

Wage Increases Follow in Wake of Democratic Victory

A Washington dispatch, dated Jan. 27, says: Secretary of Labor William B. Wilson stated today that more than eleven hundred thousand wage earners in the United States received substantial increases in pay in the months of November and December, 1916, according to figures just compiled.

"With a few minor exceptions," said the secretary, "all of the 1,118,960 increases came after election day, November 7th, and 931,763 during December. This is extremely interesting in view of the prediction of 'closed shops,' 'soup kitchens,' 'bread lines,' etc., should President Wilson be re-elected, with which the republican managers flooded the columns of the newspapers and plastered the billboards of the country in the last six weeks of the campaign. It is significant that of the 1,118,960 of workers affected, only 351,300, or a little more than 3 per cent are employed in the manufacture of munitions. It is also significant that whereas 66 of the 212 increases noted for November were the result of the strikes; only 33 of the 304 for December were secured through this method.

Had Compilations Made

"I have had prepared from various newspapers and periodicals tables showing wage increases secured by employees in manufacturing and other establishments in the months mentioned. The figures presented were selected from 45 trade union periodicals, 42 labor papers, 6 leading trade journals, and over 50 daily newspapers published in various parts of the country. Great care has been taken to eliminate all duplicates.

"The reports for November, 1916, show 212 statements of wage increases in 38 states. Three of the reports relate to railroads and other interstate establishments. Of these 212 reports 131 show the number of establishments affected to be 163 and 77 reports show 187,207 employees affected. Of the 212 reports of wage increases 57 are stated to be the result of mutual agreement between employer and employees, 66 as the result of strikes, 72 by voluntary action on the part of the employer, and for the remaining 17 no reason was stated. The second table shows the same information arranged by industry or occupation. This tabulation shows 77 reports which gave the number of employees affected, the largest number affected being in the foundry and machine shop, 32,436; mining, 27,500; iron and steel, 24,500; boots and shoes, 18,300; textile workers, 17,950; tanning, 15,000.

304 Increases in December

"The publications examined for the month of December show 304 reports of wage increases. These were for establishments in 38 states 21 of which were for railroads and other interstate establishments. Of these 304 reports, 209 showed a total of 359 establishments involved. One hundred and forty reports showed the total number of employees benefited by the increase of wages to be 931,763. Of these 304 reports of wage increases 45 were reported to be obtained by mutual agreement between employer and employees, 33 as the result of strikes, 172 by voluntary action of the employer, and for the remaining

54, no reason was given. The second table shows that the largest number of employees benefited were in iron and steel, 341,600; textile workers, 208,350; garment workers, 112,300; workers in electrical supplies, 60,000; munitions, 35,000; boots and shoes, 33,730; telephone and telegraph service, 23,000; paper manufacturing, 23,115.

"In the reports from which our figures were compiled there was no uniformity in stating the amount of increase, and in a large proportion of the cases it was not possible to determine a percentage. In the cases where the increase was stated in the form of percentage or where a percentage could be computed, the prevailing increases were from 5 per cent to 10 per cent."

FAMOUS "APOSTROPHE TO WATER"

[Words with which John B. Gough, old-time lecturer, always closed his oration, are discovered by L. J. O'Donnell of Joliet and sent to Nelson Thomasson of Chicago. They were written in 1856 by the late Judge A. W. Arrington. Gough used to pour out a glass of water, apostrophize it and then dismiss his audience with a wave of his hand.—Ex.]

"Look at that, ye thirsty one of earth! Behold it! See its purity! How it glitters, as if a mess of liquid gems! It is a beverage that was brewed by the hand of the Almighty himself. Not in the simmering still of smoking fires, choked with poisonous gases and surrounded by the stench of sickening odors and rank corruption, doth our Father in heaven prepare the precious essence of life, the pure, cold water; but in the green glade and grassy dell, where the red deer wanders and the child loves to play—there God brews it. And down, down in the deepest valleys, where the fountains murmur and the rills sing; and high upon the tall mountain tops, where the native granite glitters like gold in the sun, where the storm clouds brood and the thunders crash; and away, far out on the wide sea, where the hurricanes howl music and the big waves roll the chorus heralding the march of God—there he brews it, that beverage of life, health-giving water. And everywhere it is a thing of beauty, gleaming in the dewdrop, singing in the summer rain, shining in the ice-gem, till the trees all seem turned into living jewels, spreading a golden veil over the setting sun or white gauze around the midnight moon, sporting in the cataract, sleeping in the glacier, dancing in the hall shower, folding its bright curtain softly about the wintry world and weaving the merry-colored iris, that seraph's zone of the skies, whose warp is the rain of earth, whose woof is the sunbeam of heaven all checkered o'er with celestial flowers by the mystic band of rarefaction—still always it is beautiful, that blessed life water! No poison bubbles on the brink, its foam brings no sadness or murder, no blood stains in its limpid glass. Broken-hearted wives, pale widows and starving orphans shed no tears in its depths. No drunkard's shrieking ghost from the grave curses it in words of eternal despair. Beautiful, pure, blessed and glorious. Give me forever the sparkling, pure, cold water."

REVAMPING AN OLD QUESTION

Twenty years ago, William Jennings Bryan ran for president on a "Free Silver" platform. His argument, in short, was based on the limited supply of gold, which at that time was a more or less apparent fact. He had no way of knowing that great gold fields would be developed and that new processes for extracting gold would greatly increase the production of that metal. He saw the nations of the earth engaged in a mad struggle for the possession of gold as the basis for their circulating medium,—the struggle to result in falling prices to the ruin of debtors and the enrichment of creditors.

Fundamentally, Mr. Bryan's position rested on the assumption of what is known as the quantitative theory of money which is that, when the amount of the circulating medium increases prices go up and when it decreases, prices go down.

With a constantly increasing amount of money and rising prices, the quantitative theory is getting additional support. That does not mean, except inferentially, that Mr. Bryan's free silver views were correct. Even though the quantitative theory of money be excepted, there is room to doubt whether the parity between two metals could be maintained. If not, the free coinage of silver would have been disastrous, however desirable an increase in the quantity of money might have been.

There were many who accepted the quantitative theory, but doubted the ability of the country to maintain the parity between the two metals. There were those who made sport of Mr. Bryan and his views on every phase of the question. He has lived to see one of them—the quantitative theory—all but universally accepted. No one worth while doubts that the steady rise in the prices of commodities is due, in part, to the increase of gold and money generally. Bankers, who condemned Bryan and all his views, are now concerned over the fact that we are getting so much gold on hand that prices may disappear out of sight in the upper heavens.

His views as to the ability of the country to maintain the parity between the two metals, probably never will be proved, even if they were true, which does not matter much as we have more gold now than we know what to do with and there is no need of another metal as a circulating medium or as a basis for money.

It is somewhat surprising to find financiers urging the demonetization of gold as a way out of present difficulties.

Verily nothing is settled. The fallacy of yesterday becomes the truth of today and the truth of today is cast as error into the limbo of forgetfulness tomorrow. This will be ever so as to such questions as money, tariff and commerce but happily is never so as to questions which are moral by nature and where truth becomes a positive, not a relative thing.

In the meantime, let no one fear that the money question is to claim public attention in the next campaign. * Business, commerce and money will get adjusted and the nation can fight out its presidential contest over the supremacy or destruction of the liquor traffic.

Whatever the issue, Mr. Bryan comes up serenely.—Stewart, in National Enquirer.

BRYAN'S VISIT

Bryan has come and gone, but the pleasure of his presence will linger long in the memory of the people of Jackson.

Colonel Bryan appeared here last night, where he delivered his latest lecture, "Fundamentals," to an enthusiastic and appreciative assembly, notwithstanding the night was a most disagreeable one.

The audience that greeted Colonel Bryan was not only large, but it was most representative, containing as it did, men in all walks of life, their wives and members of their families, all of whom paid strict attention to one of the most entertaining as well as instructive lectures ever delivered by any platform speaker.

Mr. Bryan is a born orator; as an advocate of any cause he is without a peer in this or any other country. His great strength lies in his plain simplicity, as indicated in his every word, tone and gesture; in his ability to capture not only the attention of his audience but their respect and affection as well, and when one once hears him, he impatiently awaits his return and eagerly accepts the opportunity to hear him again.

Mr. Bryan is the greatest platform lecturer in America; a polished speaker, a deep thinker, logical and forceful in his expression, pleasing in his delivery and graceful in his every gesture; his voice is clear and its carrying power so great that he can be heard distinctly in the most remote corner of the largest halls in the country. His flights of oratory capture his audience and holds them enraptured to the last syllable, never failing to arouse them to the highest pitch of enthusiasm.

But not only as an orator is Mr. Bryan admired in Mississippi. He is held in the greatest esteem by her people as a man, and revered as a democrat in whom there is no guile, a man after their own hearts whom they delight to honor and love to entertain.

The applause that followed the remarks of Col. Henry, who presented Mr. Bryan to the audience—"three times the unanimous" of his party and still young enough to be president of the United States; and to whom many eyes are turning for leadership in 1920," proved that the audience shared the sentiment to the fullest; and what Jackson feels is but an index or expression shared by others.—Jackson (Miss.) Clarion Ledger, Jan. 2.

THE PRESIDENT'S COURSE

The president of the United States has been always more or less of a world figure, and especially since Roosevelt's blunt and practical method brought about an end of the war between Russia and Japan. President Wilson has reached a higher plane than any attained by any of his predecessors, and the common sense of the world will indorse his request for some justification of the continued fighting in Europe. He speaks not only for this country and all neutral countries, but for humanity, and he asks that the warring nations shall appear in the court of public opinion and show cause, if any there be, why they shall go on with the inhuman slaughter. This is real world leadership, and while some of the belligerents are disposed to scoff and sneer at the President, his influence is making itself felt and growing daily, and it may be confidently expected that the beginning of the end of the war is not far distant.—The Memphis Scimitar.