

THE UNEMPLOYED.

It would be very foolish indeed to belittle the significance of the demonstrations of the unemployed, or the gravity of the problem which lies behind these manifestations. The procession yesterday was an unmistakably bona fide expression of a demand which cannot be explained away and must not be ignored. Most of the five thousand men who walked the streets were plainly decent, hard-working men, who asked for nothing but an opportunity to earn a living by hard manual labor. These are the men who were brought from Europe to our country in past years to construct our railways and build our cities. Now that this work of construction is over, these men are here with nothing to do. Their plight constitutes a problem which it is up to our men in authority to deal with. For a good many years holding office in Canada has meant the cheerful spending of borrowed money in the way that would induce the greatest amount of popularity for the spender. Now they have some

real tasks to do; but they do not appear to have much eagerness for this kind of work. This is, in only small part, a municipal matter; it is a Provincial, and still more a Dominion, problem. These are the "strangers within our gates." What are we going to do with them?