

TORONTO THE MECCA FOR THE WORKLESS

Many Broken-down Men Are Advised to Come to This City

OTHERS ALLOWED TO LEAVE

Comparatively Few Tramps This Time Compared to Other Years

While it is only occasionally that a dying man is "dumped" in Toronto, as Governor Chambers of the Toronto Jail charges William Wright was, it is not unusual for penniless, unemployed, and often dissolute individuals to be cast on the city's resources from outside points. Rarely does a day pass but what several men appearing in the Police Court state that they have just come into the city, being "broke." Often they have been released from police courts in other cities in the Province on the understanding that they were coming to Toronto. There is always a "trek" to Toronto from the country as winter draws near and work on the farms becomes scarce but this element, with only a few exceptions, usually manages to maintain itself and is not a burden on the city.

There is the other class however, the tramps who are "dumped" from one place to another and who usually finish up in Toronto. Police records however show that this year comparatively few of these characters have invaded the city. This is generally attributed to the war, many wanderers having enlisted, yet there is still a large number coming to the city to keep the police busy and help swell the police-court docket. The various police stations throughout the city still lodge many tramps nightly although the House of Industry does not have as many visitors as usual but then a raid by the police some time ago which resulted in about seventy men being arrested is generally accepted as the reason for the falling off in numbers during the last few months.

Occasionally a wreck of a man finds his way to Toronto, having either been sent here or advised to come here, and usually dies within a few days. There are cases on record where broken-down or drunken men have died in police stations or other public institutions throughout the city but these are usually local men.

Yet the charge that dying men are being "dumped" in Toronto can be changed to "broken-down" men being dumped out of the city. Many a man in the police court has earned his freedom by promising to leave the city and go to another place and all that he needs to show the magistrate is a railway ticket or sufficient money to pay his fare.