

Questions and Answers on Unemployment

Below is given the second of a series of "Questions and Answers" on the world crisis, unemployment and the tasks of the revolutionary trade unions, issued by the Red International of Labor Unions.—Editor).

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Question 2. How will the crisis develop? Will it grow deeper or will the depression be gradually ameliorated and outlived?

The continued dispatches received from the U. S. A. and the capitalist countries in Western Europe on the curtailment of production, the closing down and winding up of enterprises and the discharge of workers, etc., show that the world economic crisis is **only beginning.**

For example, the newspapers on January 26 were full of reports on the mass discharge of workers and the closing down of enterprises in Poland and Czecho-Slovakia and that the world economic crisis had now hit Sweden where the manufacture of ball-bearings and several other engineering enterprises were winding up operations.

The crisis has also affected the colonial and semi-colonial countries.

Thus, the view given currency by certain bourgeois economists that the crisis was over and an improvement had set in, is contrary to the facts. During the next few months we must expect an intensification, extension and deepening of the world economic crisis.

In studying the present crisis we have to solve another question: is the present depression a typical economic crisis, seen during the pre-war period when we had a livening up of industry, a period of prosperity, to be followed by over-production, slump and crisis, the economic cycle having turned full round?

It is true that we have today all the features of a typical economic depression, but the crisis today is aggravated still further by the fact that it is occurring during the general post-war crisis of capitalism with its chronic over-production, chronic industrial stagnation and chronic unemployment, etc.

In analysing the situation we should not lose sight of the present complicated character of the economic crisis, for here it is not a question of a profound depression after a period of prosperity, but of a marked worsening of an economic situation which was **already depressed in a whole series of countries.**