

WAR ORDERS BRING LABOR MORE LEISURE

War order necessities may drive American industry to a universal eight-hour day, thinks the New York world. It notes how a ten-hour day like Bridgeport was converted overnight into an eight-hour community, a result that ten years of agitation under normal conditions might not have accomplished. From Bridgeport the movement has spread to New England—"munition manufacturers generally throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island have conceded the eight-hour day," we are told—and to other industrial centers East and West and south. "What is happening," says an editorial in the official organ of the International Association of Machinists, "is simply a forerunner of a more general movement for a universal eight-hour day throughout the United States." As an organizer of this union told a World representative in Bridgeport: "The eight-hour day is spreading over New England, and will sweep the United States. It will not stop at machinists; it will take in every industry that is not bound already by agreements with labor-unions. The machinists generally won a nine-hour day back in 1902, but lost it by not holding their organization together. They will not make this mistake again."

Labor leaders are naturally gratified by their success, but the World reporter who was sent to Bridgeport to find the manufacturers there expressing "a surprising unanimity of opinion favorable to the new order things." They are said to "declare that the eight-hour day is on trial, avow a willingness to give it a fair and thorough test, and a determination to accept it as permanent labor demonstrates that the shorter day is economically feasible." Some munition manufacturers admit that their own profits are abnormal and that labor's demand for a large share was only natural. D. H. Warner, of the famous Bridgeport firm of corset makers, said: "We are producing in eight hours fully 95 per cent of the output we made in ten hours. Our girls report more promptly and keep more steady at their work. The greatest difference is in the atmosphere of contentment in the factory. We would go back to the old system if we could."

One large employer of male machinists told the same story: "We now have a satisfied shop and a satisfied shop means a productive one. The results from the three eight-hour shifts have been entirely satisfactory."

Turning from the opinions of the men on the spot in the "Connecticut Essen" to long-range editorial discussion of the situation, we find both antagonism and apprehension manifested by The Manufacturers' News. The eight-hour day, it declares emphatically, "is an economic and industrial impossibility, except in specific instances, and these instances simply verify and emphasize the fact that the hours of labor change as economic conditions change, and the change can not be brought about artificially in any other way." The labor leaders, proceeds this Chicago weekly, have adopted a very short-sighted policy. For—"The enforcement of an eight-hour day at the present time will mean the loss of American markets and foreign markets to the American manufacturer. This will mean industrial depression, which in turn spells unemployment and hard times."

Speaking from the producer's standpoint, this editor asks: "Will the total output warrant the lessening of effective toil? In other words, can society sustain itself and make progress on eight hours' work? It is the opinion of those who have made a study of the situation, even including wage-earners themselves, that the output will most assuredly decrease in proportion to the decrease in hours of labor."

It seems unfortunate to The Iron Age (New York) that the metalworkers' struggle "for a shorter day without reduction of pay is so definitely connected in many cases with efforts for union organization and domination." So that many a manufacturer "finds himself forced into refusing demands to which, under other circumstances, both reason and sentiment would incline him to give favorable consideration." And this authoritative spokesman for the iron and steel trade continues: "Perhaps no industrial problem of late years has brought forth such divergent opinions among manufacturers as the present eight-hour movement in New England. Many conservative employers see great evils attendant upon the general acceptance of the shorter day. Production costs will go up; plants must be enlarged and equipment added in order to maintain output; foreign competition at lower labor costs will destroy the American machine tool business; drunkenness and crime will increase; thrift will decline—these and other harmful results are prophesied."

"On the other hand are manufacturers who accept none of the conclusions of such reasoning. One who has granted the eight-hour day says: 'This will not be anywhere near the wrench that was felt when we went to nine hours in 1901 and 1902. If the manufacturers are willing to assume their share of the burden, to standardize upon the fewest products, and to bend every energy to improve tools and manufacturing processes, there is no good reason why unit-production costs should go up under the shorter working schedule. We are satisfied that by careful and constructive planning we can keep costs at the present level and possibly reduce them.'

"Among the large majority of employers in the metal working trades the feeling that the unparalleled situation which has made victory in Europe turn not only upon sheer tonnage in steel projectiles, but upon the metal cutting capacity of American machine tools, must not be allowed to settle for years to come so important an issue as the eight-hour machine shop day. Just before this remarkable war-demand burst upon the country the machinery trade had been depressed and unprofitable for many months. What will be its condition when Europe is again at peace none can certainly predict. Therefore, it is argued, and with reason, that any readjustments now made that raise the unit cost of product must be made in the full expectation of other adjustments in turn that will lower the unit cost of product when American machinery manufacturers must again meet their European competitors on even terms."

Employers who say that with an eight-hour day "it will be impossible to compete with Europe after the war except under a higher tariff" are told by the low-tariff New York World (Dem.) that nobody knows what will happen after the war. Hence—"The eight-hour controversy will



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MISS EDITH CAVELL

The English nurse, as she appeared shortly before her execution in Brussels by order of a German military court, for aiding the Allies. Age 30. Many lay the blame at the door of Governor-General Baron van Bissing, who did not heed the appeals of the American and Spanish ministers to spare the life of Edith Cavell. He is reported to have declared that "in his mature judgment" the sentence was just. Dispatches say the Kaiser has summoned General von Bissing and General von der Lancken, the military and civil governors of Belgium, to Imperial headquarters to report on Miss Cavell's death.

National School Militarism

By General Preparedness

By all means let us have militarism in the public schools. Teach our boys to fight, counter and parry; Teach them the most vulnerable parts of the human body; the velocity and killing power of projectiles; the power of high explosives, the uses of poisonous gases, handling of liquid fire. The simple manual of arms, marches and counter-marches, formations and a faint idea of camp duty is not enough to teach the young idea in order to protect our country from a foreign foe.

Our boys must be taught to drive a nail in a target 200 paces distant, to handle the machine gun and the monster cannon; must know how to handle the sword and the bayonet and with consummate skill to drive either to the marrow of the foe. Must be taught not to shudder and turn pale at the sight of a piece of bleeding clay. Must be so trained that the shrieks of the wounded and the groans and supplications of the dying are as heavenly music; the thoughts of being instrumental in causing widowhood and making orphans of thousands of helpless ones being but sooth sayers and adding to ambitions for greater efforts.

They should be taught to affix a wooden leg or a mechanical arm to an unfortunate comrade that he may again become a butcher of human kind, a gory fiend, thirsting

to have to be settled on its merits under existing and not under unknown future conditions of work and wages. If present pay for a nine-hour day is fair, then the same pay will be fair for an eight-hour day if production per man does not fall off, as the strikers say it will not. Otherwise it will inevitably prove that the men have gained their shorter day only at the expense of reduced employment."—Literary Digest.

for the blood of the barbarious invader.

Teach the boy the use of pick, shovel and dynamite—not for agricultural pursuits, but that he may burrow in the ground like some hunted wild animal. Or to fly in the air, casting bombs or shooting deadly explosives down upon cities, towns, or homes, peopled with women, children and helpless ones.

Teach them to wound and kill. Let all class color be red, and red alone, offering a prize to blood-red.

Stifle all love of peace, all feelings for humanity, all thoughts of achievement other than that of the battlefield. Let our nation become known as a nation of bloodthirstiness, of brutality, prepared for human butchery and bellowing for the fray.

On our school charts let our national boundary be marked with a line of red as a warning to foreign nations.

Away with the school of foreign diplomacy. Let the sword be mightier than the pen. Let our boys become known as "dogs of war." Tax the people. Put a duty on every necessity of life. Build up the army and navy, build forts and dig trenches in the ground from which our young fellows may mow down the anticipated foe. Let "we can lick 'em" be our watchword and preparedness for human slaughter predominate every other thought. Do away with the white and blue on the flag and let it be a field of red. Let us glory in the lightning's red glare, the roar of the thunder, the groan of the sphere. Let us be demons, and demons in the fullest sense. Let's scare 'em. Let's be bad 'uns.

UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

The United States department of labor, through its bureau of labor statistics, publishes the result of the third study in the series of investigations being made into unemployment. The following 12 cities in the Rocky mountain and Pacific coast states were canvassed: Butte, Los Angeles, Oakland, Ogden, Portland, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Spokane and Tacoma. In those cities 36,537 families were investigated, and the number of wage earners were found to be 49,333. The unemployed total 6,373, or 21.9 per cent, and the part-time wage earners are 9971 or 20.2 per cent.

Portland, Ore., with 20 per cent, has the highest average of unemployed. Oakland with 26.9 per cent has the highest number of part-time wage earners. The lowest percentage of unemployed, 4.5 was found in Ogden. Butte reports the lowest number of part-time wage earners, 12.7 per cent.

Driving Him to Drink

"When we drank from the same canteen," roared the old veteran. "Grandpa," interposed his granddaughter, "the sentiments of that song are praiseworthy, but I fear they may ten to counteract certain health-rules I have been trying to teach little Waldo. Don't you know any songs about sanitary drinking-cups?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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BRITISH TROOPS LANDING ON SALONICA BEACH

Photo shows the scene during the landing of British attacking forces at Salonica. Note the draw bridge arrangement on the bow of the vessel by means of which troops and supplies are brought ashore.