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Trade Unions Lose 1,331,500 Members In Last Three Years

(United Press.)
NEW YORK, Nov. 14.—The total membership of trade unions in the United States increased from 447,000 in 1897 to 3,779,000 in 1923, according to advance figures taken from a report to be issued early in December by the National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc., of this city, under the title "The Growth of American Trade Unions, 1880-1923."

The largest membership recorded in one year was in 1920, when 5,110,500 were enrolled in trade unions. The membership in 1921 was 4,813,400; and in 1922, 4,058,400.

The findings in this report, which required two years for its preparation, have been approved by the board of directors of the bureau.

Summarizing the tables in the formal report, a statement authorized by the bureau reads in part as follows:

"During roughly the last half century the membership in American trade unions has twice reached striking peaks, from which it has later descended. The first peak was achieved in 1887 when membership rose to about 1,000,000 and the second in 1920 when it exceeded 5,000,000. In each case the labor movement failed to hold its maximum numbers.

After 1887 the losses were so great that membership in the early nineties was probably only a couple of hundred thousand, and since 1920 the unions have lost more than one and a quarter millions. The two situations are not, however, analogous. The labor movement in the process of finding itself; it was torn by internal conflict, and it was engaged in finding the form and methods of effective organization. The resolution of these forces of internal dissension and the realization of some consensus of opinion regarding a program of development left the movement in the middle nineties small, but started on a new career. Thereafter the rise in members has been almost continuous and has always been large.

"The first great break came with the industrial depression of 1921 and has lasted for most unions through 1923. In this last year, however, the labor movement has still a membership of close to 4,000,000, roughly 1,000,000 greater than it was in the years before the World War and more than 3,000,000 above the membership in 1897, when the movement may be said to have entered upon its present phase.

"In the years before the war when membership rose from about 450,000 to 2,750,000, the gains from year to year were made by the craft unions in the building trades, steam railroad and printing industries, and by the coming into power of the United Mine Workers. In fact, in almost the whole of this period, nearly half of the total membership was to be found in the transportation and building groups, while the rest were scattered over all other industries and services. Only in a few places like the coal mines and glass and stone industries was there a like concentration of union membership.

"This condition changed quite radically in the years from 1915 to 1920 by the extensive spread of unionism among the semi-skilled and unskilled, and into industries hitherto almost totally unorganized.

"Partly as a result of the temporary effects of industrial depression and partly the effect of the permanent liquidation of war industries, the period from 1920 to 1923 was one of falling membership. In the drop practically all labor organizations shared.

"Those which had been most heavily represented in the war industries and which had experienced the most substantial gains, were in the period of deflation the heaviest losers. The metal and transportation unions alone contributed about 60 per cent of the total loss in this period. The textile and packing house unions lost about as much as they had gained.

"As before, the established organizations of skilled craftsmen, like the railway brotherhoods; the trade unions of skilled workers in the building trades, like the bricklayers' union, and the United Mine Workers retained what they had won.

"The rest of the unions appear to be in 1923 on a slightly higher level of membership than they were in the pre-war years, but they so far remain much below what they had achieved in 1920. In the clothing industry alone, among the industries which were weak in labor organization before the war, unionism now on a new and higher level than that of 1914.

"The chemical, food, iron and steel, metal and textile industries are now, as they have been for many years, in the main poorly organized. Aggregate membership in these industries is substantial, but in proportion to the number employed in them it is slight."

ROYAL WINTER FAIR TO BE BEAUTY SPOT

TORONTO, Nov. 13.—Professional and amateur horticulturists and floriculturists will exhibit the choicest products of the soil, gardens and greenhouses at the Royal Winter Fair, which makes its third bow to the public on Tuesday, Nov. 18, in the Royal Coliseum. The various associations, the City Parks Department and large exhibitors are co-operating in an effort to make this section one of the real beauty spots of the Fair. It will be one grand comprehensive show. The ground floor of the west annex of the Coliseum has been given over for this wonderful display. Mr. Peter Whylock, chairman of the horticulture section, reports that the entries this year outnumber those of last year by a large margin. The

Berlin Opera Houses Extend Welcome To Musicians Of World

(United Press.)
BERLIN, Nov. 14.—Berlin has apparently regained its position as the premier music centre in Europe. Artists of all nationalities are flocking here to give concerts and fill engagements as visiting artists in the four grand opera houses which play nightly to capacity houses. Chappin, the Russian baritone; Julia Culp, the Dutch concert singer; Ossip Gabrilowitch, pianist and director of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and half a dozen other foreign artists have already given concerts, and scores of others are advertised to appear in the near future.

There is little talk today of German artists seeking American engagements, as there are apparently abundant opportunities in Germany for musicians of all sorts. Mascagni's opera season in Berlin turned out badly because he attempted to produce "Aida" in an exposition hall which was so large that even the persons in the front rows could not hear the singers and the public refused to attend.

Italy and Germany have apparently renewed their old battle for supremacy in the musical world, and there has been much politics in the Mascagni failure. The German foreign office and the Italian embassy did everything possible to salvage the Mascagni engagement, but it was badly financed by Rumanian backers who had insufficient funds to meet the deficit. Even the local Italian colony failed to patronize the enterprise after the reports were widely circulated concerning the unsatisfactory acoustics of the building.

London is making a bid for the Mascagni production of "Aida" and it will probably be given there in the Crystal Palace. Mascagni is arranging to give his "Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Bazzani" here in a smaller house, and will have the assistance of Maria Gay, Zenatello and other Italian artists who participated in the unfortunate "Aida" experiment.

Many of the German musicians and singers are unfriendly to modern Italian music, and heated arguments are waged in the press as to the relative merits of the modern music of Germany and Italy. The operas continue, however, to play the Puccini music and the German public shows a decided fondness for the tuneful music of the modern Italian composers. Many German artists are apparently of the opinion that Germany's composers have become ultra-modern in their work and have departed too far from older standards to please the average opera-goer.

Scientist Predicts Fall of Rain on Land By Warmth of Ocean

(United Press.)
SAN DIEGO, Cal., Nov. 14.—There is a direct relation between the temperature of the ocean and the seasonal rainfall in the same region, according to George F. McEwen, of the Biological Institute at La Jolla, Cal., who has reached this conclusion after extended research.

Using this theory Mr. McEwen has predicted that the rainfall in San Diego and vicinity this year would be five inches more than the average for the last eight years. According to the hypothesis, low summer temperatures in the ocean mean increased rainfall in the winter, and higher temperatures indicate less precipitation.

"The moisture of the air over the North Pacific ocean," explained Mr. McEwen, "is continually replenished by evaporation from the ocean surface. The amount of the water vapor available for precipitation upon the land is proportional to the mass of air flowing in from the ocean.

"It has been known that a high pressure area over the North Pacific, centered 1,000 miles or more west of San Luis Obispo, reaches its maximum intensity late in the winter, and diminishes till about February, when in some years it disappears entirely, and again increases to a summer maximum. Therefore a summer in which the ocean 'high' is relatively great should be followed by a relatively great transfer of air landward during the winter or rainy season. Numerous barometric observations over the ocean, suitably distributed both in space and time, would serve to determine the amount of air forming the Pacific 'high.' Foreknowledge of the amount of air

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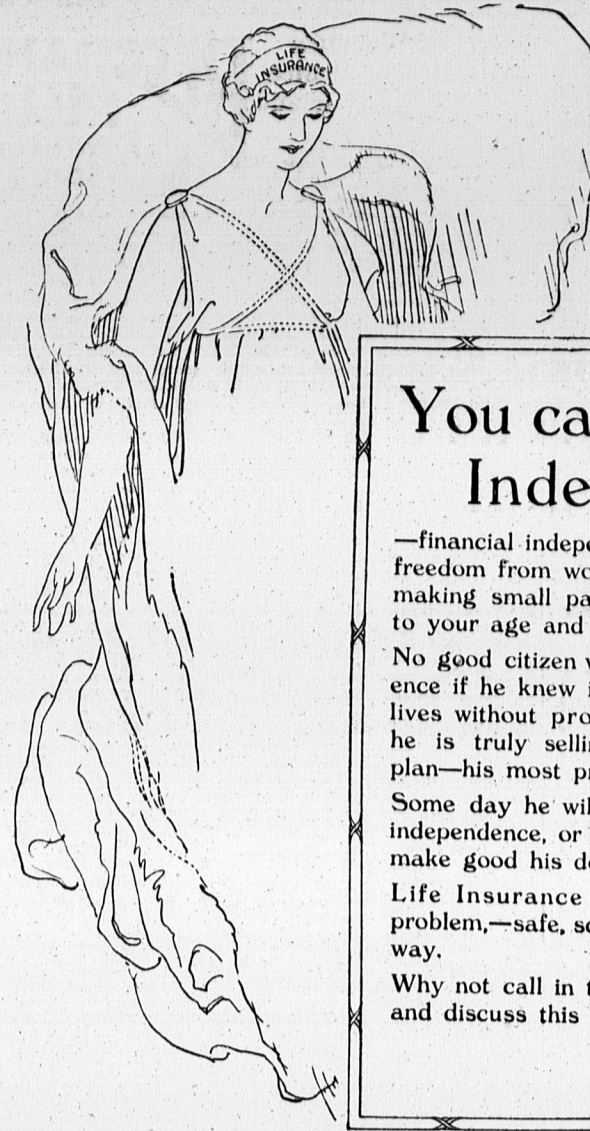
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Warns Against German Shares

(Special to the Guardian)
BERLIN, Oct. 14.—In view of requests from the United States for information concerning the value of many German corporation shares three to five year old issues on a flotation basis the United States Chamber of Commerce in Germany today publishes a warning to the United States public against such investment. "The gratifying interest evidenced by American bankers and by the American public in German securities which found expression above all in the successful flotation of the German loan," the statement says, "is greatly jeopardized by the offering in America of such German securities which are entirely unsound and which in no way are suited for investors in foreign countries. We consider our duty to warn the American public against such investments which are apt to injure greatly the interests in German economies."

FOUND DEAD ON FLOOR WITH CHILD BESIDE HER

MONTREAL, Nov. 14.—Returning home from school yesterday afternoon to go to the movies with his mother, Thomas Murphy, aged nine, 2444 St. Urban St., could not get into the house, though he tried both front and rear doors, and called lustily for his parent.

Becoming frightened, the lad appealed to neighbors, who helped him force the kitchen door. His mother was found lying dead on the floor, with his three year old sister crying bitterly beside her. The child, too small to open the locked doors or notify anybody of the tragedy, had spent the afternoon beside the body.

Heart failure is thought to have been the cause of the woman's death.

GANG MADE BIG CLEAN-UP

CHICAGO, Nov. 14.—Six men last night bound and gagged the watchman of the Empire Storage Company, and spent several hours breaking into a vault and opening twenty-five safety deposit boxes before they escaped with jewelry and securities, the value of which may run into thousands of dollars.

On a handcart advertising movie films in Tunbridge Wells has appeared the announcement: "The Sea Gave Up Her Dead. In Three Parts. All rights reserved."

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