One-fifth of American Wage Earners Are in Trade Unions

(List of Bureau's Reports is Increased to Six Titles)

With the addition of The Growth of American Trade Unions, 1880-1925, the list of official reports published under the auspices of the National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc., is increased to six. A complete list of the titles, with specifications and prices, follows. Three copies of each title are kept on file at the lowest practicable figures, and are intended to cover printing and distribution costs only.

Income in the United States, Volume I. A summary of an investigation of the Amount and Distribution of Income in the United States 1900-1919 intended for readers who are primarily interested in the results. Size 7½ by 5 by 3 inches, 152 pages, with preface, 20 tables, 31 charts and indexed. Bound in cloth. $1.58 postpaid. (Fourth printing.)

Income in the United States, Volume II. A report giving in full the methods used in the results shown in Volume I are bound. Size 5 by 5 by 3 inches, 322 pages, with preface and 9 tables. Bound in cloth. $1.30 postpaid. (Third printing.)

Business Conditions and Unemployment, Results of an investigation made for the President's Conference on Unemployment. By the staff of the Bureau with 16 collaborators. Tweedled. This report summarizes the known facts of unemployment and describes the various methods suggested to control the business cycle and alleviate cyclical unemployment. Size 9 by 6 inches, 405 pages, with 56 tables, 56 charts, and indexed. Bound in cloth. $4.10 postpaid. (Second printing.)

Employment Hours and Earnings in Prosperity and Depression. Results of an inquiry conducted by the National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc., with the help of the U. S. Bureau of Markets and Crop Estimates and the Bureau of the Census. Designed to meet the special needs of all persons interested in the study of labor conditions. Gives an investigation summarized in Business Cycles and Unemployment to which it is completely full details. Size 9 by 6 inches, 147 pages, illustrated with 75 tables, 11 charts, and indexed. Bound in cloth. $3.10 postpaid. (Second printing.)

The Growth of American Trade Unions, 1880-1925. Results of a comprehensive investigation of trade union membership year by year; its fluctuations with the business cycle; effects of World War conditions; women in trade unions. A detailed analysis of the total working population. Size 9 by 6 inches, 170 pages, illustrated with 27 tables, 16 charts, and indexed. Bound in cloth. $1.50 postpaid.

Persons who wish to receive early copies of all the future publications of the Bureau may enroll as contributing subscribers, paying a minimum of $25 a year. In addition to receiving the publications, the contributing subscribers will be in touch with the work of the Bureau as it progresses.

Proportionate Strength Doubled in Decade, Analysis of Working Population Shows

Compared with the total numbers of wage earners in this country, trade union strength as measured by its membership in 1920 was relatively twice as great in 1920 as in 1910, according to a report just issued by the National Bureau of Economic Research, under the title The Growth of American Trade Unions, 1880-1925.

The rate of growth during this decade, this report shows, was approximately the same whether membership is compared with the industrial wage-earning population of the country or with the combined industrial and agricultural wage-earning population.

Union Growth Measured

In a copyrighted table that summarizes some of the results of this exhaustive investigation undertaken by Dr. Leo Wolman and his assistants, under the general direction of Dr. Wesley C. Mitchell and Dr. Edwin F. Gage, co-directors of the National Bureau of Economic Research, have been engaged for over a year, it is shown that at the end of the decade one-fifth of the wage earners of the country were members of labor organizations, whereas in 1910 the percentage was so organized.

In other words, in 1920, after ten years of very substantial growth in numbers about four-fifths of the general category of wage earners were not members of unions. The figures in detail follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Wage Earners</th>
<th>Trade Union Membership</th>
<th>Per Cent Organized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>9,220,000</td>
<td>3,100,000</td>
<td>33.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>11,100,000</td>
<td>2,750,000</td>
<td>24.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1910 the workers in the salt, oil and natural gas industry had no union at all; in 1920 there was a substantial organization with a membership of over 20,000. Such analysis can be pushed even further. Thus the average number of coal miners in the United States, of which 639,474 were bituminous and 145,074 anthracite miners. It is known that the anthracite miners have a monopsony in the degree of organization than the soft coal miners. Bituminous miners were in 1920 probably less than 50 per cent organized.

Clothing Trades Stronger

"Extent of organization in manufacturing industries runs the whole gamut from less than 1 per cent of organization in the chemical and allied industries to more than 50 per cent in clothing. The tremendous rise in the percentage of organization in this industry is the most striking phenomenon in the whole group of manufacturing industries." The clothing industry was converted from one of the weakly organized industries in 1910 into one of the most strongly in 1920. This is attributable, mainly, as shown in the discussion of the growth of membership in this group, to the rise of the Independent Workers. They after their strike in 1910 and to the rapid increase in membership of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers after their organization in the last months of 1914."

Table Shows Per Cent of Each Industry Organized

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division of Industry</th>
<th>Per Cent Organized 1920</th>
<th>Per Cent Organized 1910</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extraction of Minerals</td>
<td>41.0</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing Industries</td>
<td>44.0</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>37.3</td>
<td>17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building and Construction</td>
<td>49.6</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stationary Engineers</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stationary Firemen</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional and Clerical Occupations</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic and Personal Services</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Service</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of wage earners organized in major divisions of industry is shown in the following table, copyrighted by the National Bureau of Economic Research, for the years 1920 and 1910.
Germany and Britain Exceed U.S. in Union Totals

America Ranks Third Among Nations of World in Wage Earners Organized

The United States stands third among the nations of the world in total numbers of wage earners "organized" into trade unions, according to data compiled by the National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc. The figures for the three most highly organized countries are as follows:

Germany
13,308,721
United Kingdom (Excluding Irish Free State)
5,405,000
United States
3,280,000

"An adequate interpretation of the meaning of the growth of the American labor movement in its last phase, when the changes upward and downward were of such great magnitude, would not be complete without noting that changes of this character were apparently not limited to the United States," says a statement supplementing the report of the National Bureau of Economic Research on The American Trade Unions, 1880-1923, upon which Dr. Leo Wolman of the Bureau's staff has been engaged for over a year.

Unprecedented Increases Experienced

"The period from 1914 to the present was indeed one of striking fluctuation in the membership of labor organizations throughout the world," the statement continues. "In spite of the lack of any standards of statistical comparability, there is no avoiding the conclusion that labor organizations everywhere have experienced since the beginning of the World War an unprecedented increase in their membership."

"The English unions which were already large in 1914 more than doubled their membership and by 1920 had 3,280,000 members. In Germany, France, Italy and even in South Africa the gains would appear to be equally striking."

"As in the case of the American unions, foreign labor organizations were also severely hit by the industrial depression which at one time or another after the war spread nearly throughout the world."

Effects of Cycle Shown

"The statistics of membership for a few selected countries which are based on original sources and presented below show how recessions in business and employment were accompanied by large losses in membership:

United States:
1914, 2,716,900; 1915, 2,697,700;
1916, 2,800,000; 1917, 3,104,600;
1918, 3,584,800;
1919, 4,169,100; 1920, 5,110,800;
1921, 4,815,000;
1922, 4,059,400; 1923, 3,280,000;
1924, 3,457,200; 1925, 2,379,200;
1926, 1,680,400; 1927, 985,000;
1928, 524,200; 1929, 332,500; 1930, 450,500; 1931, 415,400; 1932, 353,500; 1933, 261,500; 1934, 220,600; 1935, 192,000;
1936, 172,000; 1937, 152,000; 1938, 132,000; 1939, 112,000; 1940, 92,000; 1941, 72,000; 1942, 52,000; 1943, 32,000; 1944, 12,000; 1945, 2,000; 1946, 1,000; 1947, 500; 1948, 200; 1949, 100; 1950, 50; 1951, 10; 1952, 5; 1953, 1.

Holland:
1914, 16,000; 1915, 27,400; 1916, 29,800; 1917, 352,500; 1918, 420,500; 1919, 514,600; 1920, 620,500; 1921, 681,200; 1922, 539,000; 1923, 572,000; 1924, 543,000; 1925, 527,000; 1926, 503,000; 1927, 479,000; 1928, 450,000; 1929, 421,000; 1930, 393,000; 1931, 365,000; 1932, 337,000; 1933, 319,000; 1934, 301,000; 1935, 283,000; 1936, 265,000; 1937, 247,000; 1938, 229,000; 1939, 211,000; 1940, 193,000; 1941, 175,000; 1942, 158,000; 1943, 141,000; 1944, 124,000; 1945, 107,000; 1946, 90,000; 1947, 73,000; 1948, 56,000; 1949, 40,000; 1950, 24,000; 1951, 18,000; 1952, 12,000; 1953, 6,000.

Italy:
1914, 962,000; 1915, 806,000; 1916, 701,000; 1917, 740,000; 1918, 1,800,000; 1919, 3,100,000; 1920, 3,400,000; 1921, 2,600,000; 1922, 2,000,000; 1923, 1,500,000; 1924, 1,300,000; 1925, 1,100,000; 1926, 900,000; 1927, 700,000; 1928, 500,000; 1929, 300,000; 1930, 200,000; 1931, 100,000; 1932, 50,000; 1933, 25,000; 1934, 12,000; 1935, 6,000; 1936, 2,000; 1937, 1,000; 1938, 500; 1939, 250; 1940, 100; 1941, 50; 1942, 25; 1943, 10; 1944, 5; 1945, 2; 1946, 1; 1947, 0.

Germany and Britain Exceed U.S. in Union Totals

Young Heads Economists

Dr. ALLYN A. YOUNG, director-at-large of the National Bureau of Economic Research, was elected president of the American Economic Association at its recent meeting in Chicago. Dr. Young succeeds Dr. Wesley C. Mitchell, director of research of the National Bureau of Economic Research, who headed the association in 1924.

Dr. Willford I. King of the Staff of the National Bureau has been elected to the American Economic Statistical Association, the headquarters of which have been removed from Columbia University to space in the National Bureau's building at 474 West 26th Street, New York.