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UNEMPLOYMENT

Each year the situation on the labour market becomes more and more catastrophic. During the last three years capitalist society, on the whole, has been able to boast of a favourable economic situation. In most countries and in most industries output has increased, and profits and dividends have increased accordingly. It was only in the second half of 1929 that the tendencies towards an economic depression began to make themselves felt more strongly, developing towards the beginning of 1930 into an open crisis.

Whilst capitalist economy has continued sorrowfully to develop, the position on the labour market has grown steadily worse. For under post-war capitalism there is a tremendous reserve labour army even during a boom and the slightest depression in the economic situation even though seasonal, is all that is required for new hundreds of thousands of workers to be thrown out onto the streets.

At the end of 1929, when the developing world economic crisis had only just set in, there were 6 million workers thrown out of the factories and workshops in the United States; three million were registered on the labour exchanges in Germany; two million in Britain; one million in Japan, three quarters of a million in Italy, half a million in Mexico, 400,000 in Czecho-Slovakia, 350,000 in Austria; a like number in Poland; 300,000 in Hungary, and so on without end. Altogether, by the "Happy New Year", in the industrial countries of the world alone, there were SEVENTEEN MILLION UNEMPLOYED.

What is the explanation for this "permanent crisis" on the labour market, which knows no abatement at all? Even in those periods when a slight improvement does set in this improvement is not in the least able to bring unemployment down to the level which before the war could be considered "normal". What is this new element which makes unemployment the determining factor in the position of the entire working class? What throws these millions of workers out of industry for months and years thereby dooming millions of families to starvation and need surpassing all description? Why does capitalism take no measures against this threatening increase in the reserve army of labour, most of whom will never more return to industry?

The reply to these questions consists of one word---rationalisation. Capitalist rationalisation, when it was applied in a few countries only squeezed a part of the workers out of the rationalised industries, and the number of commodities required to cover the demand was produced by a smaller number of workers. If the capitalists succeeded in increasing their sales, and especially in increasing their trade in foreign markets; if, thanks to lowered costs of production, they succeeded in winning new markets---true part of the dismissed workers were taken back, unemployment automatically spread to the country which had lost its markets. On an international scale---and this is the only scale that the international proletariat can accept---any successful application of rationalisation measures implies protracted loss of work, implies growing unemployment.

Does this, however, refute the reformist statement that, by giving strong support to rationalisation in "their own country", the workers will be able to eliminate crises and unemployment on a national scale? Taking this theory as their argument, as is known, the American trade unions went so far as to nominate their own engineers who were to rationalise the plants for the employers; the German reformists, putting forward this argument, tried to force the workers to accept capitalist rationalisation uncomplainingly; the English reformists, with this self-same argument became the agents of capitalist rationalisation in the working class camp.

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The reformist argument was incorrect even if the rationalisation of industry took place in one or in only a few countries, for in view of the tremendous innovations which can now be introduced into industry, in the best of cases only a part of the workers formerly employed can continue working. The campaign of rationalisation, started in America, and continued in Germany, however, has now become an International race. Those countries at whose expense the first "successes in rationalisation" were achieved have also commenced to reorganise their industries. In all countries a widespread reequipment of the industrial apparatus is going on; the most important industries, the largest consumers of labour power have considerably restricted their requirements in this respect, and hundreds of thousands of workers in the world mining industry, hundreds of thousands in the metallurgical industry, in agriculture, in the textile industry, etc., are now superfluous. In all countries the so-called "structural" unemployment of capitalist rationalisation has increased tremendously, and the victims can entertain no hopes of being included once more in industry, even during the most favourable seasons. This structural unemployment in the most important industrial countries has by far exceeded the million marks. Rationalisation, as the chief means of effecting capitalist "stabilisation," has led to exactly the opposite results. By throwing a whole army of workers out of industry, it restricted the internal market in all countries. Simultaneously, the industrial possibilities have increased so greatly that they exceed by far the purchasing power of the world market. That which seemed the salvation for capitalism, when it was used in only one or two countries, is now resulting in an economic catastrophe. The efforts of each separate capitalist country to gain the advantage over its competitors by cheapening mass production, is ending for the capitalists in mass overproduction, chaos unfathomable, an acute crisis, and, for the working class, in unprecedented unemployment, the final dimensions and duration of which it is impossible to foretell.

In this connection a few words should be said about the relations between female labour and unemployment. The proletarian women suffer doubly from the consequences of this "era of unemployment": as the wives of the workers, and as hired workers. The poverty and burdens imposed on the workers' wives during unemployment are only too well known to need any going into. During unemployment many proletarian women leave the isolation of their "sheltered home" and are drawn into the vortex of the class struggle.

On the other hand, numerous proletarian women who hitherto knew nothing of hired labour are themselves forced to register on the labour exchange thanks to the evermore frequent unemployment of the "breadwinner."

Driven by relentless need, these women in most cases are prepared to work for the lowest wages, in the worst conditions, if this can in the least serve to alleviate the position of their family. (1)

It goes without saying that a very large number of these women present themselves on the labour markets in the capacity of hired labour power, taking their stand in the permanent army of hired workers and employees. Thus we see the paradoxical phenomenon, that unemployment, which turns part of the non-toiling proletarian women into industrial workers, in the self-same way creates conditions which still further extend and deepen unemployment.

(1) Besides women, formerly independent craftsmen, journeymen and peasants are also drawn into the industrial apparatus in the capacity of hired labour power.

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The ever-growing application of female labour and unskilled labour power in general, which we are now able to observe, is facilitated and promoted by the consequences of rationalisation, which divides complicated processes of labour into simple operations and transfers heavy muscular work to machines, etc. This increased number of women taking up hired labour primarily in industry (the employers being attracted by the low wages paid to women), this industrial mobilisation of a new section of the proletariat, is taking place despite the fact that a huge reserve army of workers is knocking at the doors of the factories in all countries. The employers' greed, their desire to increase their profits by exploiting the cheap labour power, drowned their fears of the social and political consequences of too protracted and stubborn unemployment. This explains the two-fold feature which we are now able to observe---on the one hand, the increasing employment of the industrial labour of women. On the other hand, as the economic crisis grows greater, we see the growing number of unemployed women.

Rationalisation is the chief cause of the mass unemployment. However, it is not the only cause. The permanent depression in which various important industries, employing many millions of workers have found themselves ever since the world war, plays a most important part. Mention should be made of the mining and textile industries as two of the most important branches. In both these industries the depression has been made more acute by the organisation of similar industries in countries which were formerly huge markets (for the textile industry, in the Far East, etc.), or by the reorganisation of the industrial apparatus for war purposes. England suffers especially from the results of this development, one-fourth of the workers formerly being employed in the industries which are now passing through a crisis.

Since the end of 1929 the world crisis has become the most important factor in the growth of unemployment.

In many respects, as a result of its huge dimensions, unemployment has become the determining factor in the position of the working classes. Even in those countries where social-insurance is relatively highly developed during unemployment, only the minority of the unemployed are in receipt of a very small part of their former earnings, paid out as benefits. Thus in these countries, too, unemployment implies lowered living standards for millions of proletarian families, falling far below the fixed living minimum. It likewise implies fresh burdens for those who are still at work, who are forced, from their already miserable earnings, to support the unemployed members of their families.

It goes without saying that this applies all the more to those countries where there is no unemployment insurance at all and where the entire burden of maintaining the unemployed is imposed directly and exclusively on the working class itself---and these countries comprise the overwhelming majority, including the United States. In view of the present mass nature of unemployment, all the working class achievements gained in wage agreements and during economic disputes are not only wiped out, but for the most part are more than made up for by losses in wages as a result of short time and unemployment.

Moreover, especially during the last few months, there have been numerous examples of the heroic struggle conducted by the unemployed against starvation. Simultaneously, however, in a number of countries, this period of permanent and ever more acute mass unemployment is characterised by a numerical falling off in the economic struggles organised on the initiative of the employed workers.

In some big industrial countries during the last two years the number of strikes, as well as the number of involved, and their duration, had decreased. The initiative of the workers, directed at struggles to improve their working conditions and wages, has been weakened under the influence of unemployment and the defeatist and disruptive activities of the social-fascist leaders that accompany this. The working class is not

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yet fully in a position to coordinate the activities of employed and unemployed. At the same time the initiative of the employers, who are conducting an offensive against the working class, has drawn new strength from the mass unemployment and the still further worsened conditions of labour. It goes without saying that the conditions required for the success of this employers' offensive, based on mass unemployment, is the active assistance of the social-fascist leaders. The capitalists have succeeded in making the broadest possible use of this support. At the most critical moments the reformist leaders enter the bourgeois governments, they take upon themselves, and in some countries even monopolise police functions they have become active organisers of strikebreaking in unofficial struggles of the proletariat, etc.

Needless to say, however, this weakened activity of the workers who are still in industry, resultant upon the pressure exerted by unemployment, can only be temporary. The revolutionary vanguard will all the more decisively concentrate its forces on the task of overcoming this tendency---on the task of uniting the forces of the employed and unemployed, who even to-day quite often are split by the treacherous tactics of the reformists. It is the duty of the vanguard to organise their struggles, and by mobilising the masses who suffer most, by uniting the movement of the unemployed and employed to lead the proletariat to decisive struggles against capital.

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UNITED STATES

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There were at least 6,000,000 unemployed in the United States last winter. No precise figures regarding the amount of unemployment in the country exist, for the dollar kings make wide use of the tactics offered by throwing out smoke-screens not only in wartime but also in the war against the workers. No State labor exchanges exist, no State benefits, nor any other measures for relieving the unemployed.

Everything is being done by the capitalists to create the impression that unemployment is only the consequence of some sort of organisational hitch in industry which can be overcome, and will be, with the assistance of the "organising talents" that it is common knowledge every American possesses. For this reason, the absence of any statistics covering unemployment is perfectly logical. Why should one show in black and white to the workers the full extent of the crisis, why sharpen their understanding to a comprehension of their position, and rouse them to "undesirable demands and decisions." It is far more sensible to gloss over the crisis, to hoodwink the broad masses, and to console the unemployed with false hopes of a speedy betterment in their lot.

In the whole of this business America's employers of labor are not interested in the fate of the unemployed but in the problem of how to use the labor power thus running waste. We will therefore attempt here to get at some idea of the extent of unemployment and the position of the unemployed according to the figures that serve the American capitalists to analyse their production. Of particular importance in this regard is an analysis of the index of production and employment of labor; and here we may first give that of the Federal Reserve Board, viz.:

Year	Production in Basic Industries (1923-25 equals 100)	Ratio of Employment in Working Plants.
1923	101	104
1924	95	96
1925	104	100
1926	108	101
1927	106	99
1928	111	97
1929	118	100

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This means that from 1923 to 1929 production rose by 17%, the number of workers in production falling at the same time by 4%.

A still more unfavorable picture is drawn by the figures of the U.S. Labor Statistics Bureau whose indexes cover nearly 3,500,000 industrial workers and railroaders. According to this index, the development of employment in the manufacturing industries has been as follows:

Employment in Manufacturing Industries (1926 equals 100).

1923	108.8
1924	98.2
1925	99.2
1926	100.0
1927	96.4
1928	93.8
1929	97.5
October	98.3
November	94.8
December	91.9

The reduction in the number of workers is seen to still greater effect in the indexes covering the various industries than in the average index, as the following table reveals:

<u>Textiles:</u>	1923	116.1
	1929	99.4
<u>Wood Industry</u>		
<u>& Paper Pulp</u>	1923	110.1
	1929	97.9
<u>Leather</u>		
<u>Industry</u>	1923	110.7
	1929	92.8
<u>Tobacco</u>		
<u>Industry</u>	1923	116.9
	1929	93.6

In this reduction in the number of employed workers (with production mounting all the time) you have the results of the steadily expanding mechanisation and rationalisation of production. This is supported by the figures of the U.S. Labor Statistics Bureau relative to the increase in output per working hour. Here we compare 1927 output with 1914 and 1925:

Percentage Increase in 1927 compared with 1914 and 1925.

	1914	1925
Iron & Steel	55	1
Boot & Shoe Industry	24	8
Tanning	41	5
Stockyards	26	4
Oil Refining	82	2
Paper	40	10
Cement	54	12
Automobiles	178	
Rubber Tyre Production	292	11
Flour Milling	59	11
Sugar Manufacture	33	0

In some branches of industry output per working hour has risen so high that in spite of the considerable increase in production since 1914 the total number of working hours have even fallen off ABSOLUTELY. In other branches of industry the increase in working hours has been very slight indeed. Let us again consider the materials offered by the Labor Statistics Bureau.

BLAST FURNACES: the index of working hours fell from 100 in 1914 to 77 in 1927.

In BOOT & SHOE MANUFACTURING the number of working hours fell during the same period by 1%, production increasing by 25%.

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In TANNING the number of working hours in 1927 had fallen by 14%. OIL REFINING production increased 4½ times, whilst the number of working hours increased only 2½ times.

In the CEMENT industry production increased almost 100%, but the number of working hours rose only by about 25%.

In this regard the AUTOMOBILE industry is of special interest. Here the index of employment rose most of all:

In 1923 it equalled 93.0

and in 1929 it equalled 116.9

Despite the absolute growth in the number of working days in this industry, it constitutes one of the most brilliant examples of a shrinkage in the demand for labor following on rationalisation. Whereas the number of working hours has risen by 158% compared with 1914, the production of this industry had grown, as in 1927, by 613%.

In the manufacture of RUBBER TYRES a still bigger difference is seen--the number of workers having risen by 97%, and production by 673%.

In conclusion we may cite an example where the amount of production remains practically unchanged, while the productivity of labor keeps rising. In the FLOUR MILLS production has risen by 2% altogether whilst the output per hour has gone up 59% so that the total amount of working hours has fallen off by 36%.

We may give further figures regarding the reduction in the number of workers in 1929 compared with 1926 in the STEEL INDUSTRY (given on Page 530 of the "American Federationist" for May 1930):

	24% less employees in 1929				
Bessemer converters	8%	"	"	"	"
Open-Hearth furnaces	18%	"	"	"	"
Puddling Mills	9%	"	"	"	"
Blooming mills	11%	"	"	"	"
Plate mills	17%	"	"	"	"
Bar mills	14%	"	"	"	"
Standard rail mills	6%	"	"	"	"
Tin-plate mills					

The increase in the productivity of labor shown in the above examples are characteristic of the development in practically all U.S. industries in recent years. To a certain extent the slight reduction in the working week has lessened the influence of this process on the amount of employment in the country; yet nonetheless U.S. capitalism has already reached that limit where the basic industries have ceased to offer an ever-widening field for the absorption of labor power. From 1910 to 1920 the number of workers engaged in the different industries, mining, and railway transport increased approximately by three million. Since then rationalisation has resulted in the labor market first experiencing stagnation and then a retrogressive movement. According to figures of the Labor Department, from 1923 to 1927 one million workers had been thrown idle in various branches of industry, 100,000 in mining, and also 100,000 in railroad transport. These 1,200,000 workers thus squeezed out of production have flooded the labor market together with the one million workers who have been thrown out of agriculture and are now looking for work in industry. These figures are already out of date now because the race that is always going on between the machine and human labor power still continues and under the conditions created by modern capitalism mechanization keeps on squeezing the workers out of production.

"The American Federationist" of April 1930 (page 455) gives a few examples.--Here they are:

"In eight years, a rubber company increased its output from 32,000 units a day to 57,000 units, or about 78 per cent. At the same time its production force decreased from 24,000 to 16,500 or about 30 percent.

A sugar refinery erected to produce 2,000,000 pounds of sugar a day with 500 men four years ago now produces 3,500,000 pounds with 400 men.

A textile mill employing 5,100 workers who produced 137,000 yards of cloth, changed its machinery and methods almost overnight and produced

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the same yardage with 3,100 men.

Railroad efficiency has compelled 200,000 men to seek employment in other fields. Instances could be multiplied.

Many thousands of musicians are unemployed as a result of the introduction of the "talkies."

These are the three factors responsible for structural unemployment in the United States: the throwing out of workers from industry, also from agriculture, and the growth of population.

Naturally, not all the workers belonging to these groups remain without work. A number of new industries and industrial areas have been formed which can absorb labor power. In the automobile industry, in the apparatus of distribution, in the theatrical industry, cinemas, and elsewhere, in the municipal services, liberal professions, etc. the absolute number of employed persons has grown to a fair extent, although relatively it has decreased. The number of persons in work have increased, though mainly outside the producing industries---in the professions and in personal and other services, though the greater part are in branches catering for the needs of the big bourgeoisie.

Mitchell, member of the Hoover Commission to study recent changes in American economic conditions, most optimistically declares that following on the extension of economic activity, especially in the group coming under the heading of "miscellaneous" industries, and on commercial activity, the possibility has been created during the last seven years of using the labor power of approximately 4,500,000 wage earners.

Other observers arrived at the same conclusions. Leo Wollman---also a member of the Hoover Commission---comes to the conclusion that from 1920 to 1927 1,400,000 new workers were absorbed in trade, 970,000 in transport and communications, and 630,000 in the building trades. The "miscellaneous" industries have been responsible for the biggest absorption of labor. This group includes musicians, stage artists, employees of banks and insurance companies, hotel employees, barbers, cinema workers, garage hands, automobile motor mechanics, etc. The number of persons engaged in this group has grown almost to 2,500,000.

In the same April issue of 1930 the "American Federationist" gives (page 456) the following examples of the growth in employment:

"In the last eight years, however, the increased automobile sales have necessitated employment of 750,000 or more salesmen and garage employees. New hotels have added 500,000 to their staffs. Telephone companies added 78,000 to their wage rolls. Bobbed hair and the popularity of beauty parlors, it is estimated, have taken another 200,000."

Now, even if we do accept all these most optimistic calculations as correct; and further take it that as from 1920 from four and a half million to five million new workers have been placed in jobs, what is the importance of this increase if the consequence of squeezing workers out of industry and agriculture---plus the result of the growth of population---means that not less than nine million candidates are lining up to claim these jobs?! Thus, during a single decade, as the result of structural changes in industry, a reserve army counting not less than four million persons has been created in the USA.

The other side of the medal of the much-vaunted prosperity of America---with all its industrial successes, its creation of new branches of industry bringing in millions in profits, with its fantastic stock exchange circulation, and its wealth, automobiles, labor-saving machinery and so on---is this growing army of beggars many millions strong, an army of workers squeezed out of production, of men who are not needed, who are "surplus", and army of unemployed.

It must be remembered that such a level of unemployment is the normal accompaniment of American prosperity. No statistics cover this unemployment, nothing is done to take keep any track of it whatever. It remains the hidden side of the medal of prosperity. According to figures of the American Federation of Labor, during the last twenty-seven months before the crisis the average of unemployment among its members was 9%.

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After the economic crisis had developed, the number of unemployed increased considerably. Production rapidly fell. The first to feel the blow were the luxury trades, but the crisis did not stop there. In the automobile, iron and steel and even in the coal industries---everywhere-- we see a considerable decline in production. For the space of six months the volume of production dropped as much as it had increased previously in five years of prosperity. It will be readily realized what effect this has had on the labor market. Among trade unionists unemployment has increased more than double. During the first months of this year over 20% of union members were out of work, a position the like of which has not been seen for years back. Among the building workers unemployment has actually risen to 43%. Unemployment (we take the figures for March 1930) has hit hardest of all at the centers of the metal manufactures and automobile industry---Birmingham, Alabama, 20% unemployed; Chicago 25%; Cleveland 25%; Detroit 25%. Unemployment is also very high in the textile centers of the North which just before the crisis were already suffering from much unemployment due to the migration of this industry to the South.

It can be recorded that the usual summer fall in unemployment this year is not nearly so considerable as is generally the case. Even Hoover's campaign has failed to lift construction to last year's level.

With the constant excess of labor power that is going begging, only the strongest and most suitable unemployed workers capable of yielding a profit to the boss can count on getting any work at all, even if that work be temporary. At 40 years of age the worker in the USA has reached the dead end when it becomes most difficult for him indeed to find a new job. A questionnaire circularized by the All-America Association of Industries brought the fact to light that 30% of the plants questioned have fixed a definite age limit when it comes to hiring new workers---in most cases 40 years, the maximum being 45. These figures do not show what percentage of production falls to the share of this 30% of working plants and what number of workers they employ, but even the "American Federationist" recognises that they probably represent the majority, for as a rule it is the biggest plants that generally apply the boss policy most consistently. In many employment bureaus a necessary part of the fittings is a prominent notice: "If you are forty you need not apply. We want speed and production." In this connection it is interesting to take note of the influence exerted by the GROUP INSURANCE system effected by plants for their employees. At the present time this system is another excuse for the employers to rejuvenate their labor power. The point is that the risk and expenses bound up with insuring workers increase the older the insured persons are, and for this reason in practically all plants which have introduced group insurance a perfectly definite and in most cases very low age limit has been set for new workers taken into the firm's employment. "Then what must a man over 40 do?" The director of one of these plants was asked. "Keep his old job." was the laconic answer.

William Green, President of the AFL, states that the losses in wages suffered by the working class owing to unemployment during the first quarter of 1930 exceeded a billion dollars; and it must be kept in mind that he was going on the figure of a total of 3,700,000 unemployed, which is considerably below their actual numbers.

In face of this unemployment the AFL is only worried about one thing---how to safeguard the country against Bolshevism and save capitalism from unnecessary losses. In an article under the bombastic title of "Constructive Progress or Doles", Green is against the introduction of unemployment benefit and demands instead that capitalist economy be developed along planned lines. In addition, he very modestly suggests that the unemployment census authorized by Congress "should be a regular feature of the decennial census"---every ten years! More for the curiosity of the thing than anything else, we may further add that this "Working class" organisation recently advocated the idea in its central organ of a

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"year's rest" (1) for the purpose of reducing unemployment.

Owing to the absence of any unemployed relief whatever, the position of the out-of-works in this, the richest country in the world is at least just as bad as in the most backward countries of Europe. In spite of the wonder-talk of the enchanted reformist bureaucrats and bourgeois hack-writers visiting America regarding the high wages paid in that country, the mass of the workers possess practically no savings of any value at all. On the contrary, owing to the wide distribution of the installment buying in America which enables them to purchase all manner of things, the broad masses of the people simply mortgage their wages. For this reason, with the oncoming of unemployment, large numbers of unemployed workers find themselves in a hopeless fix. They cannot even use their things as securities. Hunger awaits them and the loss of comfort.

A common feature at such times are the long queues lining up to enter the few flop-houses (where the only convenience for the worker is a chance of spending the night in some cellar lying on some old newspapers he may have picked up); then the endless breadlines queueing up to get the bread issued by the "rich philanthropists" of the land; and the lines, thousands long, that take their stand in the bitter cold of night at some factory-gate just because the rumour has got around that "hands" are needed---these are all facts that throw a hard light on the position of the 6,000,000 unemployed who may drop dead where they stand for all the boss cares in the wealthy United States where the dollar sun never sets on the Morgans, the Rockefellers, and their like.

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GREAT BRITAIN

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In Britain there are no big fluctuations between winter and summer unemployment, no abrupt swinging of the pendulum of unemployment throwing idle hundreds of thousands of men and women at a time as is to be clearly seen in the case of countries with highly rationalised industries.

In Britain there exists a lot of unemployment which for some time now has been slowly but steadily climbing upwards still higher. Beginning from 1923 unemployment among those coming within the scope of the National Insurance Scheme has been moving at the following ratio;

1923	-	11.7%
1924	-	10.3%
1925	-	11.3%
1926	-	12.5%
1927	-	9.7%
1928	-	10.8%
1929	-	10.5%
1930 Jan.	-	12.6%
Feb.	-	13.1%
March	-	14%

This reveals that the British bourgeoisie's prophecies that the decline in unemployment observable in 1927 was going to continue proved unwarranted.

Owing to Britain's big export trade, the country is so closely bound up with international economic conditions that the result of rationalisation in other countries had already begun to make themselves felt a good while back on her own labor market---at a time, too, when rationalisation in British industries had been developed only to a very slight extent. However, with the formation of "His Majesty's Labor Government" a new phase was begun. With real zeal and enthusiasm its Laborist Ministers are getting down to the job at this belated hour of rationalising British capitalism. The abrupt rise in the unemployment figures in recent (1) By this "year's rest" the American Federationist understands the granting of a year's holiday paid for by industry to a definite percentage of the workers---about 5%.

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months is due in considerable measure to these efforts of Labor's Ministers. The relative stability of unemployment—even although at a high figure—that was characteristic of recent years has undergone a change which sees the intensification of unemployment, as the following table shows:

Number of Insured Unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland (in thousands)

Month	1927	1928	1929	1930
January	1375	1191	1434	1534
February	1208	1139	1430	1582
March	1115	1071	1168	1731
April	1075	1171	1198	-
May	1015	1143	1165	-
June	1082	1139	1176	-
July	1055	1354	1188	-
August	1076	1367	1190	-
September	1075	1384	1217	-
October	1132	1421	1270	-
November	1172	1439	1323	-
December	1121	1565	1552	-

These figures by no means indicate the total number of the unemployed in the country. There must be added a large number of unemployed drawing Poor Relief as well as a large number drawing no benefit whatsoever. According to figures of the National Unemployed workers' movement which is well informed as to the numbers of the unemployed not drawing benefit and struck off the register, the actual number of unemployed exceeds the number drawing benefit by not less than three-quarters of a million. The former Conservative Government and the present Labor Government can divide the honors equally when it comes to which of them has done most to deprive such large numbers of the unemployed of the "dole"; in fact, under "Labor" there have been more unemployed struck off benefit, and they are keeping it up. During its first six months of office the Labor Government deprived the unemployed of the sum of £2,368,656 (which is nearly 46 million marks), by turning down applications for benefit (after such application has been refused, a second application may only be submitted in six weeks time).

Under Margaret Bonfield's direction the conditions governing the issue of benefit for women have also been made worse. By operating the infamous "not genuinely seeking work" clause for all it is worth, the Labor Government withdrew the dole in the space of six months from 4,369 women more than did the Conservative Government in the same number of months. Further, the Labor Government has beaten all records ever set up by the Conservative Government in operating the no less notorious clause "unable to find suitable employment" by taking 3,000 more women off benefit than the Die-Hards ever did.

The following table shows the distribution of unemployment in the country:

	Approximate No. Insured, Aged 16 to 64 July 1927	Percentage unemployed at end of March 1930		
		Men	Women	Total
Wales	583,190	25.1	14.1	23.9
Northern Ireland	285,400	21.3	18.9	20.4
Northwestern Area	2,119,500	18.8	20.9	19.5
Scotland	1,270,390	17.1	16.6	17.0
Northeastern Area	1,985,640	17.3	14.7	16.7
Midlands	1,793,090	12.3	13.1	12.1

Altogether, in these areas (which are of outstanding importance industrially and where over nine million insured workers live), unemployment is over 18%.

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On comparing the above figures with those areas in a "favorable" position to which bourgeois economists make reference so often, we find the figures to be:

London Area	2,214,430	8.6	4.7	7.4
Southeastern Area	894,200	8.3	5.6	7.7
Southwestern Area	839,200	10.4	7.1	9.6

On analysing unemployment from the viewpoint of its distribution among the different industries, we see that in practically all in which a large number of workers are employed the percentage of unemployed is at its maximum, as the following table reveals:

Mining	1,074,710 insured and	14.5% unemployed
Building Trades	825,980	16%
Engineering Trades	586,750	13.8%
Cotton Trades	554,790	27.1%
Steel & Rolling Mills	178,720	26.1%
Shipbuild.&Repairing	204,500	27%
Wool & Worsted Yarn	239,060	21.9%
Municipal Services	164,430	27.7%
Dockers & Water Transport Workers	171,220	36.1%

It is plain that among the industries most hardly hit by unemployment are to be found precisely those industries based mainly on the export trade. This means that the solution of the problem of unemployment in these branches of industry depends to a certain extent on no internal measures that can be applied in Britain.

Just let us take the TEXTILE INDUSTRY by way of example. In this industry there are no less than 1,300,000 insured persons (nearly 800,000 women and 500,000 men). In the cotton branch alone over half a million workers are employed. Seven-eighths of the total output is exported. Britain's share in the world trade in cotton goods in the period 1900 to 1912 stood at 70%. For the period 1923-25 it had fallen to 50%, since when this drop has continued all along. The consequence is appalling unemployment. In the cotton branch 27% of the workers had no work at all. For many years the short-week was widely adapted in this industry, each worker being employed no more than three days a week. At the present time less than one-third of the cotton workers are employed a full week. In engineering and in coal mining the position is the same. It is utterly impossible to get back to the old level of employment for the workers, and in some cases for the reason that the countries for whose markets these industries used to produce have themselves become producers; and in some cases have even become dangerous competitors in other markets formerly held by Britain---e.g. the Japanese textile industry in China, India and elsewhere. In Britain you get today a constant surplus of labor power in the different key industries which the British bourgeoisie have at last been compelled to reckon with.

In 1928 an industrial committee was set up to effect the transference of unemployed workers from depressed areas which was instructed to study the position on the Labor market and to ascertain which districts and industries would probably never again be in a position to provide work for their unemployed and also to elaborate suggestions for the transfer of these workers to other districts and other trades. About the middle of the year the committee published its report which put an end to all illusions that might ever have been entertained regarding the character of the unemployment Britain is suffering from.

Let us now briefly consider the question of whether it is possible at all to undertake any such transference of labor (here advanced as a remedy) within the framework of Britain's industrial machine.

We have already seen that unemployment has all the important industrial areas in its grip. Now, how about being able to transfer labor from one industry to another? In the debates on unemployment that have taken place in Britain much weight has been laid on what are called the new industries as against the "old" export trades. It is on them that Britain

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must lay her hopes. They are developing favorably and it is they, we are told, that can settle the problem of unemployment.

Yet, it only needs a comparison of a number of insured workers in the "old" and the "new" branches of industry to convince oneself that in all the most important new industries lumped together there are not employed even half the number of workers engaged in the textile industry alone. This the following figures show:

<u>"old" Industries</u>	<u>No. Insured Workers.</u>
Coal Mining	1,074,710
Shipbuilding	204,500
Textile Industry (All Branches)	1,215,420
Iron & Steel Trades	178,720
Engineering	586,750
 <u>"new" Industries</u>	 <u>No. Insured Workers.</u>
Chemicals, including Explosives & Rayon	124,280
All branches Electric Trades (Approximate)	196,010
Manufacture & Repair Motorcycles, Cars & Planes	245,410

This being the position, it is not at all surprising that the only plan the Baldwin Government could submit to solve the unemployment problem---the transference plan---had the bottom thoroughly knocked out of it. Baldwin appealed to 150,000 British employers begging each of them to find a job for at least a single unemployed man. In a month he had an answer from 1,000 of them---taken altogether, they were prepared to find jobs for 2,000 unemployed. The further fate of this plan is enveloped in a dark obscurity.

The transference of labor power is impossible at a time when the key industries are beginning to find hundreds of thousands of their workers needless for them and are therefore squeezing them out of production; whilst the "new flourishing" branches of industry can only absorb thousands altogether, at best some tens of thousands of workers.

The attempt at organized transference of labor was bound to end in complete failure. Under the pressure of extreme need, however, fair numbers of unemployed men have attempted to enter new trades. And the result? From the middle of 1928 nearly 90,000 miners, 4,000 shipyard workers, 80,000 textile workers, and 30,000 workers formerly employed in steel rolling mills have changed their trades. What is the position with regard to unemployment in those branches of industry entered by these workers? We find that the percentage of unemployed in the industries in question was:

Percentage of Unemployed in New Industries.

	<u>Middle August 1928</u>	<u>Middle March 1930</u>
Automobile Industry	9.6%	9.8%
Distribution	9.4%	8.8%
Chemicals	7.0%	9.3%

In the machinery of distribution, which has attracted a large number of unemployed owing to the relatively favorable prospects it offers in regard to employment, unemployment has increased over 3% and at the present time has already acquired the character of chronic unemployment. With things in this way, even emigration is proving ineffective---this outlet through which the industrial countries up to now have used to get rid of a part at least of their surplus labor power. During the last few decades practically all the old immigration countries have set up quota barriers against the influx of immigrants. Yet so great is the British empire that until quite recently it was possible to retain the illusion that it is possible to transfer surplus labor power within the

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confines of the Empire. For a long time various governments have been skillfully financing emigration until at last even the rosiest of propagandist descriptions by the Minister for the Colonies can no longer hide the actual conditions prevailing in the Dominions and Colonies. The majority of the immigrants leave Britain without any funds. In the colonies and dominions the labor market is glutted. Once arrived overseas, these people find themselves in such dire distress that they are shortly after driven to try all possible means to get back to Britain.

The hopes thus placed on emigration as a means of reducing unemployment at home have been entirely groundless.

The Conservative Government proved powerless to reduce unemployment, while as regards His Majesty's "Labor" Government, its wholehearted endeavors to promote rationalisation have only swelled the ranks of the unemployed.

The Labor Government was successful at the General Election because of its pledge to give foremost place to the obtaining of work for the unemployed and to set to work immediately to perform that task along practical lines. Within ten months after it came into office, the number of registered unemployed had increased by 400,000 persons!

Since the Labor Government cannot, and does not want to, take the only road that can cut down unemployment, that offered by reducing working hours, all it does is to kick up a lot of noise and to boost those slight measures it is applying which even the Conservatives describe as lacking determination and revealing cowardice and the most limited of outlooks. Mr. Thomas, Lord Privy Seal, has played the commercial traveller for the British bourgeoisie with the object of promoting Empire trade, but unemployment has grown despite all his clownish tricks---and keeps growing. The bourgeoisie are beginning to get afraid of the radicalisation of the masses and no longer believe in the talents of J.H. Thomas. Lloyd George recently got up in the House of Commons to state that as far as the propaganda of communism was concerned he was not so much frightened by Stalin's activities as by the activities of the Lord Privy Seal (Mr. Thomas).

After the experience of the USA, Germany and elsewhere, there can be no doubt whatsoever that the rationalisation measures being applied in Britain will mean the further extension of unemployment. The Labor Government is consciously selling the interests of the unemployed and the working class as a whole to promote the interests of capitalist economy. On January 21st this year worthy Mr. J.H. Thomas frankly announced that: "It was perfectly true that the effect of certain schemes of rationalisation which he was encouraging because they were in the interest of the country must be to add to the unemployed and not to decrease them. It was no good running away from that fact (Times, January 22, 1930, page 8.)."

The national Unemployed Workers' Movement which is working in a ceaseless struggle carried on day by day to organize the British unemployed and to defend their rights, at the same time raises the whole problem of unemployment as it affects Britain, poses the problem in all its bearings, and in its practical activities gives prominence to those objectives and aims and objects for which workers and workless alike can wage a joint struggle if they wish to shake off the curse of constant unemployment that hangs over two million British proletarians.

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GERMANY.

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Germany is a classic example of how unemployment can be used as a means of bringing pressure to bear on the whole working class. In 1928, when industry still bore the halo of the previous year's boom, the employers began moving on a solid front against all the demands for higher wages, basing their objections to any advances in wages on their assert-

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tion that "wage demands were handicapping the development of the boom and preventing the stamping out of unemployment," (this, be it noted, right as the peak of the boom and at a time that was considered a favourable season, the number of unemployed then standing at over three quarters of a million). Two or three months later the employers began shouting that "demands for higher wages were spoiling the boom and were bound to lead to wide-spread unemployment." Hence all that was left for the employers to do was to take a little further step towards a counter-attack and to throw out the slogan of "lower wages to prevent unemployment." And if we follow up the campaign the capitalists were waging in every paper and journal throughout the length and breadth of the land, and watch the campaign they conducted during the negotiations on wages, the parliamentary negotiations, and during the different economic fights that took place, then it is easy to see with what steady insistence the employers kept working away to exploit for their own pockets the distress created by mass unemployment. When the unemployment figures mounted to 3,500,000---of which number no less than one million were drawing no benefit---the employers launched a brutal attack in favour of cutting benefits to still lower rates, until now this campaign has already become an attack all along the line on the entire system of social insurance as a whole.

The following table gives the curve of unemployment in Germany for the past three years:

Month	Seeking work (in 1000s)				Not on benefit (in 1000s).			
	1927	1928	1929	1930	1927	1928	1929	1930
January	2,536	2,012	3,008	3,394	571	541	712	911
February	2,434	1,933	3,229	3,407	547	481	607	452
March	1,910	1,679	2,671		575	466	581	
April	1,613	1,386	1,951		539	485	559	
May	1,362	1,246	1,603		488	489	593	
June	1,192	1,207	1,494		444	482	564	
July	1,041	1,154	1,466		408	508	593	
August	945	1,162	1,476		386	508	593	
Sept.	867	1,159	1,527		376	494	617	
Oct.	884	1,308	1,760		488	654	599	
Nov.	1,255	1,762	2,100		504	346	713	
Dec.	1,926	2,549	2,956		527	916	963	
Minimum								
No. Unempl.	867	1,154	1,466		376	344	359	
Maximum								
No. Unempl.	2,536	2,012	3,229		575	716	963	

It is most important to realise the meaning of these figures. The natural decline in unemployment that occurs every spring is usually used to awaken ungrounded hopes in the minds of the unemployed that there is likely to be a speedy improvement in their position, and, and this is the main idea, to undermine their determination to bring about any betterment in their lot for themselves. Yet, as it happens, this deception that has been practiced so often exerts its definite effect every time it is used. Almost every year, the decline in unemployment in the springtime sees a slackening of the unemployed movement.

In 1927, when the boom was at its height, it was discovered that owing to rationalisation the lowest level to which unemployment fell was over three quarters of a million, although pre-war Germany's lowest unemployment level had been round about 100,000. According to figures of the Konjunktur-Institut, and institution specially organised to study trade cycles, from 1927 to 1928 production maintained itself at approximately the same level all through. Yet the lowest level of unemployment

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mounted from 867,000 to 1,154,000, and then rose to 1,465,000, which means that it stood at 14½ times higher than the average pre-war figures (in 1927 at 8½ times higher).

Bourgeois economists are now talking already of a further increase of the army of the permanently unemployed, and we find E. Bandmann (writing in the "Wirtschaftsdienst"---Industrial News Service---stating openly, when dealing with the discussions on the steady worsening of the unemployment and insurance conditions, that the average number of unemployed for the year was actually over 800,000. Already in 1927, the number of unemployed was equal to 1,049,000, in 1928 to 1,016,000 and in 1929 to 1,454,000. In other words, the annual addition to the number of permanently unemployed is placed at approximately 300,000 per annum which corresponds to the annual increase in the number of persons reaching working age. This compels Bandmann to take it that in 1930 the average number of unemployed will reach 1,700,000 and that this number will continue to increase till the "happy" year when the reduced birth rate of the war years will have its effects on this increase and bring it to a stop.

It must not be thought, however, that a large number of the youth actually become part of the army of the unemployed. On the contrary, for a certain number of years---that is, until their wages catch up with the level of wages paid the other workers---the young workers have even better changes of finding work. Due to the fact that they are paid a lower wage, they squeeze out the "older" workers; and it sounds like irony when we say that "the dangerous age" in as far as it brings unemployment to the worker, is round about 23.

Bandmann's statistical data are very far from the truth. But the influx of fresh labour power on the labour market now represents only two thirds of the pre-war influx, which is fresh proof of the profound internal crisis by which German capitalist economy is affected: since it is not in a position to absorb even this addition to the labour army, notwithstanding the fact that it is below the normal.

The peak of the "crisis winter" of 1926-29 was overshoot last year by something like one million unemployed. Right at the beginning of the economic depression, unemployment exceeded even the dimensions it had reached in the abnormally cold winter of 1928-29. Even such a completely "reliable" witness as the "Frankfurter Wirtschaftskunde" (The Frankfurt Economic Register), has been compelled to confirm the following facts:

"...The rate at which unemployment is spreading is increasing from year to year, and the labour market is glutted to a greater extent than might have been expected, considering the changes in the curve of production. How are we to explain this astounding discrepancy? Production has maintained itself at the same level because the place of human labour power has been taken by mechanical power, and labour productivity has increased to an extraordinary degree; to be brief, because rationalisation has thrown out of the process of production many of the workers formerly employed as producers. These facts are sufficiently well known to all."

It has to be recognised that when the bourgeoisie write for their own consumption, so to speak, we cannot deny that they understand the causes of unemployment and the hopelessness of the outlook for the unemployed.

To-day, in the present conditions of the economic crisis, it is perfectly plain that there will be a considerable increase over last summer's unemployment level of 1,500,000. From the beginning of this year there has been a considerable cut in production in many important industries. In January and February the turnover in commodity production was 15% below that of the same period last year. In the iron and steel trades the curve of production has been falling all the time; and from the engineering branch the news is that there is a further reduction in the number of orders.

In expectation of a fierce struggle on the world market, German industry is adopting precautionary measures. At the present time German

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capitalism is witnessing a fresh and most powerful process of concentration. Big mergers have already taken place in the iron and steel trades, in mining, in the electric trades, and in banking. These mergers have been responsible for further contracting the labour market. With plants shutting down, and production being intensified still more in those plants left working, thousands of workers are being thrown out of industry. The consequences of the unification of the German Bank and the Discount Bank are known to all---7,000 clerks were thrown on to the street; and any amount of further cases of a similar nature could be cited.

Simultaneously, with this organisational merging, rationalisation is being pushed ahead. Output is being increased, yet the number of workers keeps falling relatively, and in some cases even absolutely as well.

From the published balance sheets of the Siemens and Halske and the Siemens-Schuckert firms, which had a gross profit of 31 million marks and 38,200,000 marks respectively, and paid out dividends of 14% and 10% it is to be seen that, compared with 1924-25, their turnover in 1929 had increased by an all-round 50% whilst the number of workers had increased by only 22% all told.

For a very short space of time, the IGF Chemical Trust dismissed nearly 7,000 workers out of a total staff of 112,000, working hours being reduced at the same time by one and two hours a day, bringing them down to 8 hours in all departments. Yet these measures did not affect the volume of production in the slightest.

A like tendency of development is shown by the figures for the Kleckner Concern. For the past year, the number of workers employed in its metal plants has been reduced by about 8%, compared with the average monthly number of workers in 1927-28. Yet this has not reduced production, and has actually increased it by 1%. In the Kleckner Concern's mines, the number of workers has been reduced by about 4½%; yet production has taken the opposite road of development, and has increased by approximately 9%.

In the Ruhr mining industry many technical novelties have been introduced whereby, providing they are used to the full, over 100,000 miners will prove superfluous.

This means that rationalisation in its manifold forms, together with the economic crisis, has prevented even the temporary reduction of unemployment in Germany this year that usually comes in the summer months. It is highly improbable that the figure will fall below two million.

The crisis has affected the trade-union organised workers just as much as the unorganised. And whereas certain trade unionists evidence an outlook that is typical for a labour aristocracy, dream of a secure existence, and sometimes even feel they stand apart from their fellows at the bench who take their share in the class struggle---the appalling scourge of unemployment is tearing these dreams to shreds, and giving the dreamers an object lesson in the fact that, in its epoch of decline, capitalism is not in a position to maintain any broad stratum of labour aristocrats.

Last winter unemployment rose to 66% in certain branches of the building trades. But, even in what are called the boom branches, unemployment this year is higher than it was last year, this being most evident in the case of the metal trades. At the end of 1929 and the beginning of 1930, unemployment stood at an average of 20.3% in all unions affiliated to the General Federation of Trade Unions of Germany, as compared with 16.7% last year; and in February of this year this average reached 23.7%.

A few words require to be said concerning unemployment among the clerical workers. Among them it is remarkable for its duration. Among this grade of wage labour the creation of a body of permanently unemployed loomed up long ago. These permanently unemployed are recruited mainly from the ranks of the older clerks and office workers, who can lay claim to higher salaries than they happened to be getting at work. Cases of being out of work for years on end are not infrequent among these workers.

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In consequence, the number not drawing benefit, i.e., struck off the register, is still larger than among the industrial workers. Hence in 1929, for instance, when unemployment was at its height, 25%, workers and 65% office employees were struck off the books of those on benefit.

Due to the way in which the terms for obtaining unemployment benefit have been made more and more stringent, all as the result of the assistance given by the reformists at the time of the Coalition Government of which they were members, matters have gone to such lengths that at the present time nearly one million unemployed, which is about every third unemployed worker, do not get benefit. This robbery of the unemployed has hit the seasonal workers most of all, although, as it is, the benefits paid out are far too miserable to allow of any one living on them, and just barely save the recipient from starving to death.

Each passing year sees the position of the unemployed getting worse and worse. Recurrent unemployment is beginning definitely to cut down the general level of those sections of the working class particularly affected by this evil. This especially affects the older workers, who are first to have to turn up at the labour exchanges when there is any slight improvement in trade whatsoever, or any seasonal fluctuations, while they are the last to be given jobs.

The periods of unemployment are becoming longer and longer. The statistics show that on October 15, 1929, 40% (or three quarters of a million), of the unemployed drawing benefit had not been working for anything from three to six months---and this was at the beginning of the winter period of unemployment. The fact should also be taken into consideration that the average amount of benefit per family equals 78.83 marks, or nearly one-third of the living minimum for a family of four persons.

Is it any wonder, then, that in 20 large Prussian cities the death rate exceeds the birth rate and that in 1929 the death rate was 13% higher than in 1928? Or, again, that in Berlin over 55% of the post-war marriages are childless? Is it any surprise, either, that in Berlin over 1500 people committed suicide last year?

The number of suicides among the unemployed is growing at an alarming pace. Old and young, men and women, seek this last way out from an indescribable poverty by turning on the gas. Cases of the suicide of whole families are not infrequent.

Now that the appalling distress of the unemployed is being manifested in all its hideous nakedness and it becomes perfectly plain that throughout the whole of this summer at least 2 million workers will remain idle, the employers are getting ready to rain fresh blows upon the working class. Their aim in doing so is to rob the unemployed once more, and to cut benefit right down to the point of the complete abolition of that miserable help the unemployed are being given at the moment of writing. These blows are being dealt at the unemployed, but the actual target is the whole proletariat. The German working class is beginning to realise more clearly than ever that this attack on the unemployed is, at bottom, directed against all the workers as a class. That they are realising this can be seen from the circumstance that the isolated actions of the unemployed growing into general action by the workers and workless together against dismissals, against the robbing of the miserable benefits given the unemployed, against the employers' attack, and for the 7-hour working day.

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P O L A N D

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Since the deflation unemployment has increased very greatly. The rapidly developing economic crisis, however, which at present has submerged the country, has paralysed the most important industrial centres of Poland, and Lodz, the heart of the textile industry, at present is like a dead town. The largest mills are hardly working three days a week at present, in the textile season. Most of the small mills are not working at all. The

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crisis is the result of the indeterminate situation on the markets. The world markets have been flooded with textiles. During the last few years the internal, especially the peasant market, has been an important consumer, but at the present time this internal market has likewise been flooded, and, at least as a result of the agrarian crisis, it is incapable of taking any more goods. In Lodz, during the spring season, only 300 workers out of the huge army of unemployed were given work at the mills.

Despite this, the official statistics recently show a great fall in the number of unemployed for the Lodz textile industry. The PPS "ROBOTNIK" (May 13, 1930) gave the following explanation for this phenomenon:

"During the last week 926 workers received employment and 426 became unemployed.

However, the statistical data show a drop in unemployment of 3,948. Any unemployed worker who does not register, or who is not at home when visited by the inspector, is immediately crossed out of the unemployment list. This is the secret of how unemployment decreased in Lodz."

We see the same depression in the building industry as in the textile industry. The conditions seem too unreliable for banking capital to invest in construction. Even now many buildings begun after the Pilsudski putsch are uncompleted. At the end of March, when the building season should have been in full swing, hardly a thousand workers were given work.

A crisis is also widespread in the metallurgical industry. In the mining industry unemployment is increasing, and "free" shifts (Fuersehechten) being introduced.

Great unemployment is noticeable even among the agricultural labourers, despite the spring sowing season. According to "Robotnik", unemployment among these workers has reached the figure of 300,000, approximately 20% of all the agricultural labourers.

Even the official statistics reflect the worsened economic situation. In view of the fact that these statistics are based on voluntary registration, that the entire apparatus to cover unemployment consists of one central bureau, 22 district bureaux and 437 local agencies, that unemployment among the agricultural workers is not taken into account at all, the official statistics reflecting increased unemployment undeniably have a certain importance.

Registered unemployed in Poland.

	1927	1928	1929	1930	
November	139,919	94,132	125,056	240,765	January
				282,568	February
December	165,268	126,429	196,427	295,612	March
				284,062	April

If we add to these figures only 300,000 agricultural labourers we see that we have to reckon unemployment in Poland at present at not less than 600,000.

Short-time is also very extensively worked, sometimes cutting the working week to two days. The workers employed short-time and who have large families for three days a work earn less than what they would receive as unemployment benefits.

At any rate, only 50% of all registered workers have the good fortune to receive unemployment benefits. The average family gets only half the miserable wages of a skilled worker as unemployment benefits.

The colossal increase in unemployment, which at the end of March affected about one-third of the industrial workers, signifies the economic bankruptcy of Pilsudski's regime.

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CZECHO - SLOVAKIA.
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As from autumn of 1929 a noticeable increase in unemployment is to be seen. Until recently, unemployment in recent years has maintained itself at much about the same level---excepting seasonal fluctuations---all along.

According to the last census, there are 3,913,206 industrial workers and office employees in Czecho-Slovakia. By the terms of the Chent System of insurance used in the country, only trade unionists are entitled to benefit and that for the space of three months. All the TU organisations of Czecho-Slovakia taken together have a total membership of 1,773,979 members according to the figures of the trade unions themselves, the data being undoubtedly much exaggerated. This means that only some 40% of the workers are entitled to benefit, while 60% or over two million have no chance at all of getting this benefit.

It should also be taken into consideration that when it comes to the question of reducing staffs the bosses are more lenient towards members of the "reliable" organisations such as the fascist and reformist unions than they are to members of the revolutionary unions or to the unorganised workers. The consequence is that the percentage of organised workers among the unemployed---and, it follows, of those drawing benefit--- is reduced still more.

It requires to be further pointed out that all trade union central organisations exaggerate the number of their members; and actually, only one-third of the whole proletariat is organised at the most. Members of trade unions are entitled to obtain unemployment benefit for the space of three months only. Now, as it happens, unemployment today very often lasts considerably longer. Which means that a considerable number of unemployed trade-unionists are not covered by the statistics which, according to calculations of the Red Trade Unions, count in only one-eighth of the total number of workers actually idle. In examining the following, official table, therefore, all these reservations must be kept in mind:

Number unemployed drawing benefit in Czecho-Slovakia.
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	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
January	20,369	16,248	4,121	21,819	22,330	9,489	39,199	26,285	12,914
February	20,131	16,121	4,010	36,147	26,729	9,418	40,556	28,039	12,511
March	17,734	13,598	3,136	30,526	20,905	9,621			
April	16,683	12,155	4,528	26,835	16,344	10,491			
May	16,336	9,510	7,046	21,866	11,780	10,086			
June	13,486	6,793	6,675	19,436	9,790	9,646			
July	13,627	6,910	6,717	16,859	7,639	9,220			
August	15,588	7,122	8,466	18,470	8,501	10,173			
Sept.	16,559	7,166	9,390	19,468	8,532	10,936			
Oct.	13,228	5,932	7,296	16,248	7,442	8,806			
Nov.	12,532	6,125	6,407	17,108	8,894	8,214			
Dec.	19,698	12,644	7,054	30,170	18,434	11,736			

Unemployment has affected the German districts worst of all, as larger numbers of industrial workers are concentrated in those parts.

The crisis in the textile trades is of a chronic nature, the country being affected by the general world textile crisis. Since 1918 over 300 mills have been shut down. It was not so very recently that a big textile plant in Brno was closed down and a munitions plant took over the building for its own use---a most symbolic act, to say no more. As far as the extent of unemployment among their workers goes, the textile industry is followed by the metal trades with the glass industry as a close second. In the glass industry the introduction of modern machinery has thrown a large number of workers out of jobs. Just an instance; in bottle manufacturing, a new machine minded by two workers produces 15,000 a day,

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whereas the daily output per worker using his hands and mouth used to be 500 bottles.

In the Jablonec district where many workers engaged in their own homes manufacture cheap glass ornaments, the industry is passing through a marketing crisis which is due partly to Japanese competition. The position of these workers is being made worse still by the introduction of mechanical means of producing these ornaments on a mass scale. The official statistics do not cover these unemployed handicraftsmen who are very badly off indeed.

No general investigation into the influence exercised by rationalisation on employment in industry has yet been undertaken; but a few examples excerpted from the "Social-Democrat" for April 2, 1930 show that in Czecho-Slovakia there is a direct connection between rationalisation and unemployment. One textile mill in the Trautenau district has been able by means of automatic dryers to get rid of three-fourths of the workers engaged in this department. Thanks to the introduction of a new special type of machine, a certain Slovakian pulp mill has raised its productivity 13%. In the Teplice district one chemical plant has introduced synthetic ammonia production according to the American system employed by the U.S. Nitrogen Engineering Corporation. The initial cost though expensive, of the equipment necessary for manufacturing by this process has justified itself to the full and the money has already been earned, since two-thirds of the workers formerly employed by the plant are now no longer needed. In this same district of Teplice a factory manufacturing electric bulbs has introduced new machinery and organised work at the belt, with the result that it has doubled its output. One of the big breweries at Pilsen (Plzen) has introduced bottle washing machinery which cleans 3,000 bottles per hour. The passing on of the bottles through the machine for filling and corking them has been improved to such an extent that production has increased 80% with the same number of workers in the bottling department; and so the tale goes on.

In calculating the number of workers actually unemployed (going on the present number of unemployed persons drawing benefit), we see that nearly 300,000 workers, or almost one-tenth of the whole proletariat are completely idle. Just as large is the number of workers employed a short-week, some of them going into work only three days a week.

The relief provided the unemployed by the terms of the Ghent system is totally inadequate either as regards quantity and quality.

Two million unorganized workers have no chance whatever of getting any such relief. The best proof of the total inadequacy of the Ghent system is seen in the fact that even the hope of getting benefit does not induce the unorganised to join the unions. (The minimum benefit is three Czech crowns a day, the maximum amount 24 crowns a day, for the space of three months). The introduction of the Ghent System has reduced the number of persons entitled to draw benefit by two-thirds. The following table showing the unemployment benefit paid out indicates the huge sum the Czecho-Slovakian bourgeoisie have saved on this item.

<u>State Unemployment Benefit: Expenditure.</u>		
1919	-	255,532,480
1920	-	94,978,185
1921	-	76,159,845
1922	-	209,398,718
1923	-	333,031,994
1924	-	140,056,921
1925	-	20,850,000
1925	-	5,867,834
1926	-	20,032,423
1927	-	17,815,457
1928	-	13,972,784

(The Ghent System was not enforced in the first quarter of this year)
(For the three quarters after the introduction of the Ghent System)¹

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But the other side to the medal is this that union funds, due to the chronic crisis affecting the labor market, are practically spent entirely on providing unemployment benefit. Thus, for instance, 20% of the total receipts of the social-democratic United TU Centre was already being spent in 1928 on relieving unemployed members. The amount of unemployment benefit was ten times greater than that paid during strikes. This is the best proof of the fact that the Ghent system has not only enabled the Government to save an enormous amount of money, but does much to transform the reformist TU organisations into subordinate organs of the machinery of the capitalist State.

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AUSTRIA.

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Unemployment in Austria in 1930 reached the highest figure since 1921. In this small country, with a total population of 6 million, there were nearly 350,000 registered unemployed. More than 25% of the industrial workers were unemployed. It should be pointed out here that the economic crisis only intensified the existing crisis on the labour market, which already was fairly severe. This can be seen from the following table (figures given for end of March each year.)

Y e a r	In Receipt of Benefits	Seeking Employment	Receiving Old-Age Pensions.	Total Receiving Old-Age Pensions and Seeking Employment.
1925	175,580	200,563	-	200,563
1926	202,294	224,972	-	224,972
1927	208,345	236,260	-	236,260
1928	193,449	219,532	23,729	243,261
1929	225,035	252,318	34,809	287,127
1930	231,240	270,769	45,011	315,780

From this it is clear that in Austria too there is a great discrepancy between the number of unemployed in receipt of benefits and the number of unemployed registered on the labour exchanges. The real number of unemployed is still higher. Unemployed over 60 years of age, who get a special old-age dole, should also be considered as persons not in receipt of benefits. Whilst the unemployment benefits fluctuate between 17 and 23 schillings a week, the unemployed in receipt of old-age pensions get altogether 40 - 50 schillings a month (the average wages of an unskilled labourer is approximately 48 schillings a week).

The unemployment benefits are absolutely insufficient, but still worse is the position of those unemployed who have been deprived of the right to benefits, especially in the small towns and districts; they then have to get "poor relief." While the position is very bad in Vienne, in the small provincial industrial towns and districts, where quite often the entire population depends upon one plant, the position is absolutely desperate. The unemployed, deprived of the right to benefit, have to be helped by the municipalities, but these bodies declare that they are unable to do anything because of their own material position.

It is reported that in the provinces there is literally nothing left in the homes of the unemployed to be pawned. Whole families sleep on the bare floor. Whilst the starving unemployed have to bear all the torture of the cold and frosts in the winter, their bedding and clothes are piled up in the pawnshops. Those unemployed who still have a roof over their heads can consider themselves lucky. It will not be too much to say that the homeless unemployed in Austria in very fact are becoming cavemen. Each day the newspapers print stories of the hovels from which the police drive out the inhabitants. A favourite place to build these lawless hovels

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of poverty are the kennels under the bridges on the Danube. In its majestic justice the law "forbids both rich and poor to sleep under the bridges." The police, who can give the unemployed neither work or bread nor homes, can at least take care that the wearying sight of these homeless should not offend the vision of the bourgeoisie.

The Social-Democrats, who in Austria have been rid of the task of independently dealing with the unemployed which their colleagues in Germany carry out so zealously, are engaged instead in doing nothing. The need of the unemployed this winter surpassed anything seen during the last few years. At the same time, the Christian-Social Government prepared to still further worsen the unemployment insurance conditions. The Social-Democrats contented themselves with uttering a few empty phrases, doing nothing, and warning the workers against the Communist slogans which demanded the introduction of the seven-hour working day and that benefits be increased to the level of average wages for unskilled labourers.

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UNEMPLOYMENT IN ITALY.

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According to the fascist statistics, the average number of unemployed during the last few years has stood at 300,000. In January 1930 the number of completely unemployed reached the figure of 466,000. Mussolini, who recently made a speech on unemployment, declared that modern history in foreign countries has been inscribed in blood. The executioner of the Italian working class in his statement added only three superfluous words--- "in foreign countries", because the history of our days, inscribed in blood is especially inscribed in blood in Italy. Not only 400,000, but not less than a million workers can find no jobs in the widely organised fascist industrial apparatus. The position of the unemployed is so desperate that even the fascist terror is unable to restrain them from street actions and often matters go as far as armed clashes leaving dead and wounded behind.

Even the employed workers can only drag out the most miserable existence. As regards the unemployed, their benefits amount to one-third of the average wages, namely, 2.50 - 3 liras a day. The purchasing power of these benefits is expressed at present in 1 kilogram of white bread (2.60 liras). There are few so fortunate, however, who are in receipt of these benefits.

Fascism is feverishly trying to stop the further growth of unemployment. Among the measures thought up by them we might note the following:

In the glass and porcelain industry a special "export" wage has been introduced, 10-15% lower than the "normal". This is done in order to promote exports and stop the extension of unemployment.

In the automobile industry, when working short time the workers are paid for not less than 40 hours a week. As a result, when the position improved the workers have to make up the difference.

All the efforts of fascism, however, are unable to stop the growth of unemployment.

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S C A N D I N A V I A.

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Throughout the whole of SCANDINAVIA there is much unemployment of long duration among the industrial workers.

Taking **NORWAY** first, we find that in recent years there has been an average of 25,000 workers idle every month. During these years it has been on very rare occasions that trade unionists have had less than 20% of their union membership out of work.

In **SWEDEN** the number of unemployed TU members last winter rose to 53,000, which is 16% of the total TU membership in the country. During the last three years the average among trade unionists has been over 10% unemployed.

In **DENMARK** the number of unemployed members of trade unionists has averaged as follows: 22.3% in 1927; 18.4% in 1928; and 15.3% in 1929.

T H E D O M I N I O N S.

In **AUSTRALIA**, which only a few years ago boasted as THE country for British immigrants, unemployment is on the spread. At the present time Australia refuses entry not only to "yellow" immigrants but also considers it undesirable to have immigrants coming in from Europe as well and even from England, the "dear Motherland." This has not prevented the growth in unemployment among the industrial workers, unemployment due to both the Australian and international economic crisis as well as to the process of rationalisation that is beginning in the country. Among trade union members there were 7% unemployed in 1927, 10.8% in 1928, and 11.1% in 1929.

In **NEW ZEALAND** the percentage of unemployed among TU members was 10.1% in 1927, 11.1% in 1928, and 9.5% in 1929.

C A N A D A.

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In **CANADA**, we see an abrupt rise in the amount of unemployment. The percentage affected among trade unionists in 1929 was 4.5, this average rising to 5.7 in 1929, and climbing to 10.8 in January 1930 as against 6.3 in the same month of the previous year.

These figures take no account of unemployment in agriculture which is the key industry in the Dominions and employs large numbers of workers. Yet the farming industry has seen in recent years the introduction of technical improvements which have entirely altered the whole system of cultivation and brought about an extremely restricted demand for labour. The result has been a tremendous development of unemployment among the land workers and a considerable reduction in the periods during which they are employed.

The Dominions know no State unemployment insurance or maintenance for the unemployed or any other form of relief; and as they are very near to "catching up with and out-distancing" the Motherland, the emigration of unemployed workers from the British Isles to the Dominions has come to an almost complete stop.

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THE EAST.

It is rather difficult to give concrete figures for the countries of the Near and Far East. Quite often there is no general census of the population, and only very rarely can unemployment statistics be spoken of.

In general, it should be established that unemployment is very widespread in the countries of the Near and Far East. Below we will dwell in brief on unemployment in the most important countries of the Near and Far East, but preliminarily it is necessary to point out one fact which is a very specific feature in the unemployment problem in the East.

According to the figures of the Red Cross, in 1929 2 million persons died of starvation in China.

The Indian Year Book for 1929 notes that 5 to 6 million people die annually in the Indian provinces from infectious diseases which are the result of poverty and bad working conditions.

The figures of the Red Cross and the Indian statistics, to which we have just referred, characterise the position of the many millions of peasants in the East as a whole, peasants who exist on the starvation level, quite often hardly managing to keep onto it. The chains of feudalism are still strong, and feudal exploitation, side by side with the backwardness of agriculture, have as their result that millions and hundreds of millions of agricultural toilers are on the lowest possible physical level, so that each crisis is liable to cause unestimable damage.

In the West the development of capitalism in the nineteenth century influenced the development of agricultural labour; thanks to the development of capitalism the working hands freed in the countryside found employment in industry. Capitalism broke the chains of feudalism.

In the East, however, capitalism, which is on the downward trend, carries out industrialisation at a very slow pace. The desires of the national bourgeoisie for industrialisation have to contend against the sabotage of international imperialism. In view of the fact that overproduction is clearly manifest in all the most important branches of industry, international imperialism does its best to retain the East as a market for its manufactures for as long as possible. In these countries, from an opponent of feudalism, international imperialism has become its ally; it no longer modernises agriculture, it does not strive to divert the agricultural over-population (which is only a specific form of unemployment) into industrial channels by turning the agricultural workers into an industrial proletariat.

This form of unemployment, of the consequences of which we read in the capitalist press---"famine as a result of the bad harvest and civil war", "epidemics", etc., ---is widespread throughout the East. Here in the East, where, be it said, the industrial population for the most part is still in an insignificant minority, the over-population of the non-industrial, the village population, becomes a specific form of unemployment. This unemployment in the East is one of the factors prompting peasant uprisings and revolutionary peasant movements. The reasons for this are most closely connected with the reasons which give rise to the unemployment of millions of industrial workers in the Eastern countries.

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TURKEY.

In one respect Turkey is a typical example of the unemployment which at the present time reigns in the Near East. The slow pace at which foreign capital pours in, in turn, lessens the rate of industrialisation. In the tobacco, textile and woodworking industries, as well as in the building industry, unemployment is most rife. Because of the lack of finances, the

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number of workers employed is steadily decreasing, and in addition the number of unemployed is being still further increased by the large numbers of labourers coming in from the countryside, in the vain hope to find work. The position of the unemployed is desperate.

E G Y P T.

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The world textile crisis has also affected Egypt, which is one of the chief cotton-cultivating countries in the world. There is great unemployment among the workers engaged in sowing, ginning, and the further handling of cotton. Great unemployment is likewise noticeable in the transport industry.

PALESTINE.

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Palestine deserves notice as it is one of the few countries where unemployment has diminished recently. Approximately from the beginning of 1929, new capital investments increased the demand for working hands, which greatly facilitated the liquidation of unemployment.

In SYRIA and PERSIA, too, we observe an increased demand for labour power as a result of the industrialisation and modernisation of these countries.

J A P A N.

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In respect of unemployment, Japan stands out very prominently amongst the Far Eastern countries. Unemployment among industrial workers is put at a figure of between one and two millions. In November the director of the Unemployment Bureau in Tokio mentioned 1,200,000 as a figure for unemployment in Japan.

There are various causes for unemployment. There is the depression the crisis which was the result of the earthquake, has not yet been overcome. Again, the boycott of Japanese goods on the Chinese market and the depreciation of the silver currency also has greatly affected Japan.

India is introducing protective tariffs against Japanese textiles. The Exchange crash in America has affected the export of Japanese silks, etc., etc. The greatest number of unemployed in Japan is seen in the textile industry, reaching the figure of 850,000, 85% of these being women workers.

In turn, rationalisation is also responsible for unemployment. The textile, metal and other industries are installing the latest machinery, and, as a result of the extreme intensification of labour, production often exceeds many times the increase in labour power. Despite all this, the reformist trade union federation welcomes rationalisation in the name of the workers.

Again, the completion of the public restoration works in the spring of this year played its part in increasing unemployment. The employers lose no opportunity of taking advantage of unemployment to attack wages. In one of the big textile mills which employs 40,000 workers, wages were slashed by 30%. In the cement industry wage cuts amount to 25 per cent.

Poverty among the working class and especially among the unemployed is steadily growing. The Press (for instance the "Japan Times"), looks upon unemployment as the direct cause for the increased number of suicides and crimes. The government, which gave great assistance to the silk manufacturers, promises to take measures to help the unemployed, but it still keeps back the draft bill for unemployment benefits which was drawn up ten years ago. Even the "Japan Times" declares that by this action the government is creating the impression among the people that it gives preference to the capitalists. The Minister for Finance turned down the proposal to assign 1 million yen for unemployment benefits, at the same time endorsing a subsidy to industry to the figure of 10 million yen.

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UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDIA.

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There are no unemployment statistics in India. Up till very recently the government organs did not deal with questions of unemployment in the working class at all, on the grounds that this problem is not urgent for India. Neither did the press deal with these questions. The Indian bourgeois-nationalist papers pay more attention to the question of unemployment among the Indian intellectuals. Under the pressure of bourgeois nationalist public opinion, some of the provincial governments of India (Madras, Bengal, Punjab, United Provinces) even formed special unemployment committees, which were instructed to study the causes of unemployment among the intelligentsia and to suggest means to combat it. Likewise the Bombay Government through the Bombay labour Bureau conducted an investigation as to unemployment among the intellectuals. Several provincial governments considered the reports presented to them by the committees as to the causes of unemployment, and the measures to combat them, but the matter did not go any farther. In particular the Madras government agreed with the opinion of the committee that there are two chief causes for unemployment among the middle class: a) the incorrect understanding of the objects and tasks of education (the government has in view the desire of the Indians to get chiefly, a general education, and b) the hostile attitude of the intellectuals to agricultural labour.

It should be noted here that the extension and development of general education in India, to the disadvantage of special and technical education, has hitherto been supported by the Indian Government, and therefore unemployment among the Indian intelligentsia to a considerable extent is the product of the system of education accepted and supported by the Government itself.

There is no information as to the reports presented by the unemployment Committees, resulting in any concrete measures being taken either by the Indian Government or by the provincial governments.

As regards unemployment among the industrial proletariat, there is very scanty information on this head. The question of unemployment among the industrial proletariat of India only began to attract any more or less serious attention very recently. It began in 1927, when rationalisation measures were carried out in a number of industries (in the railway shops, at the Tata metal works in Jamshedpur, in the cotton industry of Bombay, the jute industry of Calcutta), which resulted in mass dismissals of the workers. The following facts of workers being dismissed as a result of rationalisation during the last few years are to hand:

1. Railway Transport.

a) As a result of RATIONALISATION in 1927, 2,200 workers were dismissed from the Bengal-Nagpur railway shops in Kharagpur and Nagpur, consequent upon which a strike-lockout of railwaymen was declared in Kharagpur in September 1927.

b) In 1928 as a result of rationalisation 2,600 workers were dismissed from the Lilloah railway shops of the East Indian railway, which likewise served as one of the reasons for the protracted railwaymen's strike in this railway centre.

c) Approximately the same number of workers, and likewise as a result of rationalisation, were dismissed in 1928 from the railway shops of the South Indian Railway.

d) Very recently (April 1930) as a result of the strike on the Great Indian Peninsula Railroad, on this line alone 29,000 workers have been dismissed for participating in strike.

2. Marine Transport.

Acute unemployment is to be observed among the Indian seamen, affecting several tens of thousands of men.

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3. Metallurgical Industry.

Extensive dismissals have been carried out, as a result of rationalisation, at the Tata metallurgical enterprises in Jamshedpur. In reply to this a strike was declared in 1926, lasting 5 months. This strike was participated in by 30,000 metal workers. The following agreement was arrived at as a result of this strike: the striking workers to be re-instated in accordance with the requirements of the factories under the new scheme. Those workers who do not receive employment for twelve months are to be considered in reserve, and engaged as vacancies occur. However, the employers made no undertakings as to giving them work.

4. Jute Industry.

According to newspaper information, as a result of the Bengal jute industry going over from the two-shift system to one-shift, and the application of rationalisation measures, there are approximately 60,000 unemployed now. It is possible that this figure is somewhat exaggerated.

5. Cotton Industry.

The depression, and the crisis in the chief branches of industry in India, and especially so in the cotton industry, which have been made still more acute by the present world crisis, resulted very recently (1930) in mass dismissals. Particularly large numbers of workers have been thrown out of the cotton industry of Bombay during the last few months.

The president of the Philanthropic League of Social Service in Bombay, Kanekar, in his verbal statement to the Whitley Commission declared at the beginning of 1930, that in the opinion of the League, at that time in Bombay, there were not less than 25,000 UNEMPLOYED TEXTILE WORKERS, 15,000 of whom had lost employment as the result of 7 mills closing down, and 10,000 as the result of dismissals at other mills. Since then further dismissals have been carried out in the Bombay textile industry. According to approximate calculations, there are NOT LESS THAN 35,000-40,000 UNEMPLOYED TEXTILE WORKERS at present in Bombay. Unemployment continues to grow in the Bombay cotton industry. There is no information on unemployment in other industries.

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In addition to the above extremely inadequate data, we give information on unemployment in the Bombay provinces from an article, entitled "The Tragedy of Unemployment," published in the "Bombay Chronicle" of August 20th, 1929.

According to the author of this article there are unemployed in Bombay:

a) 16,000 skilled labourers in the textile industry, railways, tramways, municipalities, electrical and mechanical workshops and undertakings; b) 12,000 dock labourers, in motor car, taxi and other vehicular transport industries; c) 10,000 ships' crews, ships' saloon staff, waiters in hotels, cooks, confectioners and other domestic servants; d) 10,000 building workers, i.e., masons, stone-chippers, painters, etc.; e) 14,000 people engaged in intellectual labour. The author of the article includes among the unemployed likewise 12,000 petty shop keepers and merchants (eventually who have been ruined, 4,000 persons with no fixed abode, and who never worked for their livelihood, 3,000 pickpockets and petty thieves and vagrants, 6,000 "floating" population: bankrupts, unemployed in higher positions, etc., 10,000 beggars, able-bodied fakirs, leprosy, invalids, etc.

The following facts are known about the organisation of the unemployed.

In 1927, an Unemployed Association was organised in Bombay, under the chairmanship of Jinwalla, a labour leader, which set itself the object of seeking work for the unemployed, irrespective of class, religious

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views, sex, etc.

In 1929 a Union of Unemployed Youth was set up in Madras (evidently of the middle classes) which set itself the object of awakening public opinion to the question of unemployment, which had acquired threatening dimensions in India. There is also a Union of Unemployed Youth in Calcutta.

In 1926, the Bombay City Corporation, which had even nominated a committee to study the causes for unemployment among the intelligentsia and the working class, passed a resolution for the organisation of a Labour Exchange or Unemployment Bureau in Bombay.

It is likewise known that some of the workers' unions (for instance, the All-Bengal Teachers' Association, etc.), have special unemployment registrars, whose functions include finding work for the unemployed.

The unemployed movement has greatly strengthened in India recently. There are reports that measures are being taken in Bombay and Calcutta to organise the unemployed, the initiative emanating from the revolutionary left wing. The unemployed in Calcutta took an active part in 1930 in celebrating Unemployment Day (March 6th). The unemployed textile workers and railwaymen of Bombay hold systematic demonstrations with revolutionary class slogans, under the leadership of the left wing.

These, in general, are all the data which we dispose of. Even from these it is evident that unemployment in the most important industries of India, chiefly in the cotton and jute industries, has by now acquired very large dimensions, and especially in Bombay, has affected those sections of the workers who have finally broken off all connections with agriculture and the village.

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C H I N A.

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The position on the Chinese labour market to a very large extent is determined by the critical situation inside the country. The war-fare of the generals has ruined part of the industrial districts, destroying trade and still further increasing the poverty of broad strata of the peasantry and the urban population.

The mining industry of China is passing through a crisis. The equipment has been partially destroyed, the taxation imposed by the military authorities is extremely high and absolutely arbitrary. In view of this, the number of workers employed during the last few years has been practically halved.

Similar consequences of the civil war, seen in the fall in the number of the workers employed, are to be observed in the other industries. Simultaneously the effects of the world economic crisis are also making themselves felt in China. The tea plantations suffer from Indian and Ceylon competition. The tobacco and match industries are passing through great difficulties. All industries producing articles of luxury for the foreign bourgeoisie are now undergoing a depression. The silk industry, which recently began to feel the effects of Japanese and artificial silk competition, on account of the crisis in the United States, is now finding it very difficult to find markets.

Matters are very much the same in the carpet weaving, silk embroidery and porcelain industries.

It is absolutely impossible to determine the number of unemployed. The press now and again gives casual slight information as to separate districts or industries, but gives hardly a few of these figures, as they have a certain value in representing the position.

Thus, according to newspaper reports, at the beginning of the year in Wuhan there were more than 100,000, in Tientsin between 140 and 150 thousand unemployed. The number of unemployed seamen was put at 60,000.

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In the tobacco and match industries there are 15,000 unemployed, etc.

The Shanghai Bureau of Research, which calculates the number of suicides in Shanghai at 134 each day, puts unemployment among the industrial proletariat of China at half a million. In all probability, this is a very cautious estimate. Besides this unemployment among the industrial workers of China, however, we likewise have to bear in mind the colossal potential unemployment in China among the village poor. An idea of the dimensions of this potential unemployment can be gained from the annual figure of two million deaths from starvation, which was established last year in one of the stricken provinces.

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LATIN AMERICA.

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Unemployment, which existed in Central and South America even before the world economic crisis, has greatly increased as a result of this crisis. As is known, the chief occupation in most of these countries is agriculture, conducted on the one-field system. This form of agriculture leads to the development of big plantations, the ruination of small peasant farms and the formation of an agricultural proletariat.

The growing mechanisation, especially on grain farms, has greatly diminished the demand for agricultural labourers, and has given rise to structural unemployment even in these agrarian countries.

Thus, for instance, in ARGENTINA in 1926-1927 there were 11,440 combines, and in 1928-1929 there were already more than 25,000 combines. Besides this, many other agricultural machines are now being used and the man power employed has decreased by practically 80%.

The imports of agricultural equipment from the U.S.A. to MEXICO increased by nearly 25% in 1928. As a result of this development the expropriation of small landowners and rentiers has greatly increased; the unemployed army is growing.

The mechanisation of agriculture is not limited to grain cultivation. Strong efforts are also made to replace man power by machines in the maize and beet plantations; there can be no doubt that shortly the demand for man power will have substantially diminished on these plantations.

Coupled with the technological causes for unemployment there are the consequences of the world economic crisis. The fall in prices for colonial products has given rise to an acute crisis in all the countries of Latin America. At the coffee and cotton plantations, at the sugar-cane plantations---everywhere mass unemployment is the rule. Often the workers agree to be taken on for keep only, but even in such cases very few can find employment.

The bourgeois press of practically all the countries reports raids by the unemployed on food warehouses and that they attack and fall upon "peaceful citizens." The unemployed flood the towns in thousands in vain hope of finding work. The bourgeois press of Argentina reports cases of unemployed raiding trains carrying provisions. The bourgeois press of Ecuador, where mass dismissals were carried out as a result of the fall in prices for cocoa and the bad cotton yield, reports increased activity of armed bands consisting of unemployed.

All these reports, however, greatly exaggerated and sensational they may be, undoubtedly prove the terrible poverty of the unemployed agricultural proletariat of Latin America. However, unemployment is not only a life in agriculture. Industry, though weakly developed in these countries, has also been greatly affected by the crisis. The drop in prices for silver resulted in Mexico in a great restriction of silver output. In the oil industry the number of workers has been cut to approximately one-third

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In the textile industry the short week is very extensively worked, and mass dismissals are being carried out. In view of the prohibitive measures carried out by the United States against immigration from Mexico unemployment is made still greater. According to official data the number of unemployed in Mexico last winter reached the figure of 300,000. The Unitary Trade Union Federation, however, holds that the number of unemployed is more than half a million.

In other Latin American countries, as in Mexico, output in the light industries is being restricted and unemployment is very widespread. In Argentina and Uruguay the pack-houses are in a critical position. In the textile industry of Brazil, where there are altogether 140,000 textile workers, in the winter of 1929-1930 there were more than 30,000 unemployed.

The only country on the American continent relatively only slightly affected by unemployment is Chile. But without a shadow of doubt, as a result of the increased production of artificial fertilisers in the countries where the products of the salt-petre industry are sold, a crisis is not very far off in this industry, which will affect the entire economic life of the country.

In view of the unsatisfactory statistical data at our disposal, it is difficult to establish an exact figure for unemployment in the countries of Latin America. Without fear of exaggeration, however, it may be stated that unemployment was not less than 1,500,000 in the critical period of last winter.

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tionary union failed to organise an elected strike committee. As a result of the work carried out by the "Knights of Labour" towards the end of the strike 100 new members was gained (before this the strike only had 13 members in the district), and 22 workers joined the Party. After 10 weeks of struggle the reformists liquidated the strike, calling a miners' meeting which the unorganised and those belonging to the revolutionary were not permitted to attend. At this packed meeting the reformists gained a majority vote for calling off the struggle.

Textile Workers' Strike in Renaix.

The textile workers' strike (8,000) started as a result of the employers' refusal to grant a wage increase.

The textile workers have an agreement whereby the employers are supposed to increase wages in accordance with the increase in the cost of living index, and for nearly a whole year the textile workers' wages in Renaix were not increased despite the fact that the cost of living index had gone up considerably during this period. The workers declared a strike despite the reformists who proposed that the employers' decision be awaited. Then, deciding to smash the strike, which they declared "wild", the reformists applied an artful manoeuvre. They introduced their members into the strike committee, who opposed the strike, in order to smash it from within.

At the meeting called by them they succeeded in getting a resolution passed expressing confidence in the strike committee, which advocated the resumption of work, asserting that the employers would increase wages. The strike ended in most of the workers being persuaded, and after 10 days of struggle work was resumed, but 15 days later the struggle was renewed and the demands of the workers were conceded. Neither the RILU supporters nor the CP took any part in this struggle. They limited themselves to superficial agitation.

Miners' Strike in Limbourg.

3,000 miners in Limbourg entered upon the struggle in February 1930 against the new regulations proposed by the employers. Most of the workers in this district are foreign born and unorganised. The Mineowners brought all possible pressure to bear on them, counting upon them accepting everything, being foreign-born. The strike broke out spontaneously despite the reformist and Christian trade union bureaucrats, and the Communists led it, electing a strike committee and presenting a series of demands: abolition of all fines, improved labour protection, wage increases, retention of the eight-hour day, and negotiations only through the strike committee. The employers applied for help to the police. A state of martial law was declared. Meetings were broken up, and the revolutionary leaders were arrested. The reformists did their best to spread rumours that part of the strikers had already resumed work and thus they succeeded in smashing the front of the strikers.

Most of the workers resumed work, and the strike ended in defeat. As a result of the struggle the influence of the "Knights of Labour" and of the Communist Party increased among the workers.

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