

Who Says There Is No Unemployment?

By JAY LOVESTONE.

IN the midst of all the noise that is being made about the high tides of prosperity overwhelming us, the employment situation the country over affords an instructive example of the propaganda methods of the employing class.

The latest official findings of the United States department of labor relative to the present unemployment situation certainly show no evidence of prosperity among the working masses.

Surplus of Workers in New England.

Turning to the New England situation we find that in the textile and shoe plants, in the paper and pulp mills of Maine there is a surplus of labor and part time schedules prevail. The shoe industry, the hosiery mills and the machine shops of New Hampshire are operating with reduced forces. In the Boston industrial district practically all plants are operating part time. In the textile and metal mills of Rhode Island there is a surplus of workers.

Connecticut's New Haven industrial district shows many factories operating part time. In the textile and surplus of factory hands.

Plenty Unemployed in Middle Atlantic States.

When we enter the middle Atlantic tier of states we find a similar situation. In New York state there is considerable unemployment chiefly of unskilled workers. The completion of summer road work and numerous construction jobs is releasing many workers. The building industry is slackening. The iron and steel industries of New Jersey are below normal in operation. Many other industries in the Camden and Trenton districts are working on part time basis. The cessation of road building is releasing many skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers in Pennsylvania.

Dark Clouds in Illinois.

The surplus of common labor continues in Illinois. In the Chicago district a large electrical concern has decreased its forces by about one thousand during the month. The coal mines of Danville and the steel mills of Joliet are operating below normal.

Farm labor, furniture manufacturing help, automobile production forces all show a surplus in Indiana. In Michigan there is a surplus of common labor throughout the state. Coal mines are operating fifty per cent capacity. The automobile factories are in some cases releasing workers. It is very difficult for the unskilled workers to find jobs. Two large auto plants in Detroit employing fifty thousand men are working on part time.

Wisconsin has a surplus of common labor. "With the exception of highly skilled mechanics in the building trades and also some experienced butchers, there is a surplus of skilled and semi-skilled men in most all lines and in common labor" in the Milwaukee district.

Ohio continues to show a surplus of

labor. The metal and allied industries are hardest hit. The automobile industry is operating considerably below normal. The mining industry is far below normal. Building operations are not so active. Rubber tire manufacturing is slackening. In Youngstown a number of blast furnaces are closed and the steel industry is generally operating on part time. In Cleveland all classes of help are applying for jobs.

Northwest Building Curtailed.

Building operations are being curtailed in Minneapolis. In St. Paul there is also a surplus in the building trades. In Missouri there is a considerable surplus of unskilled labor. Because of the poor corn crop the demand for farm help is lighter than expected in the St. Louis district. In Iowa the tile plants and button factories of the Des Moines district are operating with reduced forces. In Kansas there is an over-abundance of common labor. The railroad shops of Topeka are operating on a five-day a week basis.

In Omaha, Nebraska, there is a surplus of office and factory help. South Dakota shows a surplus of labor. In North Dakota there is also a surplus of common and skilled labor. Here building construction is slackening.

Not Much Brightness in Sunny South.

Due to the curtailment of building operations and road construction the number of unemployed among the unskilled is increasing in Maryland. In Baltimore there is a surplus of building tradesmen and a seasonal decrease in the forces engaged in the manufacture of clay and glass. The District of Columbia shows an oversupply of clerical and sales forces.

In Virginia there is still a surplus of textile workers. West Virginia still shows a surplus of unskilled labor. The demand for farm labor in North Carolina is decreasing. There is an oversupply of clerical help in Wilmington and textile operatives in Raleigh. The fertilizer plants and cotton-oil mills of Columbia, South Carolina, are now closed.

There is unemployment reported throughout the state of Georgia. The supply of unskilled labor has increased in Florida due to migration.

During the month there were losses in the forces employed in the railroad, leather and chemical divisions of Kentucky. There is a surplus of workers in the textile industry. In the Ashland district there is an oversupply of iron and steel and unskilled laborers. In Tennessee there obtains a surplus of labor in many industries. The Alabama coal mines are hard hit and building is slackening. The lumber and textile mills of Mississippi report a surplus of labor and are operating on a part time basis.

Drought conditions have increased the amount of surplus labor in Louisiana. In New Orleans there are many plants operating on part time or with reduced forces. Some lumbering plants are closed here. The oil industry of Shreveport is especially hard hit by unemployment. In Arkansas

there exists a surplus of skilled and unskilled labor. Last month witnessed a loss in the forces employed in the Oklahoma oil fields. The completion of cotton picking has increased the surplus of unskilled labor in Texas.

Southwest Hard Hit.

The railway shops of New Mexico are operating on a five-day basis. In this state all agricultural activities except cotton harvesting work are showing seasonal curtailment. Industry in Utah is less active now than thirty days ago. In Wyoming there is considerable release of out-of-door seasonal workers. The outlook here is for reduction of the forces in the oil industry. There is moderate surplus of common mine labor in Nevada. The Idaho sugar beet crop activities have been curtailed on account of the drought. Building, highway construction and agricultural activities are

showing a seasonal letup in Montana. Several thousand agricultural workers have been released in Colorado.

No Prosperity in Mountain District.

In California a large force of workers has been released by the cessation of fall harvesting operations. Ordinary mine labor shows an increased surplus in this state. In the San Francisco district labor as a whole is very plentiful in the iron and steel, textile, printing, glass, clay and leather industry. Work on railroad and highway construction, as well as in logging camps, is temporarily at least being suspended in Oregon for seasonal reasons. The fish and fruit canneries are slowing up. Some of the lumber mills of Washington are reducing their output. The completion of the apple harvest has added to the unemployment list in this state. In Seattle "an increasing surplus of laborers and mechanics prevails."



Teacher Sees Young Comrade.

A few days ago I was telling two of my classmates about the "Young Comrade" and the junior groups. They became interested. I asked them if they would like to see a copy of the Young Comrade. Both eagerly responded "yes." Accordingly, I promised to bring them each a copy of the latest issue.

The other day, when I came down-stairs, I noticed my new Young Comrade in our mail-box. I took it to school to read during one of my study periods. At school, I remembered my promise, I decided to let them see this one.

One of the girls has the same study periods as I, so I asked her if she would like to see it then. She said she would and I gave it to her.

It happened to be one of the days when the teacher walks around the room to see who is absent. A girl was reading a story book and he passed her. Behind this girl sat my friend. The teacher looked at her, then at the paper. He noticed a head-line. It didn't look like the head-lines of the school paper. The headline said something about a strike. He took the paper from her and looked at the front page. I noticed his face change color as he read the name "The Young Comrade." "Are you on the library list?" he asked her.

To understand what he meant, I will explain. Anyone who gets

"D's" cannot take books from the school library. "D's" mean poors. They make a list of the names of those who may draw books from the school library and call this library list.

"No," she answered.

"Then don't read this. Do some work." She looked at him and then at the paper finishing what she had started to read.

I immediately wrote her a note, showing her that he didn't ask the girl in front of her if she was on the list. When we next got a chance to talk, I explained why he didn't.

I think as a result, we will have two more new juniors.

Comrades, this goes to show how they treat us in the school. Will we let this go on? No! We won't! But how will we prevent it? By getting more juniors, members.

Don't forget to send to Thelma Kahn, 1109 So. Robey St. for the address of the junior group nearest your home.

—E. S.

Juniors: Are You Ready?

This is a very good letter. It is the kind of a letter we want to receive for our column. Let us have more of them! Surely you have not forgotten your promise to write to our Russian comrades? Send letters telling of your experiences in school, of your propaganda activities, of anything that happens to you that you think will make an interesting story.—Editor Junior Column.