

The Crisis Grows Sharper

By I. AMTER.

THE crisis in American industry is rapidly engulfing the country. Step by step American industry is going into a slump, which threatens to have the most widespread consequences. The capitalists, acting under the influence of Hoover, are trying to cover up the situation; but little by little, despite the "assurances" of Hoover as to the "soundness of industry," the facts are coming out—facts that point clearly to the deepening of the crisis.

The very fact that the manufacturers promised to institute no wage reductions, followed by the pledge of William Green that there would be no movements for wage increases, suggested the idea to some workers, that a period of "stabilization" was at hand.

How rude the awakening! Wage slashes are taking place with regularity, hours continue to be lengthened. Speed-up continues with all its horrors! The number of children working in industry is growing. The number of the unemployed grows daily. And going hand in hand with it—and defying the alleged power of William Green—the number of strikes is mounting, involving larger and larger numbers of workers!

In the month of November unemployment increased 3.1 per cent, the slump in the auto industry amounting to 17.3 per cent compared with October, and 23.1 per cent compared with November, 1928. Wages decreased 6.8 per cent—and this in face of the "promises" of the manufacturers!

That this is not a temporary phenomenon may be gathered from the periodicals written for the bankers and manufacturers. Thus the *Annalist* of Dec. 20 contains the following:

"The decline in business continues, led by automobiles, steel and freight traffic. In other industries, with a few exceptions, curtailment appears to be spreading, with consequent losses in employment and wages."

Speaking of the decrease in business activity, the journal continues:

"This decrease stands, moreover, as the greatest which has occurred in any one month in the entire post-war period; and in all probability it represents the most severe decline in business activity that has occurred in any one month in the last half century, with the exception of those which occurred in the years 1893 and 1907. . . . The consequences of such a swift descent in business activity cannot be set aside as likely to be temporary and inconsequential. . . .

"There has been so much loose talk on the subject, of a character which is misleading in the light of the facts brought out by the November statistics, that it is obviously time to face the facts as they are and not as the billboard advertisements would like to have them.

"It is a question for serious consideration whether the business decline which is now well under way may not, on the contrary, be prolonged and intensified by efforts to 'talk prosperity.' The current recession, like all those which preceded it, has been caused by deep-seated maladjustments in the national economy: when those maladjustments are corrected, and not until then, will business activity show lasting improvement."

This is plain talk. The bankers and manufacturers of the "National Fascist Council," who have practically taken over the government, or are working in such close contact with the Hoover "prosperity" government, that to all intents and purposes, the government is directly responsible to them, admit a "deep-seated maladjustment in the national economy" and their own contentions reveal that it cannot be easily adjusted.

Can it be adjusted? It cannot—except thru a new imperialist war. The crisis has attacked

Germany and Great Britain vitally. The number of unemployed in these two imperialist countries is growing swiftly, and the financial condition of the countries is growing apace. In Germany, the government has reduced the unemployment dole, with the result that the unemployed workers in Berlin and Frankfurt-on-Main fought in the streets with the police. In Great Britain, the social-fascist MacDonald government does not dare to face the workers even on the treacherous program of which it was elected.

The "naval reduction" conference scheduled for London on Jan. 21 is breaking up beforehand. The contradictions between the imperialist countries are sharpening, there can be no thought of reduction of armament, and the French imperialist government is determined that no matter what is decided in London shall be referred to the League of Nations Assembly, where the French government, through its satellite governments, will be able to thwart any plans of the other robber imperialist overnments. Thus the "economic maladjustments" are resulting in an international crisis.

What has been the immediate economic result in the United States? The result is that 430,000 workers were discharged during the month of November, with a reduced payroll of \$68,000,000. The bankers' journal admits this much—but what is the actual truth? This can only be surmised, but unquestionably it is much more, for though the bankers are not inclined to publish too much openly and they conceal basic facts, there is also to be considered that the *Annalist* has access to records of only certain groups of workers. The periodical states that the figures are "based on the roughest kind of estimates, they probably grossly under-state the actual results of the recent declines. . . . The influence (of these declines) is bound to be felt in every department of trade and to bring about important readjustments all along the line."

In 1928, the national income was \$9.4 billion dollars. Of this amount the workers received \$32,235,000,000 in wages, while the capitalists pocketed \$38,296,000,000. Compared with 1922, the workers' wages increased \$7,682,000,000 while the income of the parasitic capitalists increased \$10,071,000,000! Between the year 1927 and 1928, the income of the farmers declined \$123,000,000, and went still lower this year.

The average wage of the worker in 1927 was \$1,205, and unquestionably, owing to the wage campaigns of the employers in 1928, followed by the crisis in 1929, the wages of the workers are still lower today. Thus a worker has to be satisfied in this, the richest imperialist country of the world, with less than \$100 a month, while the bankers and manufacturers pocket unearned billions!

Hoover and the "National Fascist Council" may well be dismayed by the present situation. One can understand why Hoover and the United States Chamber of Commerce, without any decision of Congress, set up the "National Fascist Council." The country is in a crisis; the workers are getting restive. The movement for organization and for fight is growing. The message of the Communist Party is meeting with deep response. The treachery of the social-fascist American Federation of Labor and its "left wing," the Muste group, of the social-fascist socialist party is becoming apparent to larger numbers of workers. The Communist Party and the militant industrial unions of the Trade Union Unity League must be smashed—in the dictum of the fascists. The crisis is here—and the fight is on.

What is the outlook? Returning to the *Annalist*, we read:

"It scarcely seems likely that there will be as prompt a recovery in 1930 as there

workers' militancy. The rayon operatives struck for the repeal of a fifteen per cent wage cut which had been given them sometime previously, for redress against certain grievances, and for recognition of their rights of organization. The majority of those employed at the struck plants were women, and there were also some children as young as twelve who had worked there. The first day after the walk-out, the strikers entered the mills and brought out those few who had remained at work.

Immediately the Glanzstoff and Bemberg plants secured an injunction against the strikers, and called in state troops. The strikers, not at all intimidated by the company and state forces, lined up against them, organized their picket lines and not a man passed those lines. The pickets stood, their rifles with them, as guardsmen on post. They dug trenches around the plants, and lay in them, ready for action, should action become necessary. Whenever anyone not a probable strike-breaker came along, every rifle disappeared down a trouser's leg or under an apron.

For two days an airplane flew hour after hour over the Glanzstoff plant, within twenty feet of its roof. Nobody except local leaders knew where that plane came from, who flew it, or where it went, but everyone felt sure it was procured by strikers or friends. Ten cases of dynamite disappeared from the plant property the first day of the strike. Again, no outsiders knew where it went, but the rumor was that it was taken away by workmen and put where no one could use it in such a way as to blame its use on strikers. A train load of strike-breakers was stopped. This act was against orders from strike headquarters, where the U. T. W. had now taken charge and was attempting to bring the strike to a quick conclusion. But the strike-breakers on the train did not get into the mill, and the engineer of the train, when he learned the facts, said he would not run his train into the mill yards, even if it had a clear right of way. Everywhere labor's ranks expressed a similar solidarity with the strikers.

In the meantime, U. T. W. officials were successful in bringing the strike to a close. The settlement agreed upon with the company

was in 1924. It will be several months, at least, before the situation becomes sufficiently delineated to permit an adequate appraisal of future prospects."

This is clear. Even the capitalists do not venture an opinion as to the ultimate outcome. They will not risk any analysis or conclusion whatever at the present time.

The decline will continue, the crisis will grow. The only way out will be thru war—war on the Soviet Union, plans for which unquestionably will be welded at the "naval reduction" conference, to be confirmed at the Assembly of the League of Nations.

This is their "prosperity," with naked poverty and stalling unemployment for the workers; their "democracy" with a "National Fascist Council" ruling the country; their "war to end all wars"—peace—with war alarms charging the air, and war plants working day and night in preparation for the coming war.

The crisis is growing. The Communist Party calls on the workers to face the issue and to organize against it. Answer the challenge of the "National Fascist Council," and its allies, the A. F. of L., the Muste group, the socialist party, and the renegades from the Party—the Lovestonites, Canonites, Loreites, who see no crisis, but only the "growing pains" of capitalism. Answer this challenge effectively by joining and building up the ranks of the Communist Party, which is leading the struggle of the workers for organization, mobilization and struggle against the rising fascistization of the government, the increasing poverty, unemployment, speed-up, and the danger of imperialist war against the Soviet Union. Young workers, join the Young Communist League! Workers' children, join the Young Pioneers of America! Men, women, young workers and workers' children, white and colored—build up the army of the revolutionary working class and prepare to fight!