



Excerpt from *The Bethlehem Globe* Wednesday, March 21, 1923

State Notes-

Harrisburg, March 21- (United Press) - The steel industry, the key to production in Pennsylvania, is reaching capacity, with frantic efforts being made by employment managers to secure labor from every available source, according to reports for March 15, announced by the Bureau of Employment, Department of Labor and Industry today.

Common Labor is being requisitioned from the south, it was reported while skilled mechanics over and above the available supply are being sought through immigration channels from Canada and England, where unemployment exists, notably in the shipbuilding industry.

In some quarters 90 per cent production has been reached in steel mills with prospect of capacity production before the end of March. Demand for handymen and helpers, indicating the sound condition of the industry, is reported from iron, and steel centers. The index to prosperity in Pennsylvania is said to be the extent of steel production. This condition is likewise reflected throughout the nation.

Reports from various quarters are:

Erie- Demand exists for all classes of skilled men. The shops of Erie were operating on a 90 per cent basis on the first of March, with exception that this will be increased during the month.

Harrisburg- Demand still continues for all classes of iron and steel workers. There are no unemployed iron and steel workers or first class mechanics. Demand for handymen and helpers increasing.

Johnstown- All steel mills and machine plants throughout Johnstown district running approximately to capacity. Most all steel mills short common labor with no prospect of improvement to any great extent.

McKeesport- Demand for iron and steel workers exceptionally heavy to keep up production.

Philadelphia- The demand from industries, both within the city and from other parts of the state continues to increase. Orders placed from various sources for indefinite number of men. Report that Scotch mechanics coming in confirmed reports that many are being placed in the industry around Philadelphia. Mechanists, molders, and pattern makers in demand.

Pittsburgh- Demand for mechanists and metal workers has been uniformly good. Lately demand has become heavier. During the past two weeks the demand for the helper and handymen class has been exceptionally heavy. This is a good indication of the status of the industry.

Reading- Numerous calls for helpers and handymen and these opening are met at a normal rate.