

ARE DEPORTING DESIRABLE MEN FROM MONTREAL

Secretary Charity Organization Says Many Sent Out Are Good Specimens.

MANY ARE VERY BITTER TOWARDS THE COUNTRY

Suggested that Dominion Government Should Start Public Work.

Montreal, July 30 — That it is a pity Canada should deport so many fine, able-bodied men because of the present depression is the expression of opinion made by Rufus D. Smith, secretary of the Charity Organization society, in looking over a batch of 250 deportation notices prepared since July 1.

"About 75 per cent. of those who are going back are foreigners," he said. "The rest are of British extraction. In the case of the foreigners especially, a great number of those who go back are sturdy specimens of humanity just fitted for doing the hard work of the country. With those who are spending their last money to get back to their own country, and those who are being deported, I should think that the population of the country is about at a standstill. The emigration would about cancel the immigration, and if we get better times soon there should be enough work to take up all the surplus labor in the country. Meanwhile we are having very hard times, and we have never had to cope with a harder period. The Charity Organization is financially unable to take care of the cases that are brought to it, and that is the same with many other of the charitable organizations of the city. I think that in such a case the government should start needed public works of a nature that would give employment to all those who are out of work at present.

"It is a shame that these men who are being deported should have to go out under the general title of 'undesirable.' There is among these cases the usual proportion of degenerates, thieves, beggars, diseased, but the majority have no other crime against them than that there is no work for them. They are brought here by the promises of immigration agents and immigration literature, in many cases putting a mortgage on their property at home to get enough to come here. They stay here looking for work until it is all gone, and they have to go back to their own country, far worse off than when they came out. Look at this batch of deportation notices, and you will see how they are going out."

The reporter ran his eye over about 100 notices of the huge pile set before him. In the case of foreigners, Ruthenians and Poles being in the majority of those deported, the same story is told again and again in these notices: came to this country in such and such a month of 1913 or 1914, worked three weeks or three months in 1913, and since then have had no work, and there is no prospect of any in the near future. That tale is repeated on each notice so often that the reiteration becomes monotonous to one who starts reading them out. One of the facts that causes astonishment is that so many of them have had no work since 1913. How they have lived since that time is a mystery.

"They get in great numbers in their boarding houses," said Mr. Smith in explanation. "You can have no conception of how cheaply they live. Then those that have work keep those that have not, and that is the way the thing runs. But these have been kept so long—and in most cases there is no doubt that they have tried their best to get work, that the end has been reached of their own money and their friends. You ought to hear the bitterness that is expressed by these people against Canada and especially against those who made such splendid promises to them before they came out."