

## DISTRESS AMONG UNEMPLOYED.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

Sir,—In a recent issue of the Morning Free Press I notice that the Committee of One Hundred, Class B, has discontinued the administration of the funds for the distress of relief among unemployed. If this is true, and I have no reason to doubt it, I can characterize it as nothing short of tragic. It is true, as was stated, that we owe a debt to the wives and children of the men who are fighting our battles at the front, but it is also true that we owe a debt to the men who stood in our trenches at home, with pick and shovel in hand, and made possible Canada's development, and thereby present contributions to the Empire.

Let me tell you, Mr. Editor, what happened yesterday, the day after this announcement was made. Four men, two having families to support, came to me with appeals varying only in the intensity with which they were made. They are all men whom I know intimately. One man, upon whom four are dependent, told me that they had had nothing but coffee for supper—"It was all they had in the house." The mother complains of "indigestion," which is her mild way of saying starvation. Another man whose children, along with a number of others, get their dinner at our mission kindergarten, from which the city felt obliged recently to withdraw its grant of \$1,000, said that for nearly nine months he had worked only 6 days, and that they had nothing to eat in the house. Two other men, whose families are in Galicia, asked for a loan of one dollar each, for they had had nothing to eat all day. One said

that he had lived all winter on 445, and now that it was gone he did not know what to do.

Now, my contention is, Mr Editor, that in the face of these facts, and many similar ones which might be produced, we should demand that the funds subscribed for the purpose of relieving such cases should either be applied to securing some sort of work by which these men can earn their own bread, or else--which is a sad necessity - that the bread be once more doled out.

To leave it to the Associated Charities is both unfair and unsatisfactory, for they are overworked as it is. And I feel like saying, and for this I take entire responsibility, that the church which supports All Peoples Mission in its work among large sections of those at present unemployed has a right to demand that the money which would otherwise have been subscribed to that institution be administered as promised or returned.

ARTHUR O. ROSE.

All Peoples Mission, May 5, 1915.