

NUMBER OF MEN
WITHOUT WORK
IS ABOUT 2400

Many Industries Clamoring for
Men Not in General Run of
Those Who Are Seeking Jobs.

IMPROVEMENT IS NOTICED

Almost Phenomenal Decrease Has
Taken Place in Month; Fear
Record Will Not Be Kept Up.

According to estimates compiled by the federal employment bureau and the employment agency maintained for returned soldiers and sailors at Liberty temple, Portland now has 2400 men who are unprovided with jobs. Many industries are still clamoring for men, however, though of a type or degree of training not represented in the general run of work seekers.

The employment barometer shows a tendency to point toward "clear," but at present it points only toward "fair." An almost phenomenal decrease in the number of men out of jobs has appeared in the last month, but officials are inclined to believe that unless some outside agency opens up work shortly this improvement cannot continue.

Unsettled conditions in the wage and time scales are noticed in several industries and particularly in the timber industry. Mills and logging camps are paying between \$3.25 and \$4 a day for various grades of help between skilled and unskilled. There has been little or no standardization in the wage scale.

Men Wait Better Jobs

The result is that when the employment bureau posts on its blackboards a call for many men at a certain wage for one company, it usually happens that a few minutes later a call comes in from another company for about the same number and grade of men as the first, but with a higher wage. Unemployed men, standing in the offices and watching the notices as they are posted, feel that if they hold off for a short time they will get a higher wage.

In the shipyards, classes of wages are more or less standardized and there is a constant call for men. The shipyards lost many men as a result of the opening of the farm work.

In the employment of soldiers it is found that if the shipyards, or some such outlet were not present and did not present an almost constant demand for men, the situation would be very serious. With them running, however, no soldier need go hungry, because he can at least go there and work as an unskilled laborer and draw a high wage. The shipyards at present expect to continue under the present contracts but with a possibility that they may cut down on their demand for labor. Some other outlet for the surplus will then have to be found.

Surplus in Some Lines

While this outlet for the surplus of unskilled labor is a saving factor, according to Wilfred J. Smith, federal director of Oregon of the employment service, it does not aid materially the call for positions by men trained as office workers who are hanging back and waiting for something in their line to open up. In the files of men waiting for positions at the soldiers', sailors' and marines' employment bureau at the Liberty temple, it may be seen that men trained along the following lines are the ones who are having the greatest difficulty in securing employment: Bookkeepers, clerical workers, automobile driving, tractor men, locomotive and stationary engineers and firemen, carpenters, electricians, plumbers and steamfitters. The bureau has little difficulty in handling requests for farm or machinist work.

A large number of the men who are still waiting for positions at the Liberty temple are men who have been placed in the shipyards and have found the work unsatisfactory in one way or another and have returned for replacement. They state that they are not experienced in that line of work, though they are in others. They feel they had better wait for positions for which they are trained.

"At present we have the greatest surplus in the building and mortar trades," says Mr. Smith. "There is a strong demand, on the other hand, for boiler-makers, installation machinists and hull laborers or boiler up at good wages. These classes of work have been affected considerably by the opening up of farm work."

Figures Pronounced Correct

"I think the figures given by the employment bureau are as accurate as can be," said Charles M. Ryerson, editor of the Portland Labor Press, discussing the labor situation. "Probably

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ELEVATOR OPERATOR
HONORED BY FRIENDS



Marcus C. Steentoft

In recognition of 25 years of faithful service as an elevator operator in the Chamber of Commerce building, Marcus C. Steentoft was presented with a handsome gold watch and chain by the tenants of the building, Monday afternoon. Mr. Steentoft is a native of Ribe, Denmark, and came to America in 1884. He has been a resident of Portland since 1890, and took his present position April 6, 1894.

Every tenant of the building contributed to the \$150 fund with which the gift was purchased. On the case of the watch is engraved a legend commemorating the purpose of the recognition. Fred V. Holman presented the gift, and in a happy speech recounted many incidents in proof of Mr. Steentoft's efficiency and worth.

During his 25 years' service, Mr. Steentoft has never had an accident. It was recounted by Mr. Holman, that when a fire badly damaged the Chamber of Commerce building some years ago, Mr. Steentoft called all the tenants and saw them safely out of the building.

Mr. Holman has been in the building since it was first opened. Other tenants of long standing who participated in the presentation were: Judge Pipes, Judge W. M. Cake, Charles J. Schnable, ex-Senator Bourne and Mrs. V. McSilva, superintendent of the building.

The engraving on the case of the watch reads as follows: Presented to Marcus C. Steentoft by occupants of the Chamber of Commerce building, Portland, Oregon, in appreciation of his efficiency as elevator operator for 25 years ending April 6, 1919.

the majority of unemployed men at present are the carpenters let out by the closing of the wooden shipyards. Many of them, though, have been able to go into other kinds of work somewhat akin to carpentering.

"The best relief for unemployment at present seems to me to be the opening of road construction and public works of all sorts. We can hardly expect private interests to go ahead and open up their industries rapidly until the situation becomes more stable. If there are 2400 men out of employment, that is just 2400 too many. There should be enough work so that every man can have a job. Of course all unemployed men will not go on road work or public buildings, but men will be drawn from other industries which will leave openings that the present unemployed men can fill. This all helps to kill the spirit of Bolshevism."

"I don't look for any material reduction in wages. So far there has been scarcely any reduction in the cost of living, and until there is, wages should not be cut. There is a complaint now against the timber industry because of the cuts."

Over 150 Machines 'Arrested' Saturday By Traffic Officers

Over 150 machines were "arrested" by the police Saturday for violation of the traffic laws in the business district. All machines found parked against the rules were tagged and owners ordered to report at police headquarters. When the owners appeared at headquarters, first time offenders were allowed to go with a warning and a book of traffic rules, while persons whose cards are already on file were given their choice of dropping a coin in the Red Cross canteen bottle or going to court. Every one chose to convict himself and give to the Red Cross.

The traffic department also took reports Saturday on 11 accidents, none of which proved to be serious. Three children were hit by automobiles, but their injuries consisted more of fright than bruises, according to the reports. Russell Chamberlain, 6 years of age, living at the St. Paul hotel, ran out in front of an automobile at Broadway and Washington streets in charge of W. M. Smith of 550 Williams avenue. Inez Lovely, 6, and Cathryn Baggs, 8, were playing tag at Mississippi avenue and Shaver street Saturday afternoon and ran out into the street directly in front of an automobile in charge of J. J. Keegan of 201 Fourteenth street. Both were struck by the machine, but neither injured. Inez lives at 142 Shaver street and Cathryn at 828 Albina avenue.

Columbia Full of Salmon; Fishermen Expect Big Season

The Columbia river is full of salmon, deputy game wardens announced at the state fish and game commission headquarters Saturday afternoon, with every indication of a fine fishing season this year. The commission is of the opinion that a few more rainless days would clear the water in the Willametta river and start the fish on their journey to the headwaters in great numbers.

The fish are now said to be lying in the Columbia until the water is right for their progress farther. Fishermen have already reported some good catches with hook and line, but these are comparatively few, according to the number that should be caught this week, the wardens say.

The fish ladders at the falls at Oregon City have been placed in good condition to accommodate the run, which promises to be large.



What Will Portland Do?

The eyes of our Boys—as well as our Nation will be upon us—upon each person, each household, each institution—
one week from tomorrow, Monday, April 21st.

Portland's Answer

As in the past—each person, each household, each institution in Portland, with a spark of Patriotism, of Pride, of Gratitude, will be prepared to subscribe to the Victory Liberty Loan.

Portland Victory Loan Executive Committee

This space is contributed in behalf of the Portland Victory Loan Campaign by the Member Banks of the Portland Clearing House Association.

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