

UNEMPLOYMENT IS NOT ACUTE IN CITY

**Council Deems it Unnecessary to
Send Delegate to Conference
of Mayors at Ottawa.**

INTERESTING DISCUSSION

That the unemployment situation in Brandon at the present time was anything but acute but that the city should take advantage of any scheme by which the after-effects of the war would be dealt with was the consensus of opinion — as expressed in a motion at a special informal meeting of the city council this afternoon, when the following telegram from Mayor Waugh, of Winnipeg, was considered:

“It has been suggested that a conference of the mayors of all cities in Canada be held in the city of Ottawa forthwith to consider the question of unemployment. The problem has outgrown the possibility of local remedy by municipal effort only and has assumed national dimensions. The proposed conference after consideration would confer with the Federal government and urge immediate action. If you think such a conference advisable and necessary, please wire me stating if your city will cooperate.”

Interesting Discussion

After Ald. Fisher had supported the idea of giving families a couple of acres on which to raise poultry or grow vegetables, Ald. Curran thought

that would conflict too much with the Homestead Act, under which the Dominion govt. gave a man 160 acres on payment of \$10. He thought the council could memorialize the various railway companies asking for cheaper fares for farm hands.

Mayor Cater alluded to the local conditions, which had been assisted in a very material way through the efforts of the provincial and federal members of parliament respectively.

Ald. Coleman also referred to this and went on to show how many workmen looked to the city or the government to find labor for them without any effort on their own part to get along in life. He, the speaker, asked how a two-acre scheme could be worked successfully here and he looked with much question on any scheme to keep people at the expense of the city.

Ald. Trench declared he had personally offered men \$3.50 per day and able-bodied men had turned it down because they did not want to leave the city. He thought these men should be allowed to go hungry for a day or two, which would cause them to hustle for themselves. He contended that no great success had attended a vacant lot system, but he was contradicted by Ald. Bullock. The latter supported Ald. Trench and Ald. Coleman in the argument that there were hundreds of men who looked for the city to keep them when they refused to go out on the farms. Ald. Bullock contended that there were foreigners drawing pay on city construction work when Englishmen were idle. As a contractor he would be glad to take the city work at its present cost price and could make money out of it. By reducing the price and employing their own people first they could put on another sixty men and thus improve their present position which was not as bad as it might be.

Ald. Trotter urged that while it was, perhaps not desirable to send a delegate to Ottawa at present, the council should express sympathy with the movement and offer to cooperate as far as possible.

Ald. Patmore, alluding to the present situation, praised the thrift of the foreign-speaking people in Brandon.

The resolution was then framed as follows: That the following reply be forwarded to the telegram of His Worship Mayor Waugh dated April

21st re proposed unemployment conference: Problem of unemployment not acute in Brandon. Council is in entire sympathy with any effort the Federal government will make to better conditions in places where the matter is more serious; do not think it necessary to send delegate to present conference.