

# Editorial

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The Labor Journal will not be responsible for opinions of correspondents, but any erroneous reflecting upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Labor Journal will be gladly corrected when called to the attention of the publisher. Correspondence and Open Forum opinions solicited.



### JOBLESS INSURANCE PAY FALLS DURING 1946

Jobless insurance payments throughout the country declined more than 50 per cent in 1946, it was indicated by an analysis of figures compiled by the Social Security Administration.

The peak of idleness caused by the shift from war to a peace economy was reached in January, 1946, when 1,624,300 workers drew \$133,246,000 in unemployment insurance. In September, last month for which certified figures were available in the regional offices of the agency, the number of unemployed had fallen to 839,000 and insurance payments amounted to \$63,215,000. November payments, on the basis of incomplete returns, were expected to be about \$56,500,000.

Officials noted that the number of workers now unemployed represented fewer than two per cent of the 42,500,000 covered by unemployment insurance throughout the country.

Payment of readjustment allowances to jobless veterans also is going down, according to official reports. Membership in the "52-20 Club" reached its peak in July, when 1,724,000 veterans received \$152,673,000 in readjustment benefits. In September there were 1,476,000 veterans drawing \$124,082,000.

A review of unemployment insurance payments by all States from January, 1937, through September, 1946, showed that \$3,541,065,000 in benefits had been distributed to jobless workers. On September 30 the unemployment insurance trust fund contained a reserve of \$6,792,000,000, or nearly twice the amount paid out in 10 years.

While conceding that the trust fund never had had to sustain the impact of a major depression, officials said there was little doubt that the fund was sufficiently large to weather almost any foreseeable economic upheaval.

The size of the fund has brought two conflicting types of pressure. One is from employers who contend that tax reductions should be made either on a blanket basis or through merit-rating plans under which tax rates are geared to the employer's success in holding down unemployment.

The other types of pressure is from labor groups, which argue that the surplus should be used to finance larger benefits or to extend the period of time over which benefits may be paid. The average weekly unemployment insurance benefit is \$18.27.

### ARBITRATION OUTLOOK BRIGHT

Prospects for arbitration are brighter throughout America and the world at large than at any time, if judgment is to be based upon progress made in the last year, R. E. Swart, president of the American Arbitration Association, declared here.

Men and women everywhere, he said, are seeking specific formulae for securing a just and enduring peace. "In labor and industry, in trade and commerce, in politics and statecraft, they are rediscovering their oldest device for the attainment of justice in the settlement of disputes—impartial and voluntary arbitration," he declared.

"In numbers, labor-management disputes rank first. A new trend was marked in the closing months with numerous agreements between employers and unions to submit the disputed terms of a proposed contract to arbitration. These instances of arbitration preventing strikes, of course, do not make the headlines but they far outnumber the strikes that do. Labor and management are both very much awake to the likelihood of legislation imposing compulsory arbitration if the failure to use voluntary procedures marks the New Year in too many cases comparable to the coal strike, the shipping strike and other notable instances in 1946.

"In domestic trade and commerce the resumption of full-scale private trade has given great impetus to the use of commercial arbitration which, of course, has enjoyed widespread popularity for many decades."

## LABOR—U. S. A.

The twenty-sixth and final edition of the American Federation of Labor's "Labor, USA" program over the American Broadcasting Company network, included the following outstanding feature articles to support the news:

### HIGHLIGHTS OF 1946

By Robert J. Watt,

#### AFL International Representative

Very few Americans are going to entertain wistful recollections of the year 1946. It was not, by any stretch of the imagination, a good year or a great year in our Nation's history. Looking back now, we can see an almost continuous procession of mistakes—mistakes by the Government, by industry and by labor—mistakes that could have been and should have been avoided.

Of course, historians will provide alibis for 1946. They will

say that the year just closed was a year of "readjustment," which is always a slow and painful process, even when the change should be a happy one—as from war to peace.

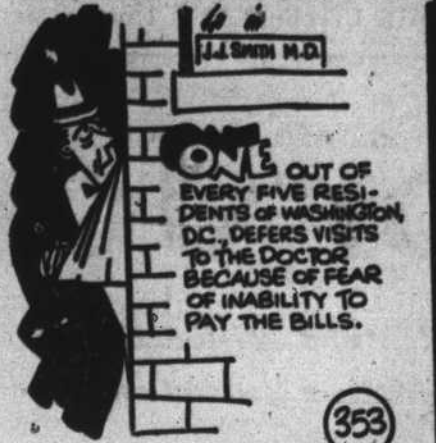
But that necessary period of readjustment could have been made a lot easier for the American people and for the American economy had it not been for the Government's complete failure to protect the value of the American dollar.

Today the prewar dollars is generally worth about half of what it used to be. In many cases, a dollar will buy not more than 30 cents would in 1939.

The disintegration of the dollar—better known as inflation—is the fundamental cause of most of our domestic, economic troubles today—and we have plenty of them.

Certainly, steady dollar would

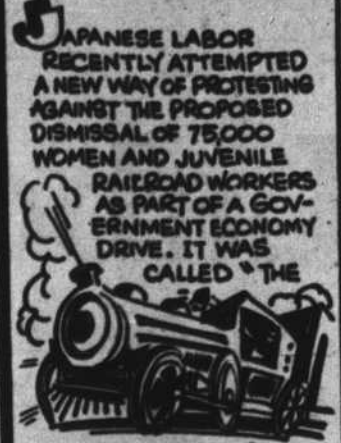
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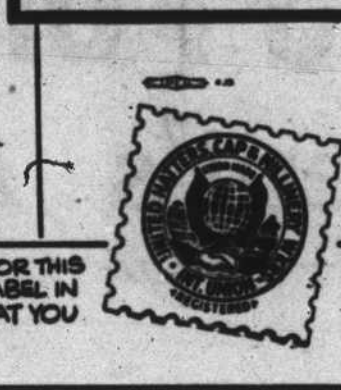
ONE OUT OF EVERY FIVE RESIDENTS OF WASHINGTON, D.C. DEFERS VISITS TO THE DOCTOR BECAUSE OF INABILITY TO PAY THE BILLS.



THE ONE CONGRESSMAN WHOSE FORMER OCCUPATION WAS LISTED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTORY AS "WORKINGMAN" DIED IN AUGUST, 1946. HE WAS REP. WM. J. GALLAGHER (D. MINN.) WHO, IN 1944, DEFEATED A TWO-TERM REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE EVEN THOUGH HIS CAMPAIGN FUND CONSISTED OF \$200 HE EARNED BY DOING A "LITTLE JANITORING."



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### Uncle Sam Says



One of the fine old American customs is to begin a new year with a lot of resolutions. Some we keep. Others we make with the intention of breaking them to the delight of ourselves and friends. You're being a good American to resolve to do something or other from this day on until eternity. You're being a better, wiser American to make a solemn resolution to strengthen the future security of yourself and family. Resolve to put some of your income regularly into U. S. Savings Bonds, which pay 4 for every \$3 invested in 10 years.



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