

HUNDREDS OF MEN CANNOT GET WORK AT ANY SALARY

No Truth in Statement That Lumbermen Want Men and Cannot Get Them.

FIVE HUNDRED MORE LAID OFF

Lumbermen Say They Have Hundreds of Applications for Work at Any Price.

In commenting on the parade of the unemployed yesterday, several people were heard to remark that the majority, if not all, of the foreigners who besieged the city hall in an effort to convince the civic authorities of the necessity of drastic action being taken in their behalf, could find jobs with the lumbermen of the city, who were advertising for men and were experiencing difficulty in getting them.

A canvass of the principal lumber dealers and employment agencies by a representative of The Journal this morning disclosed the fact that there is absolutely no demand for men at the present time, either in the lumber industry or in any other line of work where unskilled labor generally finds a market.

Booth Men Idle.

Between four and five hundred men were thrown out of employment when the retaining wall of reinforced concrete which was used to hold back the water at the flume at the J. H. Booth Company's mill gave way, and the damage is of such a great extent that these men will not be given work at the mill until the wall is repaired, which will be at the least estimate a month.

"Previous to the breaking of the flume wall on Sunday we had no difficulty in obtaining men," stated one of the officials of the Booth Company to The Journal. "Labor at this time is practically a drug on the market and we have been pestered with applications for work from great numbers of men for some time past. We could not possibly supply employment for one-fourth of the number of laborers who applied to us before the flume broke, and now 500 of our own regular men are laid off."

At the offices of the employment agencies the story was similar, and the statement that men are plentiful was amply borne out by the numbers of laborers who were congregated in the vicinity of each of the employment agencies, apparently in the hope of something turning up to give them a chance to earn a little money.

At Any Wage.

"This is the slack season," said Mr. D. A. Martin, the Bank street lumberman's agent, "and to give you some idea of the scarcity of work for the unskilled laborer I might say that we had an order for a small number of men to go to the bush yesterday, and when we put the notice in the window we had at least five hundred men in here just begging for an opportunity to get to work, and in many cases remuneration was not even considered by the applicants."

"In a few weeks the time for the building of new camps in the bush will be at hand and then we hope to be in a position to afford the majority of the men who are now walking the streets, although they are anxious to work, a chance to earn their living."

Lower Wages This Season.

"Wages will undoubtedly be lower than last year and probably lower than in many years," said a prominent lumberman to The Journal. "The plentitude of men will force the wages down to a minimum, and though we have not yet determined just what the rate for the coming season will be, the reduction will be at least 25 per cent. from the scale paid last season. This means that skilled log-makers will hardly be paid more than \$30 per month, while the swampers and inexperienced hands will be paid in the vicinity of \$20."

Everywhere The Journal representative visited the cry, "Plenty of men, but no work," was the same, and the statement that the men who paraded to the city hall in yesterday's demonstration, as well as the many others who are engaged in a fruitless search for employment, will not work when they are afforded an opportunity, is decidedly erroneous.

The problem of the Ottawa unemployed is assuming larger proportions daily, and is the most serious with which the city has been faced for many years in the past. It is rumored that violence is threatened by the more desperate of the men who accompanied yesterday's army in the event of some means not being speedily taken by the city to provide work for them.