N.Y. Sets Payroll Pay Loss Pace

By JAY LOVESTONE

NEW YORK is again setting the pace. This time it is in the payroll loss and in the decrease of employment for the last month. Most of the industrial districts show declines in employment and payroll for the last month. But the New York losses are bigger than the average, according to the figures just made public by the New York state industrial Commissioner, James A. Hamilton.

From March to April factory payrolls showed a big loss. For the week of April 15, wages of forty percent of the factory workers show a drop of 35,000,000. This is a loss of 4 per cent in one month. At the same time the total employment of the state dropped two per cent.

THE tendency in New York state is significant especially in view of the fact that the general industrial situation in the country is usually estimated by striking the average of the conditions in the empire state with the figures of the United States bureau of labor statistics.

Precisely a year ago the decline marking the worst phase of the last depression had begun. Then, the wage decrease was about the same as this year, tho the 1925 drop in employment is not as big as the corresponding drop of last year.

The average factory wage for April in New York was $27.65 per week. This is approximately the same wage received by the workers at this time in 1924. In the metal industry, however, especially in the ship yards, the wages are lower than last year. The automobile industry is the only one to show any substantial increase in wages over last year.

THE women workers of the state have been hit harder by the wage reductions than the men. In the clothing shops, shoe and textile industry the wages of women workers suffered marked reductions last month.

The copper mills, the railway equipment shops, the hardware factories, and the heating apparatus manufactories showed the heaviest losses in the metal industry. It is interesting to note that this decline in the metal industry has been continuous since February.

The curtailment of production was also evident in the textile industry which reported reductions thru nearly every line of manufacture.

Ordinarily the workers engaged in the turning out of building materials show an increase in wages at this time of the year. This year no such increases are reported. In the brick yards part time is very noticeable. Within the last year wages have dropped in this industry from $24.39 to $19.70 a week.

THE two clothing centers of the state, Rochester and New York City, show losses in payrolls. In New York City the loss was seven per cent and in Rochester it was six per cent.

The heavy New York payroll loss compares with a loss of 0.2 per cent in the Illinois industrial district for last month. But the loss in the latter section has been continuous. New York also led the Illinois industrial district in the extent of the decrease of number employed. The latter section showed a loss of 1.3 per cent for the same time as compared with New York's loss of two per cent.

Economists the country over are keeping eye on industrial developments in New York which has always been considered somewhat of a weathervane in the economic developments of the country.