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(Continued from page 1)

terers in Buffalo are also shown. Eight thousand Bethlehem Steel company men have received an 11 per cent raise. Common labor is at a premium in Ohio textile mill workers and the plasterers have received increases in Virginia, and the wages of miners have been increased in Arizona.

Skilled Laborers Wages. In addition to these reports show skilled laborers getting \$1.20 an hour and plasterers \$1.50 an hour in St. Louis, the highest wage ever paid there for this class of work, while negotiations are now on in New York between contractors and the building trades for an increase in wages of bricklayers, carpenters, plasterers, plumbers and allied trades by \$1.00 to \$2.00 a day.

The street car men in Boston are reported to be on the verge of asking for more money, while the shoe workers in Massachusetts have an increase in wages pending before an arbitration board. There is also a movement on in Boston among the building trades to ask for more money.

Reports from only one state shows that wages have been lowered. This is in Louisiana, where the pay of common labor has been sharply cut.

Farm Help Shortage. The survey shows that in 14 states in the central, middle-western, western and southern sections a shortage in farm help confronts the tiller of the soil this spring; that in the five states of New York, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois and California, a shortage is shown in workers to carry on the huge building programs that are planned. In nine states skilled laborers are in demand with jobs going begging, while in four other states the shortage comes in common labor.

Building Boom Noted. The building boom is noted in 17

states and takes in territory in every section of the country, while a general boom in all business is reported from the seven states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Delaware.

The reports show that only in Oklahoma, Tennessee, Georgia and South Carolina does an excess of workers over jobs exist generally. True, there is a surplus of workers in clerical help, porters and chauffeurs in New York, Kentucky, North Carolina, Oregon, Washington and California, but in each of these states the workers in other lines are employed and in certain lines a surplus of jobs exists.

Industrial Peace. Excess of jobs over skilled workmen has settled over the entire country is indicated by the reports, of only a strike of any consequence throughout the length and breadth of the land. Some of these are trivial at present, and none of them appears to cause more than a ripple of local interest. Figured in these is the big shop strike last July that in some quarters is still in existence, and in other quarters is reported to be over and done with. There are two small strikes among the stevedores at New York, the Somerset county coal strike near Pittsburgh that has been hanging fire for some months, a strike of hundred workers in the silk mills at New London, Conn., strikes of painters, electricians and plumbers at Omaha and a moulder's strike in Delaware.

Fourteen States Short. The fourteen states that report a shortage in farm labor are: Illinois, Iowa, North Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Virginia, South Carolina, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and California. The states that indicate an excess of jobs over skilled workmen to fill them are: New York, (both male and female), Ohio, Illinois, Kansas, Montana, Arizona, Connecticut, Maryland and Mississippi.

An extraordinary building boom is shown in the following states: New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Louisiana, Florida, Ohio, Illinois, Kansas, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Arizona, Nevada, Idaho and California.

The states reporting that all of the unemployment prevalent in 1922-23 has been absorbed and that conditions are normal in this respect are: Maryland, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, Kansas, Wisconsin,

South Dakota, Michigan, Texas, New Jersey, West Virginia, Alabama, Arkansas, North Carolina, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Nevada.

Negroes Working in Mills. In Pennsylvania it is reported that negroes are being brought up from the south to work in the mills, while in the southern states this report is confirmed through statements of the unrest among negroes in certain territory and a tendency to desert the south for more wages in northern manufacturing plants.

Greater New York has 44,000 dwellings under construction, besides hundreds of huge business and municipal projects, and is exceeding last year's program of new building by nearly \$50,000,000 a month.

Railroads Fairly Normal. Railroads are preparing to make new demands on the labor market by spending, in the New York district, a part of the \$1,100,000,000 appropriated for work throughout the nation in 1923, and in manning all shops full force to put rolling stock in order for an unprecedented tonnage expected in the fall.

Present conditions and prospects for the next few months were described by New York railroad officials as "normal, with sufficient skilled and unskilled hands, and including an astounding efficiency among shopmen, better than at any time since before the war."

May Elevate Scale. A possible elevation of the scale for maintenance of way men, classed as common labor and now receiving an average of 37 cents an hour, was seen by rail chiefs in the recent receipt by a half dozen roads of requests from union officials for conferences with a view to readjustments. Officials of the roads involved declined to discuss their attitude toward the requests. Officers of national railroad associations indicated, however, that if the supply of workers continues to dwindle, an increase of the 37 cent rate is likely.

Included in the major projects of railroad construction to be undertaken when conditions are most favorable are extensions through eastern Florida, a 200-mile cut-off on the Illinois Central between Chicago and New Orleans, the Castleton cut-off on the New York Central in New York state, electrification and double tracking on the Santa Fe line to the Pacific coast, extension of the Southern Pacific systems into Mexico, and the construction of additional terminal facilities along the Great Lakes.

13 Jobs for 14 Men. The National Industrial conference board at New York, from a survey of large cities recently completed, estimates there are 13 jobs for each 14 workers throughout the nation.

Chicago reports everything peaceful in the labor situation, despite the Landis award. There are no strikes, however, that are worthy of the name, and none are looked for among the building trades. North Dakota reports a shortage in physicians. The following are brief reports abstracted from statistics, figures and reports from various labor and industrial sources in the Inland Empire and California:

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