

OUTLOOK BETTER FOR NEW C.O.S. HEAD

March Applications for Relief
Show Fifty Per Cent.
Decrease

ASSUMES DUTIES MONDAY

New Secretary Has Had Im-

portant Work in U.S.—Un-

employment of Russians

a Problem

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Mr. Robert C. Dexter, recently appointed to succeed Mr. Rufus Smith as secretary of the Charity Organization Society, will take up his work in Montreal on Monday morning, relieving Miss Dorothy Judah who has been in charge of the work since Mr. Smith left, a fortnight ago. Miss Judah has been appointed assistant secretary, a permanent position newly created on account of the extended scope of activities imposed on the organization by reason of much unemployment during the winter.

A native of Nova Scotia, Mr. Dexter began his work in the United States several years ago, but has been anxious, as he told the Charity Organization Society board, when applying for the vacant position, to return to Canada that he might bear his share, as far as possible, in work for relief of those suffering in the British Empire through the war.

Mr. Charles M. Holt, K.C., president of the Society, who had interviewed Mr. Dexter, said yesterday that he had been impressed by the enthusiasm of the new appointee. He had also heard that Mrs. Dexter was keen on sociological work. Though a young man, Mr. Holt added, Mr. Dexter had already held important executive positions in the field of organized charity having been successful as secretary of what was perhaps the most prosperous charitable institution in the United States, namely, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Women and Children at Providence, R. I.

Mr. Dexter comes directly from Brockton, Mass., where he was lately in charge of the charity work.

LESS UNEMPLOYMENT.

Mr. Holt noted a great diminution of hardship in the city during the last month, as reflected in the decreased demands on the resources of the Society. He said that applications for relief in March had so far been only half those made in February, and looked forward to still better conditions as the spring develops into summer. While he believed there would be no lack of employment till the summer was over, through a demand for labor in the west and the continued call for recruits, Mr. Holt said he had little doubt that conditions next winter would be as hard as they have been in the last few months, the more so that no long spells of severe cold have been felt in Montreal this year.

While the problem of unemployed Austrians and Russians has been difficult to deal with, it is thought that some arrangement with the Dominion Government will be completed soon, whereby the Russians who are out of work in this city—and there are many of them—will be looked after by the machinery of the Charity Organization Society, assisted by Government funds. This will apply more particularly to the Russians, who cannot be dealt with as the aliens of enemy nations. The poverty-stricken Austrians who were not able to find work have mostly been taken to the Spirit Lake camp after internment by the registrar of alien enemies.

The Russians, however, were not so fortunate, and as soon as it was decided by the Charity Organization Society, a short time ago, to relieve these men, the fact became so quickly known among the foreign clans that a queue of the men crowded the western side of Jeanne Mance street from the door of the Society's offices down to Ontario street. Relief was given as far as possible, but the executive of the Society did not feel justified in spending the money contributed more particularly for native Montrealers.

Consultation about how the problem may be solved, both with the authorities at Ottawa and with the American consul general, Mr. Bradley, will probably result in a quick solution. Mr. Holt thinks, and some definite steps are expected soon.