

UNEMPLOYED CLAIM CITY IS NEGLECTFUL

Say Attention Not Being Given to Deserving Cases in Toronto.

Editor of The Star: In view of the recent coup d'etat which culminated in the arrest and charging of a number of alleged Austrians, Bulgarians, and other Europeans, with obtaining food by false pretences, perhaps a word would be in order. We recognize that capital has been and will be made from this great stroke of state to discredit the unemployed movement generally, but the same publicity is not given to genuine cases, where hardship prevails and distress is rampant.

If imposition has occurred, the unemployed are not responsible. The city authorities are to blame. Had the Board of Control and the Council made a genuine attempt to relieve conditions, no imposition could have occurred. But they have not. What person having the slightest acquaintance with the facts, has not known that for months past homeless men have been wandering around the city begging the price of a bed or a meal? Who has not known that strong, young, and able-bodied men have been going to the police and asking to be sent to jail for the winter, because they realized it was fruitless trying to exist outside? How can men pay rent and city taxes, and keep the bailiff out, when they have no work?

On Saturday last we met a man who had been homeless for weeks. He was sick. He had appendicitis, but no bed to lie on. He might have died on the street; it would have relieved the city of one of its unemployed. And our city fathers tell us they are doing all they can for the "poor" unemployed! Another man was discharged from the hospital yesterday; he had no place to sleep that night. Other cases of men with roofs over their heads, but who are told to pay up or get out, could be mentioned. They can't pay up.

What has the city been doing, beside singling out the "foreign" impostor? Their relief work is a farce; it works out that married men earn \$7.50 every two or three months. The House of Industry is crowded; men are sleeping in the cellar and "dining hall"; others are turned away nightly. Men are sleeping on concrete floors in the police stations.

Our city fathers in their wisdom are opening the old General Hospital as a lodging house, with 98 beds, to house at least 400 homeless men, and so they have gone on tinkering and tinkering, applying pallatives which do not palliate, whilst all the time the position of the unemployed becomes more precarious. We have interviewed them four times, as also have we interviewed Premier Hearst. We have followed legal procedure, but it seems time and words wasted. We are sick and tired of asking and waiting. All we seem to get is the choice of death in the trenches in Europe or death in the gutter. Now we hear of "impostures on charity," that is sure to occur where charity takes the form of sops to keep the unemployed quiet till after the elections. Deserving and needy cases are ignored, whilst our masters show their benevolence by pointing out the blemishes among the unemployed.

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