

Big Relief Works For the Unemployed

Winnipeg Receives Back \$50,000 Donation to Patriotic Fund, and Will Start Sewer Construction—Wood Camp to Be Operated on Line of Water District—Loans to Worthy People.

The \$50,000 which Winnipeg has contributed toward the Winnipeg Patriotic fund several months ago, will be given back to the donors, less the monthly cheques which have already been paid, and this sum will then be applied toward the cost of construction of trunk sewers, to be done under the auspices of the city, in order to provide work for the host of unemployed that have to be dealt with at this time.

This action was decided upon yesterday afternoon at an interesting meeting of the executive committee of the Winnipeg Patriotic fund, held in the board room of the Industrial bureau, and at which W. J. Bulman, occupied the chair. Those present included J. H. Ashdown, Judge Robson, Mayor-elect Waugh, J. D. McArthur, John Galt, J. W. Harris, N. Bawif, Judge Myers, C. D. Shepard, C. E. Piper, J. F. Fisher, W. H. Cross, G. A. Watson, D. H. Hudson, W. H. Gardiner, Capt. Andre, James Scott, S. R. Tarr, W. J. Fulton, F. Kerr, P. Paget and E. A. Cohen.

J. H. Ashdown, chairman of the special committee lately appointed to deal with the unemployment coming under Class B of the fund, presented the report and recommendation of his committee, which embodied the information that a conference lately held with the city officials had resulted in the fact that the city would assume the entire cost of the sewer construction, provided that it be allowed to apply its grant to the Patriotic fund direct to the employment of men on the sewer.

Establishment of Wood Camp.

Another important announcement was made by this sub-committee, it recommending the institution of a wood camp in township 11, on the line of the Greater Winnipeg water district, about 45 miles east of Winnipeg. It was also recommended that \$50,000 of the Class B fund be applied to the operation of the wood camp, from time to time, as required. The entire report was fully discussed and it was then moved by Judge Myers, and seconded by Mayor-elect Waugh, that "the report, as recommended, be approved and adopted. The motion was carried unanimously.

J. D. McArthur, stated that the wood proposition afforded a good opportunity to furnish work for the unemployed, and if properly managed, should not cost the fund any money. Mr. Waugh, at this point, emphasized the fact that

the idea of the special committee was not to make money, but to help men to help themselves, through giving them employment at a wage that would carry out this object in view. J. H. Ashdown asked that a special committee of five be appointed to handle the wood camp for the Winnipeg fund; and the following names were approved of by resolution: R. D. Waugh, J. D. McArthur, J. H. Ashdown, M. F. Christie, W. F. Tallman and Charles F. Roland, secretary.

Government Gives Permit.

The following letter from the timber lands branch of the Interior department, with reference to the acquiring of the timber limit, was read: "Referring to the application made by the mayor of Winnipeg and A. M. Nanton, chairman of the finance committee of the Patriotic fund, for a free permit to cut wood on vacant government lands in the south half of township 9, range 11, east of the principal meridian, in order to give employment to men out of work, I beg to say that if you will make application to the crown timber agent at Winnipeg, a free permit will be issued in favor of the city, authorizing the cutting of timber on the lands referred to.

"Your obedient servant,

"B. L. YORK,

"Controller."

Loans for Worthy Persons.

An important recommendation was then presented by Judge Robson, who referred to the fact that Messrs Nanton, Bulman, Galt and himself, comprising the daily approval board, had carefully considered it. The speaker pointed out that there were many worthy cases coming to the attention of the board, which were of a character where the heads of the families could not be expected to go into the sewer or wood camp—men of keen business ability, who had held good clerical positions or high-class tradesmen who were finding it difficult to make ends meet. To relieve this particular situation, Judge Robson moved the following:

"That the executive committee of the fund authorize the approval board to make such loans as necessary to relieve distress to such applicants and in such amounts as the board would approve after due investigation."

This resolution was unanimously carried and the secretary was authorized to make the same public through

the press. There are many unemployed men in Winnipeg at present who will not accept charity under any circumstances. They are, however, hard pressed, and it was pointed out that if the money was advanced to them in the form of a loan, to be paid back as soon as possible, or on the advent of summer, the plan would work out satisfactorily.

New Points Organized.

Judge Myers, chairman of the committee in charge of the provincial crèches, reported that since his special committee had been appointed, over thirty new points had organized and resulted in cash in the sum of \$15,000. Judge Myers had been assured that many points were considering the adopting of a tax levy in their municipalities as soon as permission could be obtained through official government sanction. This statement was enthusiastically received, as demonstrating that the province as a whole was determined in its efforts to stand its share of the burden in looking after the dependents of the soldiers.

Progress of Relief.

John Galt reported that the approval committee had dealt with 1,116 applications of soldiers' families to date. Eight hundred and forty-two of these were receiving aid and there were 197 families being granted regular relief, outside of Winnipeg. Under Class B of the Winnipeg fund, there had been 458 applications of families received and of these 446 had been afforded relief, in accordance with the wants and recommendations of the investigating committee.

C. F. Roland reported in connection with the subscriptions, that contributions to the joint fund, that is, the Manitoba and Winnipeg funds, to date had reached \$865,716.53, and that \$24,586.04 had been the cash receipts from outside points up to Dec. 15. There had been \$75,094.72 paid out, of which \$58,674.41 went to the support of soldiers' dependents and \$18,420.31 to relieve distress through unemployment.

Good Work of Woman's Committee.

W. J. Bulman spoke of the splendid work of the ladies' committee of the fund, pointing out that since the women had taken charge of the districts, it had relieved the fund of a great amount of work through their giving up much time to investigating and personally taking care of needy cases entrusted to their care.