

EARLSCOURT MAY HAVE DISTRESS WORSE THAN 1907

Was Estimate of Rev. P. R.
Bryce on the Present
Situation.

RELIEF NEEDED
IMMEDIATELY

Over 500 Heads of Families are
Out of Employ-
ment.

MANY DISTRESSING CASES

Suffering Is Mainly Among Shack
Residents of Northern
Part.

The conditions of affairs in the Earls court and Fairbank districts due to the large and increasing numbers who are out of employment is becoming very acute. Many have reached the end of the small stock of money they have been able to put by during the summer months, while others, particularly recent arrivals, have not been able to save anything at all against an emergency. Those who are destitute have suffered intensely during the recent bitter weather.

Rev. P. R. Bryce, pastor of the Central Methodist Church, Ascot avenue, informed The Star to-day that although the distress in the district was not at present quite as bad as in the disastrous winter of 1907, if things did not improve in the next two or three days matters would be even worse than they were in that year.

Many Needy Cases.

Mr. Bryce was located in his office at the church, where, surrounded by a small band of voluntary assistants, he was busily engaged in tabulating lists of the many cases which came under his notice, and telephoning for and receiving offers of assistance from many people throughout the city.

"I am going down to the City Hall this morning," said Mr. Bryce, "and I am taking with me these lists of unemployed in my district. Controller McCarthy has promised to assist me by giving some at least of the many applicants a few days' work, and I shall be very grateful for any assistance that may be forthcoming from the people of Toronto. My people here are willing and anxious to work, and the best gift of all is a few days' work."

Distress Among Shacks.

"The greatest distress is in the northern part, in the Fairbank, district. The people there are living in small wooden shacks, and many of them have neither food nor fuel. I was visiting in this part last night, and many very sad cases came to my notice. And the worst of it is that matters are only approaching the crisis, and I foresee that if matters do not brighten in a few days, and there seems little prospect that they will, the disastrous winter of 1907 will be equalled if not eclipsed. There are many unemployed in the district who have not come under my notice, as until driven by actual want pride forbids them to appeal to me."

Boys' Hands Frozen.

Many instances showing the immediate need of assistance in the district are forthcoming, and all of them are well authenticated. One boy, while endeavoring with his father to glean a scanty supply of fuel from the fields and roadways, in the Fairbank district, had both hands completely frozen and they had not enough money to buy olive oil to treat the wounded members.

Another man had to keep his four little children in bed all day as he had no fuel and no food for them, and the cold of his small wooden shed was so intense that he feared they would be frozen.

Another man, living in a small wooden shed, has been sick for many weeks, his wife is in a delicate condition, and they have no food, fuel, or clothing to provide against the coming emergency.

Another woman, who is in a similar condition, is suffering terribly from the cold and lack of nourishment. Her husband, a respectable laboring man, is out of employment, and can do nothing to relieve the sufferings of his ailing wife, or provide for the future wants of his child.

Everywhere tales of a like character are pouring in and something must be done and done quickly to meet the distress of the district.

At present there are probably at least 500 heads of families out of employment in Earls court and Fairbank