

PLEA FOR JOBLESS TO THE NEW PREMIER

Premier Norris has been asked by the Social Democrats to deal with the unemployment question. The central committee of the Social Democratic party yesterday forwarded the following letter to the first minister:

"Winnipeg, May 13, 1915.

"Hon. T. C. Norris,

"Premier of Manitoba,

"Parliament buildings,

"City.

"Sir: The Winnipeg central committee of the Social Democratic party of Canada, on behalf of the many thousands of unemployed workmen now in this city and province, urge the immediate action of the provincial government to deal with the provision of public work for the unemployed.

"We recognize the fact that these men have been induced to come to this country by the special emigration efforts of past governments.

The interests of society and common humanity demand that the procrastination of capitalist governments in dealing with this question be abandoned. In thousands of working class homes the fearful spectres of want, insecurity and despair are assailing the very vitals of the common people. Our children, the citizens of the future, are suffering from malnutrition and the effects of unemployment. Suicidal thoughts haunt the despairing minds of fathers and mothers faced with the dread spectacle of home life being destroyed.

"Everyone acknowledges the exemplary conduct of our unfortunate people in this economic crisis inherent in capitalist production. A serious duty is before those entrusted with the government of the people many of whom are perishing in the midst of a society which has unbounded wealth and abundant national resources, in addition to an industrial system which can produce the necessaries of life in unexampled profusion.

"Civilization is in the throes of a mighty conflict, and many social changes and adjustments will be inevitable in the near future. We do not expect a government, which gained its support from the upholders of the present system, to inaugurate an era of legislation which shall abolish unemployment. Our demand is that special provision be made for the workers to earn their living in public works. Extraordinary expenditures are being levied for providing engines for destruction of life, at least some effort should

be made by the same authorities for the preservation of the lives of our fellow citizens.

"The new government assumes office with great protestations of sincere service to the people. Here is an opportunity for it to show that it has some human sympathy with the impoverished workers by doing something without delay to alleviate the present unemployment.

"Sincerely Yours,

"CENTRAL COMMITTEE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

"Per J. Wilson, Secretary."