

THE UNEMPLOYED

The Canadian Courier, of Toronto, declares that Canada's greatest national problem for this year and next—a problem which, it says, is greatest in Ontario and Quebec—will be the care of the unemployed. The Courier goes the length of saying that "all other national problems fade into insignificance compared with this"; and it calls upon the Governments of Ontario and Quebec to take action without delay:

"Two solutions of the unemployed problem present themselves for consideration. First, getting a number of people on the land, and, second, putting a large number at temporary work in Government lumber camps during the winter. Both these solutions must be worked out by the Provincial Governments, assisted as far as possible by the Federal authorities.

"If the Provincial Governments make a determined effort they can place many of the unemployed on the land. The Provinces must supply the land, designate the localities, and furnish the capital to carry the settlers for one year. It will be an expensive proposition, but in the end the money will come back. Any advances must be secured by the mortgages on the land cleared and tilled, on the houses and barns erected, and on the cattle and implements furnished.

"The problem is not a new one. It has arisen in other countries and has been successfully met a score of times."

The feasibility of the second solution suggested—Government lumber camps for winter employment—is dwelt upon by the Courier, which points out that Quebec and Ontario own large tracts of timbered lands. In these lumber camps might be established mills which would produce spruce logs, timber and lumber, which would repay the expenditure and leave a handsome profit.