

Illinois Industrial Situation Getting Gloomy

By JAY LOVESTONE

THE latest report on the industrial situation in Illinois in May 1925, just issued by R. D. Cahan, chief statistician of the Illinois department of labor, shows very clearly that "the downward course of industry in Illinois continues."

The volume of employment in the state shows that conditions make May 1925 the worst May in four years. Reports from manufacturers employing formerly about 40 per cent of the factory workers of the state show that the number of unemployed has been increasing by the slackening of operations in the factories by 21,000 since the middle of February. Industrial operations in Illinois are today 7 per cent below the level of a year ago and 14 per cent below that of May 1923.

Illinois Not Alone In Decline

The report goes on to say "that Illinois is not alone in experiencing the effects of depressed industry.... a preliminary statement issued by the press on June 10th by the New York state department of labor states that employment in that state had receded 1 per cent in May following a 2 per cent decline in April."

Unemployment a Serious Problem

The Illinois state department of labor declares that "the present downward course of industry is apparently a continuation of a movement that began nearly two years ago." Official figures indicate that there are now more people out of work in Illinois

than there were a year ago today. Employment is continuing to decline. A year ago the unemployment situation in Illinois was already declared to be confidential. The Illinois department of labor had declared in 1924 that the unemployment situation was already a serious problem.

Mining Situation Growing Worse

The mining industry is not only not improving but actually growing worse. There are today more mines closed down than there were a year ago. The largest mine in the Peoria sub-district has just shut down. 15 to 47 mines submitting monthly reports to the Illinois department of labor were completely inactive during May.

Metal Industries Hard Hit.

The decline of employment was particularly noticeable and severe in some of the metal industries. The steel mills laid off nearly 4 per cent of their workers; tools and cutlery manufacturers 6 per cent; and agricultural implements 2½ per cent. Automobiles and accessories concerns were the only outstanding instances of industrial expansion in this group.

General Conditions Poor.

DUE to freakish changes in weather the out-of-door trades which usually are busy in May have been held back this year. Also, May usually shows a high level of employment in the furniture and musical instrument factories. May, 1925, however, was an exception. Furniture factories employing about 7,000 workers laid off nearly 4 per cent of their employees last month. Musical instrument factories employing about 3,000 workers

discharged at least 4½ per cent of their workers in May alone.

Employment fell by nearly 17 per cent in the men's ready-made clothing factories during the month of May. In the same period women's clothes factories laid off nearly 12 per cent of their workers and the millinery factories laid off nearly 30 per cent of their workers.

The payroll of 1184 employers reporting to the state industrial department shows a decline of nearly 1 per cent during the month.

British Rail Union Officially Welcomes Communist Contacts

LONDON—(FP)—Exclusion of the Communist party from the British Labor party is condemned by the annual conference of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, and the membership is requested "to work with the Communist party or any other labor organization which has for its object the control of industry and politics by the working classes." The conference also decided to affiliate with the National Council of Labor Colleges, which represents the left wing in worker education.

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