REPUBLICAN PARTY PUBLICITY ISSUING FAKE "PROSPERITY" REPORTS AS FACTORIES CLOSE

By JAY LOVESTONE

Prosperity talk is the bunk; industries are shut down or on part time and vast numbers of workers are unemployed. Yet—

The powerful publicity machine of the republican party, feeding thousands of newspapers and magazines thruout the country is again working overtime to convince the country that good times are here again and that we are on the threshold of a new period of prosperity.

The machine that has organized this huge propaganda campaign is the same machine that put over Harding's election with a seven million majority. It is the same gigantic machine that worked with such deadly efficiency in the drive to put over the Mellon tax scheme for saving the multi-millionaires hundreds of millions of dollars.

The concerted offensive to fool the farmers and the workers into the belief that a turn for the better is at hand bears all the earmarks of the most careful preparation down to the minutest details.

The numerous Hearst publications in the industrial centers, the big chain of Capper papers in the agricultural districts, the editorial columns of the most influential dailies in every division of the country, the financial sections of the daily press, are all being stuffed with reports that industrial and business improvement is at hand and can't be prevented.

Wall Street Bunk.

Some of the biggest publishers like the Curtis Publishing company, publishers of the Saturday Evening Post, The Ladies' Home Journal, and The Country Gentlemen, are also acting as wholesale prosperity drummers by inserting full page advertisements in the most influential dailies.

The whole campaign, with its vast publicity, is being directed and inspired by some of the most powerful men in the New York financial district, in La Salle Street, Chicago, in Tremont Street, Boston. These men are working in the closest touch and harmony with the National Republican Committee.

The "prosperity" drive is plainly a maneuver on the part of the biggest business interests to put Coolidge back into the White House.

No Prosperity.

But every factor which is considered a barometer of economic development shows that there is no prosperity in the offing.

A survey of the situation at hand shows plainly that business, employment, and wages are on the downgrade.

"The industrial recession, which has been developing during the last three months, took another million and a half dollars out of the weekly payrolls of the factories of New York state from May to June. This makes an estimated reduction of at least twenty million dollars in monthly earnings, since the second, more rap-

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FACTION OUSTED FROM I. W. W. IS PLANNING SPLIT

May Set Up Temporary Headquarters

That the five General Executive Board members of the I. W. W., who were ejected from the general office after being suspended on charges of disruption, are setting up a rival headquarters and attempting to lead a split in the organization was reported from several reliable sources today.

This came to light by news from both Chicago and outlying points to the effect that telegrams signed by James Rowan of the Lumber Workers' Union, and Fred Bowerman of the Metal and Machinery Workers' Union, had notified subordinate branches of the I. W. W. that they were setting up temporary headquarters rival to the Doyle-Fisher administration still occupying the regular national office at 1001 West Madison street.

Members Warned in Special Bulletin.

According to the special bulletin issued by the group remaining in control of the administration, this split movement was foreseen and the membership warned against yielding to pleas of the Rowan-Bowerman group. In this bulletin the Doyle and Fisher group state:

"We call especially to your attention that we will not consent to or countenance any attempt on the part of any

REPUBLICANS FAKING PROSPERITY

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id, phase of the depression began in March," says the latest bulletin issued by the New York State Department of Labor.

Enormous Slump.

This report covering the conditions in the Empire State, goes on to say: "For the first time in two years wage rate decreases were significant. A year ago, in June, 1923, factory payrolls reached the highest point of the expansion in manufacturing which was then under way. Weekly payrolls were estimated to be at least thirty-eight million dollars. This June they were down to about thirty-two and a half million dollars. This is a cut of five and a half million dollars in the weekly income of a large group of the population."

State Industrial Commissioner Bernard L. Shientag further says that "The heaviest drop in payrolls for any group of industries is that in the textiles." Conspicuous decreases have also been noticed in the metal industries, where payrolls have been cut in half. In the automobile industries payrolls have been cut one-third. In all the wearing apparel industries, clothing, men's shirts, underwear, shoes and leather goods, the same tendency has been evident.

Factory Shut-Downs Continue.

At Lawrence, Mass., the Everett Mills have just shut down for three weeks after running half time for a while. In Lowell, Mass., the cotton mills closed down for ten days after operating on a three-day schedule for two weeks. In Webster, Mass., it is likely that the Slater company will soon throw out of work fifteen hundred. The Amoskeag Manufacturing company is planning to go on a three-day schedule.

A report just made public in Charlotte, North Carolina, says that cotton mill curtailment in the state is still twenty-five per cent.

Layoffs, Wage Cuts, Misery.

All Massachusetts shoe centers report a slackening in production. In Brockton, Lynn, and Haverhill, operations are below normal, about one-third capacity.

William Skinner and Sons, silk manufacturers, the Lyman Cotton Goods Mills, and the manufacturing divisions of the American Thread company have closed down for ten days, according to Holyoke reports. The Farr Alpaca company is also closing. The Lockwood Cotton Mills, at Waterville, Maine, has decided to run on a four-day schedule all summer. Announcing its decision to shut down for another ten days, the Hamilton Wool company said: "It is unprecedented in this company."

The International Paper company mills at South Glens Falls, New York, is still shut down. The Union Bag and Paper Corporation, Hudson Falls, Fort Edward Mills, is continuing to operate on a four-day schedule. The Dwight Manufacturing company of Chicopee, Mass., is to run on a three-day schedule.

The New London Ship and Engine company has just laid off two hundred workers at New London.

The Reading Railroad company has informed the four thousand men at Reading shops and the several thousand more in its outlying plants, that all shopmen are to work from now on a four eight-hour day schedule week.

Wage Cuts Kept Up.

Wage reductions are continuing. The Tamarack Mill at Pawtucket has cut wages ten percent. In Philadelphia, there is talk of reducing the wages of the clothing workers. In Haverhill, Mass., the counter and toplift manufacturers are demanding that the Shoe Workers' Protective Union should accede to a wage cut of twelve and a half per cent and a restoration of Saturday morning work. Similar demands are being made by the manufacturers in Brockton, Mass. The workers employed by the Panther Rubber Company at Stoughton, Mass., are on strike against a twenty per cent wage cut.

After operating on part time for several weeks, for the first time in a quarter of a century, the Spencer Wire Company Mills, of the Wickwire-Spencer Steel Corporation, has decided to cut wages about ten per cent.

Business Panorama Dark.

"General production thruout the country is, at the present time, running fifteen per cent below normal" says the last issue of Bache's Review.

The preliminary estimates issued by the United States Geological Survey show that the production of bituminous coal for June was the lowest on record except for the strike year of 1922. Anthracite output was the lowest since June, 1919, except for the strike months of 1922. The Interstate Commerce Commission is attempting to help the coal market by asking that autumn and winter purchases be made now.

Loadings of revenue freight for the week ending July 12, show a decrease of ten per cent from the corresponding period of last year. Miscellaneous and merchandise freight are in a similar condition.

Steel and Oil Down.

The iron and steel industry is still running at about forty per cent capacity. The Bethlehem Steel company, the largest of the independents, has passed its dividend on common stock for the second quarter.

There is heavy reduction in the oil industry. At the first of the month copper stocks showed a drop of nearly three million pounds from June first.

Two of the biggest mail order houses in the country are reducing their prices by nearly ten per cent in order to stimulate business.

In the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank district, there was a further decrease of nearly four per cent in the number employed and nearly six percent in the wages for last month. Iron and steel mills laid off nearly ten per cent of their men in addition to curtailing production.

The latest Federal Reserve Bank report shows that production in the basic industries declined nine per cent in June and was, on July first, twenty-two per cent below the level of the first two months of the year. The iron, steel, and cotton, were hardest hit, the decreases were general in almost all the other industries.

Bluffing the Country.

Altogether too great stress is now being laid on the billions of dollars that are supposed to be flowing into the coffers of the farmers because of the failure of European crops and the shortages in Canada and some of our own states.

The fact of the matter is that even if the farmers were to get all the money that they are supposed to be getting, but which the speculators are now actually getting thru the rise in the price of wheat, corn and hogs, there would be no increase of purchasing power for the whole country. This is true because something like eighty-eight per cent of the wheat produced in the United States is consumed in the country and the additional money that the farmers are supposed to be getting now thru higher prices would therefore, have to come out of the pockets of the country.

At best the rise in the much over-advertised farm prices can be only a shifting and not an increase of purchasing power. Besides, many of the farmers have sold their wheat, have assigned it long in advance in order to meet mortgage payments, bank notes, and tax bills. Then, it will take years of genuine widespread prosperity to pull the farming masses out of the hole in which they have been thrown by the last five years of severe depression.

The few and scattered signs of revival in some of the lesser important industries are only seasonal. In the view of the authoritative financial journal, The Annalist, the present situation is to be summed up as follows:

"Unemployment, which in the factory field has already attained an alarming rate of increase is becoming more marked. The Minneapolis Federal Reserve District sees an excess of farm labor in all sections of the district.

Kidding the Country.

"But there is no doubt that Wall Street would like to see the country talk itself into a state of cheerful optimism toward the future and is willing to lead the way. It is quite as true in business as in other human contacts that optimism is both contagious and infectious. If such a condition develops, and it would represent nothing more nor less than a psychological change in commercial sentiment, it should first be evidenced in an increase in forward orders. In this one direction lies the main difficulty. Those whose products are a long while in the process of manufacture have been literally geared to a hand-to-mouth scale, and they continue to be so geared."

Here we have the real objective of the grand offensive that has been launched to psychologize the country into the belief that prosperity is with us again. The employing class propagandists have political and economic reasons for their campaign of misrepresentation of the present state of affairs in industry and business.

Fur Workers Tie Up Berkowitz's Scab Newark Shop

TUCKAHOE, N. Y., July 31.—The Fur Workers' Union is hard on the trail of Berkowitz Bros., who moved here from Newark, N. J., three years ago, where they had operated a union shop, though constantly violating their agreements with the union. Their attempt to operate a non-union shop here is now confronted with a strike of their sixty to seventy workers, who demand a union shop and improved conditions.

To Compel Testimony.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—A legal campaign to compel officials of railroad labor organizations to testify the United States Railroad Labor Board ontlined here today at a conference between Ben. W. Hooper, chairman of the board, and officials of the Department of Justice.

No Radio Opera Here.

There will be no broadcasting by radio of Chicago Grand Opera next season. It was such a success—to radio receivers—last winter that there were too many vacant seats at the opera house. Subscription lists opened today.

Honduras Torn by Rebels?

New Orleans, La., Aug. 3.—The Local age 8c a pound for swine. When the structions from its main office in New York "not to guarantee the delivery of any message to Honduras on account of the revolution."