

# COMMITTEE GOT TO WORK IMMEDIATELY

## Special Body of City Council on Unemployment Held Meeting

### MANY SCHEMES PROPOSED

#### Suggestion Made That Employed Donate One-Per Cent. of Earnings

The special committee appointed by Council to formulate a plan of the relief of the unemployed, lost no time in getting down to business yesterday. No sooner had Council adjourned, than the committee met at once in the members' room, and started in to deal with the problem. Many and varied were the suggestions made, from Ald. Cameron's scheme of asking every workman and workwoman fortunate enough to have employment to give 1 per cent. of their wages towards a relief fund, to Ald. Morley Wickett's proposal to ask the Federal Government to "guarantee a minimum price for Canadian grown wheat and oats of \$1.25 and 50 cents this year.

#### Census of Unemployed.

Ald. Wickett's suggestions were taken up first. These included:

1—A police census to determine who are citizens of Toronto and the general extent of the problem.

2—A campaign to get manufacturers and householders to make special efforts to go on with repairs and other work at once.

3—A request to the Provincial Government to inaugurate a policy of clearing crown lands, and for building settlers' roads.

4—A request for the Government and T. and N. O. Railway to unite in encouraging the establishment of new pulp mills to create local markets for pulpwood and timber.

5—The guaranteeing of a minimum price for Canadian-grown grain by the Government, "with the object of stimulating agricultural products."

#### Controller's Objection.

"It would take too long to take a census," objected Controller Foster.

"It could be done in one day," replied Ald. Wickett.

"What is the use of talking about sending men to Northern Ontario, when they won't go ten miles from Toronto?" asked Ald. Cameron.

Ald. McBride had no patience with the suggestion to wait on the Government regarding the price of wheat.

"You are going all over the Dominion in your rambles," he declared "and not touching the present situation. Those suggestions may be all right, in a general way, but they won't give work to men who have nothing with which to feed and clothe their families to-day. That is our problem now."

#### Calls for Suggestions.

"Let each Alderman suggest work which can be done in his ward now," said Ald. Spence.

Ald. Cameron was sure fully \$225,000 a week could be raised if each worker employed gave one per cent. of his or her wage, the employer to deduct it from the pay envelope.

"There are thousands of working people who are so far behind that they cannot afford even one per cent.," replied Mayor Church. "We should raise a fund from among the wealthy. Other cities are doing it."

The question of the Registration Bureau then came up for discussion.

#### Ask for Report.

"It is doing as much harm as it is doing good," declared Mayor Church, and a number of the members agreed. A report on the Bureau's activities will be asked.

After further discussion it was decided to wait on the Provincial Government and urge the need of sending men into Northern Ontario, as suggested by Ald. Wickett. The Alderman was also asked to prepare a scheme for the enticing of the manufacturers in giving relief work.

The committee then adjourned until 8 o'clock on Monday evening, when further steps will be taken.