

Work, Not Charity Needed For Canada's Unemployed; Situation Grows Serious

**Hon. W. T. Crothers Admits Great Problem Must Be Faced
This Winter—Wants Provincial Authorities and
Municipal Representatives to Determine
Some Definite Plan**

"The destitute must be fed. To that end either money or work must be provided and it seems fitting that work rather than charity should be found for them."

This was the opinion voiced by Hon. W. T. Crothers, minister of labor for Canada, who is spending today in the city. Mr. Crothers went into the western situation in detail and found that a somewhat serious state of unemployment will probably have to be faced this winter. As a means of meeting the situation he suggested that it might be feasible for the provincial government, or some members of it, to meet with responsible representatives of municipalities and determine upon some definite plan to meet the situation in advance.

He pointed out that local authorities were in a much better position to understand and suggest remedies for local conditions than federal authorities could be. If each province would take up the matter individually and present some concrete and practical plan to the federal authorities he believed that joint action would be quite possible. It was his idea that a local plan should be worked out and a statement presented to the federal government showing what is required and what percentage of the finances needed to carry it out the municipalities and the province are ready to provide.

Meets Labor Delegation.

Mr. Crothers met a delegation from the Trades and Labor council, composed of A. Farmilo, Harry Hawkins and J. Liscum. With them he dis-

ussed local and general labor problems and their ramifications.

In the first place there was an agreement of opinion that steps should be taken to put immigration to Canada on a different basis; to cut out the indiscriminate influx of people unsuited to the requirements of the country. Secondly Mr. Crothers said that he was in favor of rendering some additional aid to the men who went on the land. What form this would take he was at a loss to say. He had thought that a small piece of land, with a few acres broken and a house on it, to be paid for over a term of years, would be a material improvement. Still he had found through inquiry that this system had been tried out in Australia with bad results; that the government, after a long term of years found the property depreciated in value, thrown back on its hands and unpaid for. The question was one which admitted of much argument on both sides.

Self-Reliant Men

On one point he was quite definite. This was that people want to get away from looking to a paternal government for everything. What the country needs is men of self-reliance, men who can meet their own difficulties.

The provision of employment for recruiting soldiers was spoken of and the labor delegates urged upon Mr. Crothers that the government do nothing to encourage soldiers replacing employed men at salaries lower than those paid to the civilians.

Mr. Crothers said that war contracts have provided labor for many thousands of Canadian workmen and that this fact had exercised a very favorable effect upon the labor market, especially in the east, where manufacturing establishments are more numerous.

At 6:30 this evening a dinner is being tendered Mr. Crothers by Edmontonians at the King Edward hotel. A large representation from labor circles is expected. At 8 o'clock he will address the members of the Borden club.