

AN ILLUSTRATIVE EPISODE.

A curious and perhaps illustrative episode occurring in Toronto suggests that the cry of "unemployment" which periodically is raised is sometimes misleading; and that any community has reason to be careful about coddling it without ample inquiry. The British Employment Agency in Toronto, operated says the Globe "by a number of public-spirited citizens to prevent the cheating of laborers by employment agency sharks," tried to secure forty Bulgarian and Macedonian laborers for a construction camp in the north to take the place of Italian reservists called home to the colors. There were plenty of unemployed men in the Bulgarian quarter. Two hundred applied at the agency when they heard men were needed, but not one of them would work for \$1.50, the offered wage, which carries with it sleeping accommodation but not board. A representative of the agency has visited the construction camp and ascertained that suitable food can be obtained cheaply on the spot. The men ought to net \$5 per week after paying all necessary expenses; and the camp conditions are good.

Any "unemployment" procession to the Toronto city hall would find in it these two hundred men, or many of them. As the Globe remarks, "Last week hundreds of foreign laborers obtained relief from the city, and many of them have remained in Toronto ever since, subsisting on charity." Other cities unquestionably have similar experiences. In Ottawa it is remembered that once at a time when the unemployed were parading the streets, a call was made by John R. Booth for several hundred to work on the Parry Sound railway construction; and the response was nil. We can't do much about native Canadians who won't work except on their own terms; but foreigners here who raise the unemployment cry while waiting to pick and choose work should be deported.