

Industry Abandons the Jobless

We've heard explanation after explanation of the problem of unemployment. We've heard of technological displacement (so ornery to say "Machines throw people out of work") and of excess immigration and over-population, and of cheap foreign goods flooding the market and overproduction, and of inadequate money supply and volume of credit, et cetera, ad nauseum. But like the popular songs, we must always have new ones.

Obliging George H. Davis, President of the U. S. Chamber of Com-

merce, is right on hand to provide us with a new explanation. Half, anyway, of the present unemployed, he says, are unemployable. Why? Because three million people—half the number of the present unemployed were out of work in the peak years of 1928 to 1929. Industry just couldn't absorb them, even in boom times. That's proof, isn't it, that three million people are unemployable?

The economic problem is thus explained away beautifully. Davis may well be proud, for he takes "some of

the mystery out of unemployment figures." And unemployment (half, anyway) is thus relegated, perhaps as a psychological problem instead of an economic one.

It's all so neat and exhibits such faith in our prosperity that it seems a shame to suggest that maybe our much-acclaimed prosperity isn't so hot, after all. We're wondering what the next unemployment theory will be. Keep your seats, the show will go on.

—Robert Clancy.

See: "Progress and Poverty," pp. 285--287.

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