

UNEMPLOYED ARE GROWING RESTLESS

Big Mass of Men Again Appeal to Premier to Do Something to Relieve Condition.

Thousands of unemployed laborers, mostly Ruthenians, mobilized in North Winnipeg early yesterday and led by members of the Social Democrat party, marched to the provincial government buildings. They were quiet and well-behaved, and under the direction of the police, formed up in a dense mass on vacant lots on the east side of Kennedy street. It was at about 10:45 a.m. that the first ranks of the men, six abreast, filed into Kennedy street and took up their position. The column was still pouring into the thoroughfare an hour later. Shortly before noon heavy rain began to fall, but the immense throng waited patiently for the result of the interview which their leaders had with the government.

Interview Premier.

According to H. Saltzman, who interviewed the premier on behalf of the men, the unemployed army numbered 15,000. Possibly this estimate was somewhat exaggerated, but there must have been at least 10,000 in the concourse. The central committee of the Social Democrat party accepted responsibility for organizing the demonstration. When H. Saltzman accompanied by F. Sirota and W. N. Kolesnuk, presented themselves at the premier's office they were at first told they might have to wait indefinitely for the privilege of an interview. Mr. Saltzman, however, stepped into an adjoining room and called up the premier by phone. Sir Rodmond thereupon agreed to receive the deputation, if the leaders would send in their names to him. Accordingly, Mr. Saltzman wrote out the names of the central committee of the Social Democrat party.

Present Strong Case.

On being admitted to the premier's office, Mr. Saltzman and his friends stated that 15,000 men outside were starving. Something had to be done for them. He tentatively suggested that the government should undertake the preparation of a large number of ready-made farms. Laborers could be employed in clearing the ground, and families could later be settled on the territory thus opened up. There should be no financial loss from such a scheme.

In reply Sir Rodmond, according to an account given by Mr. Saltzman after the interview, said he was in full sympathy with those in need of work, but the government could not do much. It would do its best. He offered to co-operate with the city of Winnipeg and with the Dominion government in dealing with the problem. As for the ready-made farm plan, it was a new suggestion to him. He would think it over.

At the same time, certain objections to it occurred to him. Men would come from the United States to take advantage of these opportunities.

Thinks City Should Lead.

Sir Rodmond said he thought the city should take the initiative in tackling the situation. If the mayor would come and see him, he would talk the matter over with care. Nobody has as yet approached him on behalf of the city. The premier mentioned that probably the city had enough money to do something effective. He asked Mr. Saltzman if he did not think excessively high wages in times of prosperity had done something to bring on unemployment. Mr. Saltzman replied that, in his opinion, unemployment was due to a glutting of markets and "production for profit instead of for use."

Other Ministers Present.

Hon. Dr. Montague, Hon. Geo. Lawrence, Hon. J. H. Howden and Hon. Jos. Bernier were also present during the interview.