures, directly affecting labor, which have been recently presented to the Bolivian Congress.

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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.

Ottawa Hydro-Electric Commission

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RUSSIAN PEOPLE RULED BY A FEW COMMUNISTS

While it is admittedly difficult to get a right understanding of affairs in Russia, practically every publication being a partisan on one side or the other, it is equally to be admitted that such papers as the New York Nation would not represent the Soviet Government to be any worse than it is.

Mr. Fisher emphasizes the fact that the various Soviets which are elected have in reality no more authority than the old Dumas. The Communist party is the master of Russia. It numbers now 585,600 out of a population of approximately 140,000,000.

The Communist party is ruled in turn by the Committee of Nine or Political Bureau, composed of Lenin, Trotsky, Stalin, Kanenev, Dzerzhinski, Rykov, Bukharin, Zinoviev and Tomaki.

Communist leaders have found, of course, that many of the new members are not animated by the same spirit that distinguished the pioneers in the movement in the days when membership was extremely hazardous.

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bling, bribe taking, drinking, engaging in capitalistic enterprises. The Communists, except for their blood-thirsty tendencies, are extreme moralists and no member is supposed to drink or gamble.

Unless a man is a highly trained expert or a Communist it is impossible for him to hold an important government position in Russia. But with this great power for the Communists go equally great responsibilities.

LABOR HOURS IN STEEL MILLS

Within the past few months tens of thousands of steel workers in the employ of the United States Steel Company, who formerly were compelled to stand by their furnaces for twelve hours a day and seven days in the week, have been given an eight-hour day.

In Switzerland the hours established by law are 48 per week, and the steel producers have found it necessary in order to meet world-competition, to increase the schedule to 52 hours weekly.

One of the basic policies of the German Revolutionists was an eight-hour day for six days a week. The steel makers and coal operators of the Ruhr, like those of Switzerland, have declared that they cannot compete in the world's markets unless a nine hour day is restored.

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Australian Labor and The Communists.

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.—"The Communists have a standard of conduct which ordinary men and women are unable to understand, much less appreciate," says the Australian Worker in a leading editorial on the tactics of revolutionists outside and inside the labor organizations.

"They refused to have anything to do with the labor movement in those days, as though they were endowed with some intellectual or spiritual superiority that constituted them a race apart."

"The insincerity of it all is palpable. The repulsive features of hypocrisy leered at us. No one who has studied their literature and their public utterances can doubt that with the communists of Australia obedience to bolshevik authority differs very little from the prostrations of superstition."

LUMBER INDUSTRY. In the Province of New Brunswick there are approximately 600 saw mills which give annual employment to 9,000 men whose aggregate salaries amount to \$5,700,000.

WHAT THE MINERS ASKED

Continued from page 1. That minimum is only about 40 per cent above pre-war rates of wages, while the cost of living is officially given as 75 per cent above pre-war.

It will, therefore, be seen that the owners have most definitely rejected

the demand which would have immediately affected the present wages-rates.

Profit Division. The division of profits would have no immediate effect, but the lower percentage proposed to be allocated to the owners would have the effect of lessening any deficiency required to make up the minimum wage.

It should be observed that any deficiency at one audit has an effect on subsequent audits, and tends to keep wages on the minimum when they might otherwise rise.

STORY OF THE CRISIS. The crisis which now approaches in the British mining industry had its beginnings back in the winter of 1921.

Immediately the government subvention ceased, the men were subject to the agreement which ended the lock-out of 1921.

A severe slump in prices and in trade operated, under the agreement, to bring wages tumbling down.

Within a very short time many districts were down almost to the minimum named in the agreement—viz. 20 per cent above standard rates. Those standard rates were those of 1915, and were practically pre-war figures.

The Miners' Federation approached the owners and the Government seeking help to soften the blow, but help was refused.

By March, 1922, 10 of the 23 areas were actually on the minimum—which meant wages far below in value those received before the war.

The appalling condition in the industry was brought before the House of Commons in that month by the Labor Party. The Government was asked to set up an inquiry, but this was refused.

In June, 1922, the Miners' Executive reviewed the situation further, and Mr. Hodges declared: "So low are the wages and so bad the situation in the mining industry, that, in my judgment, it can be said that the British famine has begun."

At the annual conference of the Miners' Federation on July 20, 1922, the Executive was directed to consider means of improving the existing agreement and to approach the mineowners.

That decision forms the starting point in the patient attempts to secure revision of the agreement which have now ended, 17 months later, in deadlock.

In October of last year the Miners' Executive met the owners, who refused to consider the request for an advance in wages which would give rates equal in purchasing power to the pre-war rates.

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Waiting for Hearse. A special delegate conference of the miners later in December decided to await the assembly of Parliament.

In February of this year Mr. Law was again seen. His reply was: "Can you not wait for a trade improvement?"

Mr. Herbert Smith retorted: "It's like waiting for the hearse."

In June last the Labor Party introduced a Bill to amend the Minimum Wage Act of 1912, and so secure a higher minimum for the miners. The Bill was rejected.

Then, at the annual conference, in July last, the Federation declared that the agreement must be revised, and negotiations have proceeded since up to the deadlock of this week.

WHAT LABOR MIGHT DO

Measures Designed for the Public Good. There is much to be said for the policy of Labor taking office if the opportunity is given (write a political correspondent).

Not only would such a decision prove conclusively the bona-fides of the Party's persistent and consistent declarations regarding unemployment but it would show the general body of electors that, despite difficulties and dangers, the Labor Movement is prepared to shoulder the burdens of power in order to set the country on the path to a solution of its problems.

Moreover, apart altogether from these psychological results, Labor in power could by administrative measure and by legislation take steps to deal with three of the country's most pressing problems—Unemployment, Housing, Foreign Affairs.

Let us take the last first and consider what could be done without the slightest possibility of the proposals leading to defeat in the Commons. Labour in power could:

(1) Put the Russian situation to rights once and for all by giving full and complete Recognition to that country. The only opposition to this would come from a small section of the Tory Party.

(2) Call an International Conference to deal with the problems of Reparations, War Debts, and the Versailles Treaty. To that conference

not only the War Allies would be invited, but also Germany, Russia and America.

France, knowing that practically the whole of the British people have, in various ways, approved of this plan would, in all likelihood, accept such an invitation, and thus the first real step towards rehabilitating Europe would have been taken.

Turn to Housing and the possibilities are even more bright. Labor in power could:

(1) Safeguard the tenants by establishing the principle that until there is a sufficiency of houses there shall be no evictions and no increase of rents.

(2) Start a national housing scheme through the local authorities with a view to meeting the admitted shortages. In doing this it would—

(a) Take the necessary steps to prevent the building trusts from fleecing the public by charging exorbitant prices.

(b) Prevent the private building speculators from erecting "rabbit-hutches" at rents fit only for mansions.

(c) Secure the local authorities by loans at the lowest possible rate of interest.

(d) Leave the local authorities to act as the primary authority, subject to the requirements laid down in the housing law. These requirements would include the abolition of slum property and insanitary dwellings.

The effect of such a scheme would be to reduce unemployment and thereby relieve the Exchequer and the Local Authorities of considerable expenditure. But still further measures for meeting unemployment could be taken by administrative or legislative action. Labor in power could:

(1) Extend and develop the Trade Facilities Act, under which credits are advanced to enterprises both home and foreign, which entail employment for the British Worker.

(2) Set on foot National Schemes for the development of Roads, Waterways, Land Reclamation, and Afforestation.

(3) Fix the leaving age from school of children at 16, and make provision for Maintenance Grants in order to relieve the parents financial strain.

In order to find money for these enterprises drastic economies could be effected in expenditure on the Army, Navy and Air Services, which could be brought back to pre-war costs, the Singapore escapade could be ended, steps could be taken to

Wages Boards, give Credit Facilities to farmers, offer a subsidy provided there was stringent control over production and prices.

(3) Prevent any further inroads on Education, Trade Boards, Factory Inspection, Medical Service and so forth.

(4) Remove the disabilities on Old Age Pensions, and later, unless the receipt from the Land Values Tax to operate a scheme for Mothers' Pensions.

A Great Record. Then labor could go the country on this record of work done, coupled with its proposal for a Capital Levy to reduce the War Debt, the nationalization of Mines, Railways, Electrical Power, Land Reform, Fuel, and Better Education, and its General Social Programme.

The work sketched out above is of a character that no party dare oppose and hope to live; it is admittedly necessary, admittedly beneficial, admittedly useful, and the party, or parties that attempted to obstruct it would receive short shrift from the electors when the Labor Government appealed to it.

Labor has nothing to lose by becoming the Governments, and much to gain.

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