

# CITY APPEARS AS PROMISED LAND FOR WORKLESS

## Prospective Candidates for the Bread Line Are Steadily Pouring Into City.

## OFFICIALS CONFER ON ALIEN ENEMY PLANS

### His Worship Refuses to Give Out Information—May In- crease Working Hours.

Absolutely no information could be secured either from the mayor or from Col. Duff-Stuart, Major Wilson, Immigration Superintendent Malcolm J. Reid, Chief of Police McLennan and Relief Officer Ireland, all of whom had a conference this morning at the mayor's office with regard to what should be done with the alien enemies who are in Vancouver and who have been kept by the citizens during the winter months.

The representatives of the afternoon papers approached the gentlemen named at the close of a ninety minutes' conference, to which they had not been admitted, and the officers courteously referred them to the mayor.

His worship, however, positively refused to give any information, and as the others had said they were merely obtaining information, nothing can be given out to the public.

"There is nothing to do," said his worship, as soon as he was asked if he would say what had transpired and what action was to be taken.

"Then what did Col. Duff Stuart mean by referring us to you?" asked a reporter.

"So I could turn you down, I suppose," said the mayor with a smile.

"There are some things that should not be made public," his worship answered to another question.

"Well, the papers are generally accommodating in that respect," said the reporter.

"It's no use your attempting to tell me what I shall do or not do," was the mayor's remark.

"Then do you mean to say you have nothing to say?" asked the newspaper man.

"I have said there is nothing doing, and that is all about it," was the answer, and with that the newspaper men had to be content.

### Out-of-Works Flock Here

Rumor is busy today in city hall circles with the statement that many of the new applicants for relief, of whom 197 put in an appearance on Saturday and Sunday, had been sent to Vancouver from New Westminster, and to this is added the remarkable assertion that a man in authority of the Royal City instructed the men to come here as the provincial government was going to settle the relief question in Vancouver. No verification of the rumor was obtainable, but that was the statement given out in no hesitating manner by some of the men to those in charge of the local relief operations.

Out of the 197 new applicants only three were British subjects, the remainder being Italians, Russians and Austrians.

From Nanaimo, from Cumberland, on the island and from Newport, Lillooet and Kamloops on the mainland, came these men, and because their stories were not regarded as satisfactory as they were first told they had a brief conference together outside the relief headquarters and then they were practically unanimous that they had been in Vancouver six months—just the time to entitle them to consideration for relief, according to the rule laid down.

But there was nothing doing and they were told in unmistakable terms that they would get no relief here.

Some of the men said they had come straight from Twohy Brothers, the C. N. R. construction company at Kamloops, which place they left weeks ago. Somehow or other this did not reconcile itself with their statement that they had been here six months, and for them there was no relief.

One man had a fine suit of clothes and a handsome gold watch, and he was turned down with the hint that he ought not to be seeking help with

such articles in his possession. The inference was obvious.

Nanaimo's quota consisted of a large number of Italians variously estimated from 50 to 98, and Cumberland contributed men whose features bore the easily discernable marks of the coal miners' vocation.

### **Word From Mr. Bowser**

Late on Saturday the mayor received the following telegram from Acting-Premier Bowser, and it was on the strength of this that the conference was called today:

"Have seen Col. Ogilvie this morning, who has received instructions from Ottawa. Major Wilson, who is in charge of interned prisoners, will arrive Vancouver Monday morning and will consult with you and American consul with the idea of having as many alien enemies as possible leave British Columbia for Washington. Balance they will intern if necessary. Col. Ogilvie will instruct Col. Duff Stuart to relax orders as to unemployed working their way out from Vancouver. You can see Major Wilson Monday morning, also Colonel Stuart, and have as many as possible of this class leave the city."

It is presumed the solution of the problem will take some such form as suggested in the telegram, especially as there does not seem to be any very great objection on the part of the American authorities to refuse these aliens entrance to the United States.

Those who did not avail themselves of the privilege of crossing the line into a neutral country will, in all probability, be interned, as intimated in the message from the acting-premier.

### **Nothing Decided**

However, it can be stated, in spite of the mayoral refusal to divulge any information, that nothing was decided as to what should be done.

There is a suggestion now that these men, who do not belong to the city, shall be made to work eight hours a day instead of four hours as they have done up to the present, in return for which they shall receive a little additional recompense in the way of extra food.

At present the men get 30c in food and one bed ticket for their four hours' work, and it is suggested that if they work eight hours the return shall equal 50c for food and bed, that is that they shall have an extra meal a day, because it is felt that they could not very well do a full day's work on the amount of food that sustained them for the shorter period of labor.

It was intended that this matter should be brought before the board of works at its meeting on Tuesday afternoon, as at least \$1000 will have to be spent in tools for the men, but the probability is that the whole question will be thrashed out at this evening's meeting of the city council, and that will save time, as, if the subject was discussed at Tuesday's meeting of the board of works, it would have been nearly two weeks before the council met again to ratify the action of the board, unless a special meeting of the council was called.