

# KEEP IMMIGRANTS AWAY FROM CITIES, AND PRODUCE MORE, SAYS MR. CROTHERS

## Minister of Labor Makes Interesting Comment on Some Observations by Mayor Hocken.

Commenting upon the statement of Mayor Hocken, of Toronto, to the Canadian Club here on Saturday that the unemployed in the leading cities was too great for these municipalities, and that the question should be handled by municipalities, provincial governments, and the federal government conjointly, Hon. T. W. Crothers, minister of labor, pointed out that this was a matter largely for provinces and municipalities, except in so far as the federal government had money to expend on public works, although in certain ways there could be valuable co-operation.

"We have no money," said Mr. Crothers. "We are taking care of the enemy aliens, and that in itself is a help. If we had unlimited resources we could embark upon great public works and employ great numbers of men, but we haven't the money."

### Immigrant Problem.

However, Mr. Crothers thinks that valuable work can be accomplished by co-operation between the federal, provincial and municipal authorities. For instance there is the question of immigration. A train load of immigrants are dumped down in Winnipeg or Toronto and left there. A system might be devised to select immigrants on the other side, to see that they are suited to go on the land, to follow them to their destination, to have that destination prepared for them, to even go so far as to give these people homes which they can pay for from year to year.

This would result in production, and would keep immigrants away from the cities.

Mr. Crothers pointed out that in Western Ontario swamp land suited little homes for them, put Belgian celery growers were brought from Kalamazoo to go on that land. It had been an immense success. The same he thought could be extended largely and the system applied all over the country.

### Get on the Land.

"A Belgian will make a fortune off ten acres," he said. "Why not get ten acre lots prepared for Belgians, build little homes for them, put Belgians settlers on these lots and let them pay for them on time? These people would solve many of our cost of living problems for us."

While this is primarily a matter for the provinces which have lands at their disposal Mr. Crothers would not be averse to spending \$25,000,000 of Dominion-money on agriculture which would include schemes similar to this.