

LABOR REPORT

March 3, 1946

1. Identification :

- a. Prefecture Covered : FUKUOKA PREFECTURE
- b. Report for month of : February 1946
- c. Report prepared by : Chief of Foreign Affairs Section

2. Labor Procurement :

- a. Skilled labor : 83%
- Unskilled " : 97%
- Unskilled female labor : 218%

b. Approximately 60% of the demand for unskilled labor was furnished by professional labor supplier, and the remaining 40% was covered by city people's mobilization (district mobilization). However, during March it is possible to change this entirely over to professional laborers and at present the prefectural labor section is strenuously exerting its efforts to that end.

The skilled labor was furnished by the same method as last month.

c. Number of labor furnished as on February 28 :

Skilled labor : 1,246
Unskilled " : 9,033
Unskilled female labor : 390

3. Wages :

a. Synthesizing from the social and economical point, the effectiveness of wage control is slight if positive and strong measures are not taken, therefore investigation is underway at present throughout the whole prefecture in order to establish minimum livelihood guaranteed wages to the laborers.

b. As the furnishing of labor to the Occupation Forces is entirely preferential, the Fukuoka prefecture, in order to secure it perfectly, has revised the former wages of laborers employed by the Occupation Forces and put into operation new stipulated wages as from February 6.

c Wage List of Laborers engaged in establishments, works, etc. of Occupation Forces.

1. General Utility Laborers:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Clear Days	Day Work Yen 10.00	Day Work Yen 8.00
	Night Work Yen	Night Work Yen 12.00

Rainy Days	Day Work Yen 11.00	Day Work Yen 9.00
	Night Work Yen 17.00	Night Work Yen 14.00

2. Different Classes of Skilled Laborers :

<u>Classification</u>		
Clear Days A	Day Work Yen 15.00	Day Work Yen 12.00
	Night Work Yen 23.00	Night Work Yen 19.00
B	Day Work Yen 13.00	Day Work Yen 10.00
	Night Work Yen 20.00	Night Work Yen 15.00

Rainy Days A	Day Work Yen 17.00	Day Work Yen 14.00
	Night Work Yen 26.00	Night Work Yen 20.00
B	Day Work Yen 15.00	Day Work Yen 12.00
	Night Work Yen 23.00	Night Work Yen 17.00

A refers to carpenters, plasterers, brick masons, roofers, plumbers, tin snags, automobile mechanics, glaziers, painters, cement workers, sign board painters, high class cooks, house managers, boilermen, welders, electricians, paper hangers, slate roofers, shoremen, etc.

B refers to seamsters, barbers, common cooks, Japanese typists, telephone operators (Japanese), firemen, earth workers, elevator boys, etc.

The stipulated wages of daily-laborers hired by the civilians are, according to the Wage Control Ordinance, on the former scale, being exceedingly lower than the Occupation Forces' labor wages, but the practical problem is that in the market labor cannot be procured without blackmarket wages. The present situation is that ¥20 is being paid to general utility men and over ¥40 to skilled laborers.

c. The daily labor wages based on legal measures are impossible of being actually put into operation due to the present social condition. The exorbitant blackmarket wages based on free contract will be strenuously checked and handled, and at the same time the wages of laborers working for the Occupation Forces will be revised and raised. However, special rationing of rice as well as working clothes, rubber-soled socks (chika tabi) and beer will be put into operation, making every effort to meet the demand of the Occupation Forces.

4. Labor Relations :

a. Self-awakening against democratic ideas by the general laborers, together with the tendency of the entrepreneurs desiring the formation of sound labor unions have developed together with time. During February the condition of formation is as follows:

1. Number of formations: 20	(Factory connections 9	
	(Mining " 8	
	(Others 3	
2. Number of union members: 14,750	(Factory connections 3,680	
	(Colliery " 9,747	
	(Others 1,323	

b. Due to the diminishing of goods for livelihood and difficulty of living due to exorbitant rise of commodity prices and the like, there is an increasing tendency of disputes around the demands for increased amount of wages and allowances, and impartiality of rationing of goods. Those arising during February are as follows:

1. Taisho Mining Co. Nakazuru 3rd Mine	
Number of employes:	91
Number of persons participating in dispute:	91

2. Cause:
Due to difficulty of living on account of the rise of prices of life necessities.

3. Demand Items:

- a. Reorganization of ^{the} old system and retirement of the heads on account of their duty and responsibility during the war.
- b. Payment of living grants-in-aid corresponding to the current commodity prices.
- c. Payment of Y3 commuting allowance.
- d. Holiday with pay for diligende semi-annually.
- e. Payment of New Year and Bonbonuses.
- f. Matter of establishing recreation and entertainment halls.
- g. Matter of establishing distributing centers and rationing in official prices after consultation with the Union.
- h. Rationing of stocked goods.

4. Replies by the Company:

- a. The matter concerning staff personnel need not be answered
- b. The living grants-in-aid, as they are common problem of similar companies, are under consideration and will be announced at a later date simultaneously.

- c. Commuting allowances:
 Winter period Y2
 Summer " 1

- d. Under study.
- e. Will be enforced from the 1946 fiscal year.
- f. Will establish as soon as possible.
- g. Will connect and make application to the related government office and exert efforts to meet expectation.
- h. The rationing committee will announce and make disposition of them on each occasion.

5. Condition of Progress:

Submitted demand items on February 16, dissatisfied with replies, went on strike from said date, which is still continuing.

o Kyodo Coal Co. Ltd., Shimamawai mine
(Kawasaki-machi Tagawa-gun)

1. Employes and laborers 514
Participants in dispute 472

2. Cause:

Discovered the storage of stocked ration goods (rubber-soled socks, soap, towels, army gloves, sugar), asked the reason for their unrationing, and at the same time demanded proper rationing in the future.

3. Demand Items:

- a. Carrying out of Union management of ration goods.
of
- b. Distribution of stored goods shall be fixed after a conference by the staff association and labor union.
- c. Consigned goods shall be administrated by the union through the distribution committee.
- d. Dismissal of full-time clerk in charge of rations, chief of ration section, and two others.
- e. Miscellaneous expenses of dispute to be borne by the company (Y17,750).

4. Replies by the Company:

Acknowledgment in toto of the demands.

5. Condition of Progress:

Dispute commenced from February 13 and strike went on in the morning of February 18, but it was settled in one day as the Company acknowledged the demand items, operation commencing from the 19th.

o Shinko Coal Mine
(Magarikane-mura, Tagawa-gun)

1. Employes:
Laborers 270
Strike participants 270

2. Cause :
Demand for increase of wages, allowances, etc.

3. Demand Items :

- a. Administration of distribution centers.
- b. Payment of commodity price allowance of 30% of monthly income (working sum).
- c. Payment of attendance allowances of ₦5 for pit miners and ₦3 for outside miners.

4. Replies :

- a. Approval
- b. With reference to the two items of b and c, puting together, commodity price allowance of 40% of the working sum shall be paid.

5. Condition of Progress :

Demands submitted on February 3rd, but due to the absence of the manager the chief of the General Affairs Department approved the first item within authorized limit of rights and promised to give replies to the second and third items after awaiting the arrival of the manager to the colliery. On the 22nd the manager, returning to the colliery, declared that he disapproves the first item, due to which strike went on from said date. Subsequently negotiations were continued and the manager conceded, whereby it was amicably settled on February 23rd due to the above-mentioned reply.

5. General Observations :

a. The definite figure of the unemployed is unknown, but there is a diminishing tendency in comparison to the previous month. The signs of reemployment and job-hunting are conspicuous due to the recovery of social order and the full operation of the financial measure ordinance, etc.

6. Allowance in Kind :

with only the increasing and raising of wages the laborers' living will not be stabilized, therefore the private companies are complementing the wages by giving assistance for miscellaneous goods as allowances in kind. Moreover, the Labor Administration Section is contemplating to carry out and give assistance for the rationing of working clothes, rubber-soled socks, gloves, and beer.

c. Blackmarket Wages :

Inflation of commodity prices and blackmarket wages are mutually competing and on the upward tendency. The important point is that there can be no other ways of regulating them except by the maintenance of fair prices according to re-control of commodity prices (al though the re-control of fresh vegetables and fishes has already been put in operation) and the strengthening of police power.

From : Chief of Foreign Affairs Section, Fukuoka-ken
To : Labor Officer, 37th MIL. Gov. H. Q.
Subject : Monthly Labor Report

1. The Ken did not submit monthly labor reports for the months of September, 1945 to January 1946 inclusive.
2. A negative report is submitted.

H. Uozumi

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For chief of Foreign Affairs Section.