

# COMMISSION'S REPORT ON UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

Labor Considers the Establishing of Bureau Still Leaves the "Problem" Practically Untouched—Seriousness of the Situation Demands Adequate Measures.

"The mountain hath been in labor and brought forth a mouse." It may be thought by some people that that is a too harsh and narrow summing up of the conclusions so far arrived at by the Ontario Commission on Unemployment. Yet after all, what does the interim report given out by the commission this week amount to, except to tell us that private employment agencies have proven to be inadequate and in most cases are fraudulent in practise, and that these should be substituted by a Government system of employment bureaux, run by "practical and efficient directors," etc., etc.

Quoth Horatio to Hamlet, after the latter had imparted the momentous information that "there's ne'er a villain in all Denmark, but he's an arrant knave."

"There needs no ghost come from the grave to tell us this," replies the mystified Horatio.

"Surely," in effect, say the labor men in commenting on the work of the commission and its report, "there needs no Royal Commission, sitting in solemn conclave, to tell us that private employment agencies are a fraud and a snare to the unwary."

## A Belated Discovery.

That is a charge that has been made and proven time and time again, against the private employment agencies. Municipal authorities are well aware of it. Provincial and Federal authorities are well aware of it, and have been for years past. Still the employment agencies have flourished and continued their fraudulent practices, in spite of the half-hearted attempts made from time to time to regulate them.

And now along comes a Government Commission appointed to consider measures for dealing with a most serious unemployment situation, and makes the belated pronouncement that the private employment agency must be abolished, and a Provincial or national agency established in its stead. Having delivered itself of that profound discovery, the commission retires temporarily from the scene, presumably to further prosecute its researches.

In the meantime the unemployment problem remains exactly where it was before the commission commenced its labors, except that it is daily growing more and more acute, and threatens to assume really alarming proportions before the fast approaching winter season really sets in.

## The Difference.

And when the Provincial Labor Bureau is established, what then? The proprietor of a well-known private agency recently remarked to an official of the Civic Labor Bureau that the only difference between the private and the civic institution is that "I swindle the poor devil out of a dollar and you don't." In reality, that is about all the difference. In neither case is new work created to make up the real "shortage of work" that in its ultimate analysis constitutes the unemployment problem.

Unless the commission is prepared to take up the unemployment problem with a view to the suggestion or recommendation of some real and practical measures for the relief of what will in all probability prove to be an unparalleled situation in this country this coming winter, it might as well never have been appointed, is the consensus of opinion among labor men.

The mere establishment and multiplicity of Government labor bureaux is never going to provide work for the unemployed, though it may succeed in more accurately registering and "numbering the multitude." Beyond that, the unemployed are still left to the means and resources of such charities and institutions as have in the past afforded "relief" to the extent of their limited powers.

## Musicians Big Concert.

The local musicians, under the auspices of the American Federation of Musicians, will put on a big musical event at Scarboro Beach on Wednes-



day next, July 28. A musical treat such as rarely heard in Toronto is promised by the special committee.

Concert afternoon and evening by massed bands.

## Labor Notes.

Boot and Shoe Workers International Union, No. 233, is holding their annual picnic to-day (Saturday) at St. Catharines. Boats leave Yonge street wharf. A good program of games has been provided.

The Western Canada Conference of the Typographical Union has decided to hold the 1916 convention in Edmonton.

The Paving Cutters' Union of the United States and Canada has signed up a satisfactory new agreement with the employers at St. Scholastique, Que.

The contract has been let for the second unit of the Government jetty in the Fraser River, New Westminster, B.C., at a cost of \$400,000. Nearly five hundred men will be employed upon it.

The Georgia-Harris Viaduct at Vancouver, B.C., has been completed and will be thrown open to traffic as soon as the engineers have certified that everything is in satisfactory conditions. The viaduct cost half a million dollars and took two years to build.

James Watters, President of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, is at the present time on a tour through the mining camps of British Columbia, where he is addressing public mass meetings and urging upon the miners' organizations the necessity of being represented at the coming convention of the Congress in Vancouver.

Immigration reports tend to show that the influx of American farmers into the North-West continues to increase. The splendid crop prospects for the present year will be one of the biggest boosts that Western Canada has ever had, and the American farmer is not only coming in himself, but bringing along his family, farm implements, and stock. We can't get too many of him.

## MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

- Sunday—
- Bartenders, Labor Temple.
- Monday—
- Boot and Shoe Workers, Labor Temple.
- Broommakers, No. 55, Labor Temple.
- Garment Workers, No. 202, Forum Hall.
- Garment Workers, No. 83, Labor Temple.
- Printing Pressmen, Labor Temple.
- Tailors, No. 132, Labor Temple.
- Building Trades League.
- Patternmakers, Occident Hall.
- Bookbinders, Labor Temple.
- Tuesday—
- Bricklayers, No. 2, Labor Temple.
- Garment Workers, No. 82, Musicians' Temple.
- Garment Workers, No. 189, Zionist Institute.
- Bulldozers' Laborers, 80 Nelson street.
- Lathers' Union, Labor Temple.
- Painters, No. 3, Labor Temple.
- Allied Printing Trades Council, Labor Temple.
- Metal Trades Council, Labor Temple.
- Piano and Organ Workers, No. 33, Labor Temple.
- Cabinet Makers, No. 1820, Labor Temple.
- Ladies' Garment Cutters, No. 83, Forum Hall, Yonge street.
- Leather Workers, Labor Temple.
- Wednesday—
- Asbestos Workers, Labor Temple.
- Steam Engineers, Labor Temple.
- Lithographers, Labor Temple.
- Machinists, No. 234, Labor Temple.
- Metal Polishers, Occident Hall.
- Painters and Decorators, No. 777, O'Neill's Society Hall, Parliament street.
- Walters, No. 300, Yonge Street Arcade.
- Cloakmakers, No. 14, Labor Temple.
- Walters' Union, 9 p.m., Room 34, Lombard Building, Lombard street.
- Thursday—
- Fifth Thursday.
- Friday—
- Fifth Friday.
- Saturday—
- Fifth Saturday.
- Carpenters' Meetings.
- Amalgamated Section—
- No. 1 meets alternate Mondays, Labor Temple.
- No. 2 meets alternate Mondays, King's Hall, Queen street west.
- No. 3 meets second and fourth Thursdays, Bloor and Bathurst.
- No. 4 meets alternate Mondays, Labor Temple.
- No. 5 meets alternate Tuesdays, Labor Temple.
- No. 6 meets first and third Tuesdays, Poulton's Hall, Queen street east.
- No. 7 meets second and fourth Mondays, Orange Hall, Eglington.
- Brotherhood Section—
- Local 27 meets in Labor Temple every Tuesday.
- Local 1799 meets in Douglas Hall, north-east corner Bloor and Bathurst streets every Monday.
- Local 1820 meets in Labor Temple, the first and third Wednesdays.
- Local 1553 meets in Orange Hall, Eglington, the first and third Fridays.
- Local 1358 meets at 194 Beverley street every Monday.

T.W.B.