

## MEN OUT OF WORK.

Letters have been reaching us of late from men out of work, and the reading of them is a painful duty.

This city is not badly off. It is well off. There is here more wealth than want. The average person is well-to-do, well fed, clothed and housed.

Yet there are many people in dire want in this city—men as willing as any other men to work at anything their hands can find to do.

In this country the opinion appears to be accepted by everybody that the prosperity of the Dominion requires that people shall be imported from the old world by ship-load after ship-load and dumped into the country to scramble for themselves. If anybody objects to the process he is denounced as one who does not believe in the glorious future of the country.

The Dominion immigration officer at the Union Station gives out the statement that he can furnish employment on farms to all who are willing to accept the work, but each applicant must be prepared to pay his own fare to his place of employment, unless his prospective employer will advance the money. Place alongside that state of affairs the fact that on Sunday morning at a free breakfast down town some hundreds of men lined up waiting for the doors to open, some of them having walked in from the Junction and some from East Toronto. Of what use is it to talk about buying railway tickets to men who will start at daylight and walk for miles to get a free breakfast?

Toronto is not doing much for these men, and for women and children dependent on them, and the city will not do much for them until some sensational occurrence appeals to the popular imagination. Then it will all be moved and will pile plenty on the hungry for a few days—until the generous impulse spends itself.

But we must eventually face the fact that there is something wrong with the whole system of things which gives great wealth to a few in good times and leaves hunger and despair to the many when business activities suspend.

The railways, which are organized immigration agencies, dump people by the car-load into Toronto—even this week another car-load arrived—and yet these great corporations are not moving a finger to begin work on the new Union Station or the viaduct.

works which they ought to have had under way long ago.

The municipality appears to be the only body with soul, and conscience, and a sense of responsibility towards the human beings who make up the population of a city. It is through observations of this kind that socialism spreads, and men, more and more, advocate the application of public ownership to everything it can be made to cover.

The Dominion and Ontario Governments have done their utmost to bring the population in. Are they, or is either of them, doing anything that really amounts to an intelligent handling of the situation they have done so much to create in over-supplying the actual demand for population? The Ontario Government, we would suggest, ought to be bringing men and work together, ought to be advancing fares to men who cannot pay their own way, and ought to be treating fairly men, who in a few years will be prosperous citizens.