

Industrial Relations Department

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OPEN SHOP SQUARE DEAL

Review of Industrial Activities in El Paso During the Year 1919, and Report on Meeting of Southwestern Open Shop Association.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Fuel Survey.

During the month of December, 1919, a fuel survey was made of El Paso and vicinity. Questionnaires were sent to all of the manufacturing and industrial plants of the city asking for data relative to fuel used, labor employed, output and other items. Replies were received from several firms employing a total of 1740 people, reporting a consumption of 9,900 tons of coal, 1,500 tons of coke and 5,250 barrels of fuel oil per month. From data available it is estimated that the total coal consumption for manufacturing and industrial purposes in the city of El Paso is 170,000 tons per year.

Labor.

The labor condition in El Paso for the past six months has been unsettled. Sufficient labor to carry on the building program as initiated has been available although there has been no surplus. On account of the present low price of copper, activities in the mining centers of Arizona and New Mexico have been curtailed. These districts have afforded a labor supply, which, under other conditions, it would have been impossible to secure.

Scale of Wages.

The following rates are paid by the majority of local employers to the tradesmen listed, and represents the true prevailing rates in this locality:

Trade	Rate per day
Bricklayer	\$ 9.00
Bricklayer, helper	2.50
Bricklayer, foreman	10.00
Carpenter	8.00
Carpenter, helper	3.50
Carpenter, foreman	9.00
Electrician	9.00
Electrician, helper	4.50
Electrician, foreman	10.00
Electrician, lineman	8.00
Electrician, lineman foreman	9.00
Electrician wireman	8.00
Electrician wireman foreman	9.00
Engineer, hoisting	7.00
Engineer, steam roller	7.00
Engineer, steam shovel	7.00
Fireman	4.00
Glazier	4.00
Labor, common	2.00
Labor, foreman	4.50
Mason	5.50
Mason foreman	6.50
Painter	7.00
Painter, foreman	8.00
Plasterer	9.00
Plasterer, foreman	10.00
Plumber	10.00
Plumber, helper	4.50
Sheet Metal Worker	8.00
Sheet Metal helper	4.50
Sheet Metal foreman	9.00
Steam Fitter	9.00
Steam Fitter, helper	4.50
Steam Fitter, foreman	10.00
Tinner	8.00
Tinner, foreman	9.00

Building Trades.

All of the building trades in El Paso have been exceedingly busy during the past six months, several hundred dwellings and four new large buildings downtown being under process of construction. The scale of wages has been increased considerably and the building trades of El Paso are receiving as much, if not more, than like trades in other cities.

Mines and Mining.

Due to the high price of silver all of those mines producing this metal have been operating at full capacity and some new mines have been opened up. During the month of December the price of lead advanced to 8½¢ per pound and this has stimulated the mining of lead ores in the Arizona districts and in New Mexico. The price of copper has remained low and the copper producers are operating at approximately half of capacity. They are doing a large amount of development work made necessary by the shortage of labor during the war.

Contractors and Architects.

All of the contractors and architects in the city are busy. Contract for the construction of the new Franklin school building has been awarded to Stanley Bevan. The new Trust building, which is being constructed by Joe Morgan, contractor, at the corner of Texas and Stanton streets, is progressing nicely. The Federal Reserve Bank building, opposite the City Hall, is completed to the second story. The Tooley building, which is being constructed on San Francisco street by L. S. Glazier, contractor, is completed to the third story and will be ready for occupancy in the near future. The plans for several new buildings in the city are now being prepared and the architects report that much new work is contemplated.

Strikes and Effects.

There have been two strikes in the city during the past year, that of the laundry workers and by the meat cutters of the city. The laundry strike was to secure closed shop for laundries in the city, and after a strike of some four weeks the workers returned to work under the original conditions. The organization of laundry workers by representatives of the American Federation of Labor was the initial step of the Federation to organize all of the employees in the city. During the strike of the laundry workers the meat cutters of the city made a demand for closed shop conditions in the establishments in which they were employed and upon the refusal of employers to meet this demand, struck and while there has been no definite statement that the strike is ended, it seems to have died a natural death.

Southwestern Open Shop Association.

Pursuant to a call by several cities of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana now operating Open Shop Associations, delegates met at the Chamber of Commerce, Dallas, Texas, on February 13, 1920, for the purpose of organizing a Southwestern Open Shop Association. Representatives from the Open Shop Associations of Little Rock, Ark., Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, Galveston and El Paso, Texas, were present and in addition to these cities now having Open Shops, there were delegates from cities contemplating such movement as follows: Oklahoma City, Okla., Houston, Texas, and communications were received from Okmulgee, Ponca City and Durant, Okla., and Temple and Palestine, Texas.

There was submitted for approval a Constitution and By-Laws of the proposed Southwestern Open Shop Association and after discussion the same was approved. A nominating committee for officers for the ensuing year was appointed by the Chairman as follows:

T. D. Jackson, Dallas, Texas.
H. W. Hall, El Paso, Texas.
W. L. Childs, Houston, Texas.

Following were nominated for the Board of Governors:

Sam P. Cochran, Dallas.
J. F. Strickland, Dallas.
L. J. Black, Beaumont.
C. N. Bassett, El Paso.
Eugene Holmgreen, San Antonio.
Ed Cornish, Little Rock, Ark.
W. S. Mosher, Dallas.
J. C. Peyton, El Paso.
A. C. Goeth, Austin.
P. B. Doty, Beaumont.
M. F. Postwaite, San Antonio.
R. L. Thomson, Little Rock, Ark.

Nominating Committee also made the following recommendations to the Board of Governors for officers for the ensuing year:

President, J. F. Strickland, Dallas, Texas.
First Vice-Pres., Sam P. Cochran, Dallas, Texas.
Second Vice-Pres., L. J. Black, Beaumont, Texas.
Third Vice-Pres., C. M. Bassett, El Paso, Texas.
Fourth Vice-Pres., Eugene Holmgreen, San Antonio, Texas.
Fifth Vice-Pres., Ed Cornish, Little Rock, Ark.

Treasurer, W. S. Mosher, Dallas, Texas.

On motion duly seconded, the report of the Nominating Committee on officers, was unanimously adopted, and these officers so elected.

A resolution relative to the activities of the Assistant Attorney General at Oklahoma City was presented and adopted, this resolution being as follows:

Assistant Attorney General, C. B. Ames and Organized Capital.

In an Associated Press Report sent out from Oklahoma City, on the 9th of January, one C. B. Ames, described as an Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States, is reported to have said in an address to the Chamber of Commerce of that city, that "In his judgment, John L. Lewis and William Green of the United States Mine Workers of America, are better citizens than Elbert H. Gary."

The same report says that, again in the judgment of Mr. Ames, that the United States Steel Corporation is the father of all the country's economic ills. He then turned adviser to his audience, saying: "You should constitute yourself a committee of one, and say you shall not rob me, you damn profiteer." The whole tenor of his speech, as reported, seems to be an incitement to violence by an appeal to the passions and class prejudices.

This violent and injudicial language of the representative of the Department of Justice having been called to the attention of the Executive Committee of the Open Shop Association of San Antonio, Texas, in session hereby adopt the following resolutions:

Whereas, C. B. Ames, an official of the United States, described as an Assistant to the Attorney General, in a public address to the Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma City, denounced organized capital as a greater menace to the country than organized labor, and,

Whereas, all capital employed in business, whether it be the limited resources of a mere partnership, or the great sums used in big corporations, is organized and actually essential to the development and conduct of the country's business, and,

Whereas, such speeches as that attributed to this Assistant Attorney General of the United

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