

SPECTRE OF WANT HAUNTS EUROPE; GERMANY'S PLIGHT

Millions of Workers on Brink of Starvation

By MANUEL GOMEZ.

ESSEN, Germany, March 6. (By Mail).—Unemployment, the spectre that one sees everywhere in Europe, is most awful in Dawes's Germany. At least 2,000,000 workers are unemployed thruout the land. Some 4,000,000 more are working only part time. It is impossible to spend a week in any German city without having unemployment impressed upon your mind as the outstanding factor of the present industrial situation.

Dawes and Unemployment.

Unemployment is at its worst in those parts of Germany where the "rationalization" schemes which are the axis of Dawes's Germany have had their widest application. In addition to Berlin, the areas principally affected are Westphalia, the Ruhr territory, Saxony and central Germany,—including all the centers of heavy industry. I have addressed meetings of workers in all parts of this territory. At every meeting a large part of the crowd was made up of unemployed.

Talk to almost anyone riding in the third and fourth class cars on the railroads, spend a few minutes with one of the many jobless workers who hang around the depots waiting for a chance to carry a suitcase, go over things with the secretary of a local trade union, and official figures no longer satisfy you as to the seriousness of the situation.

City of Jobless.

This city of Essen, in the heart of one of Germany's two greatest industrial districts, is a city of the jobless. The big Krupp works, which formerly employed 40,000 men, now employ 10,000. While the decline of Krupp's is explained by special causes, it is impossible to separate them from conditions in general. The steel industry as a whole, the entire metal industry, even the feverishly busy coal industry, are working with greatly curtailed payrolls. As often as not, reduced employment goes hand in hand with increased production, brought about under the speed-up methods imported from America. Such methods include not only Fordized specialization, standardization, the conveyor system, etc., but also lengthening of the workday.

For Eight Hour Day.

The German masses may thus be divided into two groups: one that works long hours under speed-up conditions; another that has work for only a few days a week, or not at all.

It is significant that the Communist Party of Germany has had to take up the demand for a return to the eight-hour day! This demand, echoed by wide numbers of Social Democratic and other non-Communist workers, is the central point in the class struggle against Dawes' "rationalization" in Germany.