

# MANY FOREIGNERS AGAIN APPEAR AT CITY HALL TO DEMAND WORK

Veritable Stampede to the Office of Charity Officer When it was Announced That Thirty Men Would Be Given Work.

Rev. Father O'Gorman Refutes the Statements Made—Suggests That Men Should be Put on Free Farms in the West.

Rev. John J. O'Gorman indignantly refutes the allegations made to The Journal yesterday by Michael Chopowik to the effect that Father Knapik, parish priest of the Poles and Ruthenians of Ottawa, had refused to give bread to the residents of Pine and Rochester streets who were starving, stating that what he had was for distribution to the needy of Elizabeth street only.

When interviewed on the subject, Father Knapik stated that the accusation was groundless, as people living on Elizabeth street had never made application to him for assistance, and the more urgent cases had always existed on Pine and Rochester streets.

"It was Father O'Gorman who had given personal alms to the people he had visited on Elizabeth Street on Saturday," said Father Knapik. "All winter I have been assisting as well as the slender means at my disposal would permit, the poor Ruthenians on Pine and Rochester Streets. I gave fifteen dollars during the winter to one family on Rochester Street.

"Within the past several days charitably disposed persons have placed sums at my disposal for distribution to the deserving poor and all of this I have given to those living in the centre of poverty, namely on Pine and Rochester Streets. Yesterday, for example, I gave \$40 to poor Ruthenians from those streets and gave orders for food to 30 persons. I assisted no one from Elizabeth Street. So much for Chopowik's unworthy charges."

**Says He Collects Fees.**

Talker or "Toker"—as he spells it—claims that Chopowik has been in the habit of charging those Ruthenians whom he brings to the city hall and secures employment from \$1 to \$2 each, and Toker stated that on account of his having lost this rake-off from the thirty men selected by Toker, Chopowik is bitter against those who, though aiding the Ruthenians, are injuring his "business." Chopowik is a Socialist and does not represent the majority of the Ruthenians as few of them are Socialists," said Rev. Father O'Gorman.

Thirty men were given employment by the Ottawa Gas Co., at the Ottawa East plant this morning, and when the word was passed among the mob of four or five hundred destitute men congregated in front of the city hall that some were to have a chance to earn a little money there was a veritable stampede to the office of Charity Officer John Keane, who appear to be the chief employment agent of the city at the present time.

Though work for only thirty, all endeavored to crowd into the office, and the interpreter Chopowik volunteered his services in selecting married men for the work at the Gas Co's plant. Men in destitute circumstances who had families of young children were given the preference.

**Measures of Relief.**

"While the immediate needs of the people are being relieved gradually by alms, and while quite a few owing to the action of the civic authorities are getting work from the city, it appears to me and to others also that more radical measures of relief can yet be attempted," said Rev. Father O'Gorman to The Journal this morning. "For example, nearly all of the Ruthenians are farmers, and would it not be an excellent idea if they could be started by the government on some of the free farms of the west?"

"If they were advanced some of the necessaries of farm life to begin with, they could easily pay back what had been given them. Of course, such a measure should not be confined to the Ruthenians. Owing to the fact that parliament has prorogued such a scheme could not be launched immediately. Meanwhile I have assisted some Ruthenians to go to Ontario farmers as farm hands, and I am taking steps to do more of this. It must be confessed, however, that the ignorance of the English language proves a great handicap for that sort of employment which, at best, is only temporary."