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 spinions 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 Ad-

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,-

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

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 had made considerable progress. Labor. The AFL delegates inbenefits. In September there were 1,476,000 veterans draw- That's perfectly true. The dol- clude: ing \$124,082,000.

A review of unemployment insurance payments by all States from January, 1937, through September, 1946, showed foresight, the Government could that \$3,541,065,000 in benefits had been distributed to job- have succeeded in halting the skid less workers. On September 30 the unemployment insur- and steadying our economy. But ance trust fund contained a reserve of \$6,792,000,000, or it failed. 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 exceed a 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.

Arbitration Association, would be permitted to rise in pro-

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 disputesimpartial 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 fullscale 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 edi- say that the year just closed was tion of the American Federation- a year of "readjustment," which ist of the Air, broadcast on the is always a slow and painful "Labor, USA" program over the process, even when the change Under a free economy in 1947, Workers (AFL). American Broadcasting Company network, included the following war to peace. 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 mistakesmistakes by the Government, by industry and by labor mistakes is the fundamental cause of most that could have been and should of our domestic, economic troubles have been avoided.

Of course, historians will pro- them,

should be a happy one as from

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 inflationtoday and we have plenty of

yide alibis for 1946. They will Certainly, steady dollar would

THE MARCH OF LABOR



have promoted higher production, GREEN APPOINTS GROUP it would have avoided nation-wide disputes between management and labor over wages, and it would have prevented real suffering on the part of millions of Americans

Let us concede that at the beginning of 1946 inflation already the Argentine Confederation of lar was sliding, but the grade was fairly level. With a little

The tragic thing is that the decision that brought about failure was almost deliberate. Shortly after the beginning of this year, the Government was confronted with the problem of liquidating wartime controls. If it had acted boldly, and announced that all boldly, and announced that all of the Hotel and Restaurant Emwould be dropped at a fixed date, our economy could have prepared for the shock and cushioned it.

mained tightly controlled, the for the group. Government deliberately created Mr. Green said the delegates would be permitted to rise in pro- to hm on their return: portion to wage increases.

It was unnecessary. It could have ican Federation of Labor unions Broadcasting System that, to proalready had negotiated wage in- vide a comprehensive weekly rehad proved it could be done.

But the Government ignored series entitled "Cross Section these facts in its haste to ap- USA" beginning January 4. pease the extremists on both increases was established along country from 3 to 3:30 p. m,. with a new formula for price increases. And the purchasing boganning down hill.

Government got around to wiping ed in these organizations. out price and wage controls. But a great deal of damage already has been done.

takes of 1946, we cant' help feel- Local 21193 of the American Feding that conditions must improve eration of Municipal Transit in 1947. At least, we have got Workers (AFL), voted to join rid of most Government controls. District 50 of the United Mine

FOR VISIT TO ARGENTINA

AFL President William Green announced the appointment of a special delegation which will who must depend on small, fixed leave early in January on a trip to Argentina on the invitation of the Argentine Government and

> Arnold S. Zander, President of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes, Madison, Wis.

Lee W. Minton, President of the Glass Bottle Blowers' Association of the U. S. and Canada, Philadelphia, Pa.

Israel H. Goldberg, Vice President of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union, New York City.

Miguel Carriga, Vice President York City.

Serafino Romualdi, of the International Ladies' Garment But the Government decided not Workers' Union, New York City. to let go. Faced with the refusal Mr. Romualdi, Latin-American of the steel industry to bargain representatives of the AFL, will

The "bulge" was a political, "CROSS SECTION" PROGRAM rather than an economic decision. STARTS ON AIR JANUARY 4 New York City-Announcement

been avoided. Hundreds of Amer- was made here by the Columbia creases for their members with- port on the Nation's main thinkout forcing price increases. They ing problems, it will inaugurate a 39-week Saturday afternoon

The program will be heard on sides. A new formula for wage Columbia stations throughout the (EST) each Saturday.

Edward R. Murrow, CBS Vice power of the dollar started tob- President and Director of Public Affairs, said the program would As time passed, the American be prepared in collaboration with people became fed up with the nine organizations of national imwhole mess. They registered portance which will reflect the their dissatisfaction in the No- views of labor, management and vember elections. Belatedly, the agriculture. The AFL is includ-

6.000 JOIN UMW NO. 50 New York City.-With an esti-Ae we look back upon the mis- mated membership of 6,000, the



Uncle Sam Says



torus 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.

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U.S. Treasury Department



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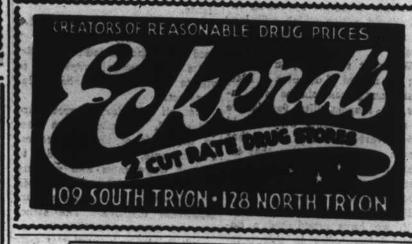
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