

CITY SEEKS RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Council Will Memorialize Dominion and Provincial Governments to Take Action.

'Enemies of Empire,' Says Ald. Lincham in Connection with Yesterday's Demonstration.

The city council of Winnipeg last night by a resolution moved by Ald. Rigg and seconded by Ald. Shupson, will memorialize the Dominion and provincial governments to initiate some steps toward the relief of unemployment in the country. The motion reads that council be instructed to bring to the attention of the Dominion and provincial governments, the acute degree of unemployment now existing among a large portion of the people in Winnipeg and district, for the purpose of enlisting the co-operation of the governments in finding some means of employment.

This motion came as the result of considerable discussion on the large body of men who gathered outside the city hall yesterday morning and who remained there for hours.

Ald. Rigg first of all inquired whether the board of control had considered what could be done for these people. The mayor replied by asking the alderman if he had considered anything along these lines. Ald. Rigg replied that he had considered many things but he believed that at least the city could bring before the government the existing state of affairs. It was the federal and provincial governments which were largely responsible and extraordinary steps should be taken to alleviate the distress existing.

City Glad to Help.

Mayor Waugh said the city had done all that it could do, and had taken its full share in looking after the people, but if any scheme could be devised the city would be only too glad to help out. It was an easy matter to say something should be

done, but the difficult thing was to say what that something should be.

Ald. Fowler suggested that if there were many mechanics employment could be found for them by enlisting them in the corps of skilled workers desired by the government in England.

Ald. Rigg said that not merely the laboring class, but the artisan class also were affected greatly. That there were in Winnipeg between four and five thousand men affiliated with the building trade unions, but there was very little building being done. Twelve months ago the council had memorialized the Dominion government to appoint a Royal commission to investigate the causes of unemployment and to suggest a remedy. Like many other matters connected with the working classes, it had found its way into the waste paper basket and nothing had been done.

Enemies of Empire.

That the demonstration of yesterday morning was a part of an organized attempt made by the enemies of the British empire to harass the governing bodies of the country, from the Dominion government right down to the government of municipalities, was the statement made by Ald. Lineham. Among the crowd present yesterday, he knew, he said, personally of two agitators and he believed it was such men who were responsible for the demonstration, more than any actual want. He said that no member of the council was in more sympathy with the poor and the people out of work than he was himself but he thought that the possibility of this being the work of enemies should also be taken into account.