

THE PROBLEM OF THE UNEMPLOYED

Mayor Hocken Says Solution Must be Found. Tells of Toronto Welfare Work.

"It is a reflection on the public men of this country that no serious nor effective steps have been taken to deal with the problem of unemployment," Mayor Hocken of Toronto told the members of the Ottawa Canadian Club at luncheon in the Chateau Laurier on Saturday. He said it was essential to the preservation of the manhood of the nation that a solution be found and urged that the municipalities, provincial and Federal governments co-operate in finding the solution. He was warmly applauded.

Mayor Hocken spoke on *The New Spirit in Municipal Government*, and many, no doubt, after listening to the excellent address, were convinced that after all Toronto was not such a bad place to live in. His worship told of the great strides that have been made in what he called "welfare work" in the Queen City, especially in the way of play grounds. Col. A. T. Thompson, the president, was in the chair, and introduced the speaker.

NEW SPIRIT IN CIVICS.

Municipal government was the most important form of government, began Mayor Hocken. It was closest to the people and dealt with their everyday needs. There was a new spirit entering into municipal government. It was the development of the last few years. Toronto had taken up the work in a way that was surprising. It was astonishing, he declared, how much money had been expended on this human service in providing for the comfort and recreation of the people. It was being done in all the principal cities of the country. The problems of municipal government were no longer ones of construction. They were the problems of prevention and the betterment of the people. In Toronto it was described as "welfare" work. It was work which looks to the service of those human institutions which make for a healthy and intelligent community. A city council must give attention to the recreation of the people, the protection of the mentally deficient, the reformation as well as the punishment of delinquents, the regulation of food prices and the preservation of public health.

Toronto now spent \$750,000 on services which five years ago did not exist. In 1909 there was not a single playground. There were now nine. They had spent \$1,350,000 in additions to parks and today they were used by the mass of the whole people. No game that was played outdoors was not provided for in the parks.

OUTDOOR FACILITIES.

Toronto had now 26 baseball diamonds, 29 soccer football fields, 9 rugby football fields, 98 tennis courts, 3 lacrosse fields, 10 cricket pitches, 8 bowling greens, besides accommodation for croquet, quoits, etc. In the winter there were 39 skating rinks, in addition to which were numerous toboggan slides, etc. Five years ago these things did not exist. There were parks where people could walk around. But now they had been converted and were not solely to look upon, but to use to moral advantage.

SPENT ON PLAYGROUNDS.

This year Toronto will have spent \$49,000 on playground maintenance alone. In 1909 park administration cost \$148,000. This year it would cost \$500,000. The existence of playgrounds, continued Mayor Hocken, had reduced the number of juvenile delinquents by 50 per cent. The boy who used to play in a back alley is now taught by instructors how and what to play and thus received the club idea. There were 95 supervisors now, assisting, directing and planning play for the young. Toronto had spent \$34,000 this year on the creation of baths, where poorer people could obtain a bath free. The city had power from the Ontario legislature to go into the dead meat trade. There were cold storage buildings for the citizens—all aimed to take care of the small dealer.

THE WATER SYSTEM.

The speaker next dealt with the health department of the Queen City. He said they had an improved water system. He knew it was a delicate question in the Capital. Toronto used to pour its sewage into the lake and then purify the water. The sewage was first sterilized now. To first foul the water and then purify it, Toronto had deemed was not good practice. They now spent \$229,000 a year on sewage disposal and filtration plant, and \$374,000 in purifying the water supply. "The result is that typhoid has been practically eliminated from the city of Toronto," said his worship.

THE MENTALLY DEFICIENT.

Toronto, continued the speaker, used to send all its lunatics to jail. The practice had been discontinued. A section of a hospital was now used as a detention home where the case was studied. He thought that the provincial government should take a larger responsibility in this matter. "Surely in this age of civilization we ought to take care of our mentally deranged," he said. In the matter of child delinquents, Toronto had also advanced. These instead of being punished were advised and kept track of. There was also a separate women's police court. Trials were held in camera and they were accomplishing a great deal in this way.

THE INDUSTRIAL FARM.

The speaker next referred to the Toronto industrial farm of 950 acres, 20 miles from the city. To this institution, first offenders, and habitual drapacards were sent, and results of the best kind were forthcoming. They hoped soon to be able to place all prisoners on the farm. This cost

\$3,000 a year to operate. Quite recently they had established a farm for women. It had been in operation only two weeks, but it had had excellent results and the women were living like human beings.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Turning to the health department, Mayor Hocken said Toronto was spending \$3,562 a year on services which did not exist five years ago. They had a corps of nurses visiting every tuberculosis sufferer in the city. As an outcome the infant mortality had been reduced appreciably. The civic laboratory was also touched upon by the speaker and also the food inspection, bakery inspection, restaurant and sanitary inspection. A dental clinic was operated at a cost of \$10,000. No child need have bad teeth in Toronto. Communicable diseases had been reduced 25 per cent in five years; \$450,000 was spent this year on hospital treatment of indigent persons.

MINIMUM WAGE.

Toronto had also established a minimum wage, whereby no workman received less than \$15 per week. Next Mayor Hocken spoke of the Toronto municipal loan fund. He said they now found a large number of men out of work who had hitherto received good wages. Upon certain security sums were loaned to men who could not be reached by charity. A fund of \$250,000 was being administered in this way.

The problems of the future, said the speaker, would be problems of prevention—the prevention of disease, the prevention of vice, the prevention of congestion and also the problem of transportation.

THE UNEMPLOYED PROBLEM.

Turning now to unemployment, Mayor Hocken said they had tried to deal with the question in Toronto. After they had found all the work there is to be found they were helpless. He thought it was too large a problem for Toronto or any other city alone. It was a reflection on the public men of this country that no serious or effective step had been taken to deal with the problem of unemployment. He was of the opinion that it was beyond the powers of the municipalities. There must be a solution, yet they had never gone after it. There were unemployed and unemployable. No man who worked only four or five months of the year could maintain a high moral standard. The problem was a difficult one and he had no ready-made solution for it. He merely stated it. If the morals and virtues of a nation were maintained only by constant employment, they should find that constant employment.

MUST BE A SOLUTION.

There was no sadder sight today than that of a man tramping up and down the streets looking for the work he could not find. He was able and willing to work. There were a lot of men like that in Canada every year. That was the man he appealed for. He thought the problem was not a matter for municipalities or the Federal or provincial governments alone. All should co-operate, each bearing its own share. It was the duty of the provinces and the Dominion to find the solution. There must be a solution if the welfare and manhood of our country was to be preserved.

Col. Thompson said Mayor Hocken's speech was a Christmas speech radiating good will toward men. He thought the address had proved much better than anything on the war. He thought the city of Toronto was to be congratulated on the work it was doing and in choosing to do that work the man who had addressed them that afternoon.