

BIG FEED FOR UNEMPLOYED MEN

Delegation Waiting for Premier Roblin Become Guests of Charles A. Gerrie

Hundreds of famished unemployed crowded into Julius Bros' cafe on Main street between 6 and 7 o'clock last night, and were treated to a square meal. Charles A. Gerrie, civil servant, was their benefactor.

Shortly after 3 p.m. yesterday about three hundred of the unemployed went to the parliament buildings with the object of asking the government to give them some relief. They said they were a mere fraction of the unemployed in the city. One of their leaders, A. Wilson, endeavored to interview Sir Rodmond Roblin in their behalf, but the premier was busy with another deputation. Wilson returned to the steps of the building, up to which the unemployed were crowding, and advised them to rest their case with himself and a few others. They began to disperse.

Mr. Gerrie was on the steps of the building. "Call 'em back," he said. "Tell them I'll pay for their supper to-night."

Hundreds Respond.

This was welcome news, for many of them had not eaten for 24 hours. Shouts from Wilson and a few others soon brought the men crowding back again, and Mr. Gerrie's offer was communicated to them. They cheered, and promised that only those actually in need should take advantage of the opportunity. When the appointed time arrived, however, the news had so spread that far more than the original 100 were on hand for the promised meal.

It was arranged that Julius Bros. should do the catering, and shortly after 5 o'clock the crowd began to gather. From the highways and the by-ways they came, and long before the time the doors were opened to them, the sidewalk was completely blocked. A hurry-up call to the police station brought a couple of officers to the scene and the men were lined up. Poorly clad, a great many of them without overcoats, they stood shivering, whilst, with longing eyes, they looked through the window of Julius Bros' cafe at the place in which they were soon to enjoy themselves.

Tall, aesthetic looking men, short fat men, old men, and young men, all mingled together in one great throng. And then the doors were opened and the big supper started. Both the lunch counter and the grill were thrown open to them and as fast as one got through, another took his place.

All were on even terms in one thing and that was that they were all hungry and greatly disposed to eat everything in sight.

Wanted to Go Back Again.

There were those who, having already eaten their fill and fearful of the future, sneaked back into the line, but these were invariably spotted. There was as much difference between the fed and the unfed as between day and night. One of the former, by virtue of a certain largeness of appearance, a glistening of the eyes, and a general appearance of self-satisfaction, could have been picked from a thousand.

It would be impossible to estimate how many were fed. Starting before 5 o'clock they came from alleyways, around corners, running and walking, and all endeavored to jostle the other out of line and so get in first. And those who had been fed went out and rounding up their most intimate acquaintances told them of the good tidings, and they, the acquaintances, straightway took to their heels with all possible speed so that they would not miss the good things. In all some 600 men were fed, the said 600 eating more victuals, according to one of the men in charge, than any 2,000 he had ever seen.

It was not until nearly 8 o'clock that the still waiting throng were told that they were too late and the big meal was over.

Try for Interview Today.

Arrangements have been made for A. Wilson to call at the parliament buildings again today, in order to see what the government can do with the situation. Many of the men want to join the forces, but cannot be accepted yet. They think, perhaps, the government might give them one meal a day, to keep them in trim while waiting to be enrolled. Work is their supreme desire, but failing work, they do not reject such aid as will keep them fed.