

# ROYAL COMMISSION

## PROBES IMMIGRATION

**Salvation Army Officer Says Army Could Place Three Times as Many Boys.**

### PREMIER'S WELCOME

**"In Time of War Prepare for Peace," Said Prem. Hearst to Commission.**

Premier Hearst to-day welcomed the Dominion's Royal Commission to Ontario, when it held its first session at the City Hall. Its purpose is to investigate the natural resources of the Empire's various units, and it has been at this work for four years.

"In time of war prepare for peace," was Premier Hearst's adaptation of the famous axiom. He told the commission that the Ontario Ministers and officials would be at their disposal. Nothing, he said, was more essential than a knowledge of the resources of the Empire as a foundation for a good constructive policy after the war. "Not a dollar should be lost to the Empire if it can possibly be avoided," he asserted.

#### The Mayor's Welcome.

Mayor Church welcomed the commission to Toronto and described this city as a manufacturing centre. He thought there would not be unsettlement at the end of the war that marked its beginning. Canadians needed optimism, with confidence in their powers and thoroughness in their methods.

President Arthur Hewitt, of the Board of Trade, said that the work of the commission would materially aid Britain in preparing for peace.

Sir Alfred Bateman, replying for the commission, thanked the three speakers for their cordial greeting.

Sir Alfred presided, and with him sat Sir Edgar Bowring of Newfoundland, Mr. W. Lorimer of Scotland, and Hon. J. R. Sinclair of New Zealand.

The other two members, Sir Jan Laugerman of South Africa and Mr. Jos. Tatlow of Ireland, were at the same time conducting a private inquiry into Ontario mineral resources.

#### Salvation Army Immigration.

Major Jennings, assistant superintendent of the Salvation Army's immigration department, testified concerning the methods of the Army in handling immigrants to Canada. He estimated that in the past ten years about 80,000 persons had been brought out by the Army.

Sir Alfred: "And because of your organization you consider yourselves better fitted to do this work than other agencies?"

Major Jennings: "I would not say we do it better—we try to do the best we can."

"But your percentage of only two per cent. of failures is a very low one," said the acting chairman.

To Mr. Lorimer Major Jennings said that he considered it a wise policy to bring out to Canada lone children who were not properly cared for in Britain. They had a better chance in this big country.

Sir Edgar Bowring asked about transportation costs, and the Army officer said that it cost \$42.25 to bring a child out, including both steamship and rail. This was, of course, paid by the immigrant.

Major Jennings stated that the Army had more than three times as many applications for boys as they had boys to fill them.