

Thursday, March 12, 1931

## SAYS UNEMPLOYMENT NOT MACHINE PRODUCT

### Statistics Fail to Support This Often Repeated Statement, Magazine Claims

Statistics fail to support the oft-repeated assertion that unemployment is due to machines and over-production. A study of the actual figures of industry in the United States, made for Collier's Weekly by John T. Flynn, points conclusively to an exactly opposite situation.

Taking the automobile as an example, Mr. Flynn finds that 4,400,000 people in the United States are dependent on the automobile industry for their jobs. This total, including factory workers, filling station and garage employees, salesmen, chauffeurs and taxi drivers, has increased by 1,275,000 in the past five years. "This total alone," says Mr. Flynn, "obviously offsets any inroads which machine methods may have made on payrolls in other industries."

"If it is true that the machine has been producing unemployment in the country as a whole, then the number of occupied persons ought to be growing less all the time. In 1850 there were 857,059 persons employed in factories. This was less than 4 per cent of the population. Yet in 1929 there were 8,550,284 persons employed in factories. This was 7 per cent of the population."

#### Was Increase

"As a matter of fact, there was an increase of 200,000 people employed in factories between 1927 and 1929, the very year when machine unemployment was supposed to be proceeding at the greatest pace. If the machine was creating unemployment it would be noticed more in factories than elsewhere, yet the percentage of the people working in factories is larger than it was either 80 or 30 or two years ago."

"If we look at the employment of the whole population we have much the same result. In 1880, 34.4 per cent of all our people were engaged in gainful occupations. In 1920, 39.4 per cent of all our people were thus employed. This was a little less than in 1910, but it was undoubtedly less than the whole number because it was made in January when a great number of agricultural and building workers were not employed, while the 1910 and other census enumerations were made when agricultural and building industries were at their height."

"On the whole, while instances can be given of men displaced by machines, the nation as a whole affords no proof of this condition."

## Consider Shurtleff for U. S. Judgeship

Possibility that Circuit Judge Edward D. Shurtleff of Marengo will be appointed as one of two federal judges to serve Northern Illinois, according to a bill passed last week by congress, was forecast today. The bill creating the new judgeships has not been signed by President Hoover, although it was passed by both houses of congress with almost unanimous votes.

It is understood that Judge Shurtleff, who frequently sits in circuit court here, was under consideration by the department of justice at the time Judge Charles E. Woodward of Ottawa received his appointment to the federal bench. At that time, it was reported to be a toss-up between the two men. Shurtleff's qualifications were investigated at that time, and he was found acceptable in all respects.

## Sheriff Calls in Stars Issued by Predecessor

Sheriff Lester Tiffany last week made a call for the return of all deputy sheriff stars issued by preceding sheriffs in Lake county and ordered that no recognition be made of any man displaying a deputy's badge other than those given by the present administration.

Chief Deputy Thomas Kennedy stated that all persons deputized by Sheriff Tiffany not only have the deputy emblem but also have an identification card which bears the number of the deputy's star, his signature and the sheriff's signature. All those deputized by Sheriff Tiffany have also been bonded for \$10,000 each.

1-211



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