

Unemployment Has Been Reduced

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

The Toronto House of Industry reports 90 per cent reduction in the number of families assisted, compared with October of last year, and 80 per cent in the number of casuals fed and sheltered. The betterment of employment in this country in the past year has been most noticeable. The coming winter is not likely to bring more distress to the poor of the city than any cold season of normal times. The end, at least temporarily, of the unemployment and indigent problem is partly a consequence of artificial conditions of the labor market produced by enlistment and war orders, but part of it also is attributable to the general improvement in Canadian business consequent upon the bountiful crops and the increased production along staple lines. Canada seems definitely out of the slough of depression. Our population is smaller, perhaps, because Germans, Austrians, Bulgarians, Italians and other aliens have left the country in thousands. Several thousand enemy aliens are held in internment camps. Two hundred thousand men have gone into the Canadian army. Scores of thousands of workers have special employment to make equipment for this army. Nearly a hundred thousand workers are employed on munitions. It is not surprising that civic relief work should have abruptly ceased.