

LESS UNEMPLOYMENT THAN LAST FALL

Several Causes, Due to War, Contribute to Ameliorate Industrial Conditions

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Ottawa, Sept. 24.—Reports to the Labor Department as to labor conditions throughout Canada this fall indicate that unemployment conditions have been very considerably relieved as compared with last fall. At the present time there is comparatively little unemployment in urban centres, except in two or three of the cities of the far west. The outlook for the coming winter is considerably brighter than it was this time last fall.

Several causes, all directly due to the war, have combined to bring about this improvement of industrial conditions. More than 140,000 men are now under arms and being supported by the Government. Some 2,000 mechanics have been taken to England for skilled work in manufacturing war munitions there. Approximately 10,000 Italians, Serbians, Russians and French have left to join the allied arms. About 8,000 Germans and Austro-Hungarians are interned or have left the country, and it is estimated that 60,000 men are now engaged in Canadian factories on war orders. This means a grand total of 220,000 men provided for who might otherwise have gone to swell the ranks of the unemployed. The abundant harvests throughout Canada and the call for harvest help have also greatly contributed to the amelioration of the unemployment conditions of last year.

It is worth noting in this connection also that at the present time there is not a single strike or labor dispute of any magnitude in the whole Dominion, and wages remain steady.