

BORDEN SEEMS SKEPTICAL AS TO PROBLEM OF IDLE

Dominion's War Burden So Great May Not Solve Unemployment,

BUT WILL CONSIDER MAYORS' REQUESTS

Convention Asks Grants of 40-Acre Farms and Loans to Stock the Land.

Special to The Star.

Ottawa, May 26.—In reply to the deputation of Mayors from all over Canada, who asked the Government to do something on the unemployment problem, Sir Robert Borden said to-day that he would be pleased to hear the Provincial representatives at the same hour to-morrow. With regard to the memorial presented the delegation could not expect a definite answer on all points until they had been further considered. Some of the proposals were of a novel nature.

He had had many representations from members of Parliament with regard to the prosecution of public works. "But," said he, "I hope you will realize that conditions in the Dominion and throughout the Empire are of such a character as have never been faced before. It has been estimated that Great Britain's part in the war costs at the rate of \$150 per second. During the time you gentlemen have been presenting your case we have incurred a liability of \$500,000. Under these conditions you will see how difficult it is for us to carry on public works, much as we may wish to do so. To carry on public works and the war at the same time is a heavy task.

More Money for War.

"The Minister of Finance has informed me that the commitments of the Government for the present fiscal year will total \$300,000,000 even if we make no increase in the forces as contemplated last session. It may be necessary to increase these. You know we have to depend on the British money market for funds, and Great Britain has restricted loans. Foreign countries are excluded altogether, and to the Dominion money is lent only for the prosecution of the war. Even individual loans have been restricted. So under these circumstances you will see that the Government must pursue a policy whereby it can meet its obligations from time to time. It is impossible to spend money which we cannot lay our hands upon. Only where works are of a very important character can we continue to spend money."

The Prime Minister stated that it was the policy of the Government to assist the Provinces in the matter of highways, but that for reasons not necessary to mention this policy had been prevented from going into force. The question of the extension of Canada's trade and the building up of Canadian industry had been engaging the attention of the Minister of Trade and Commerce for some time. Industrial exchanges had been under the consideration of the Minister of Labor.

Restricting Immigration.

It had been the policy of both Governments to restrict immigration to the agricultural classes and to domestic servants. At present no laborers were coming to Canada.

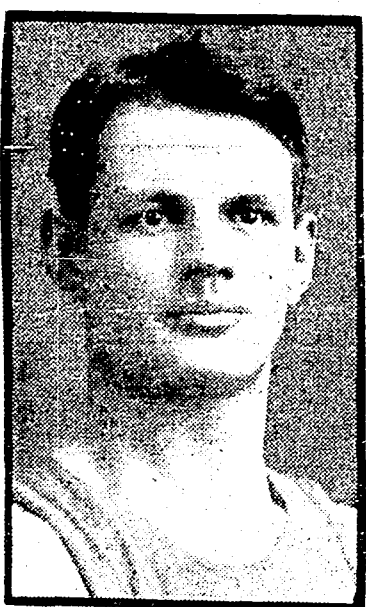
Regarding the question of assistance to settlers, the proposal might be useful in some parts of the country and not in others. This would be given the best consideration of the Government.

The whole question of unemployment, said the Prime Minister, had been engaging the attention of the Government for some time. He referred to the securing of war contracts for Canadian firms. The Shell Committee had placed contracts alone approximating \$200,000,000.

What They Asked For.

The deputation's proposals were as follows:

1. A back-to-the-land movement to be encouraged by the granting of forty-acre farms and the receipt from the Government of a loan for hoses, implements, etc., to enable the settler to become self-supporting, such loans to cover a period of years and to bear a reasonable rate of interest. The land to be taken as security.
2. The immediate prosecution of all



PRIVATE LIONEL A. WILLIS, The Don Rowing Club oarsman is dead of pneumonia.

public works projected and contemplated.

3. That the Dominion Government confer with the Provinces with the view of constructing necessary permanent highways, including a national inter-Provincial highway.

4. That the plan of establishing experimental farms be extended if possible to industrial pursuits.

5. That vigorous steps be taken to extend the foreign trade of Canada and to encourage the manufacture of goods formerly produced by countries with which Great Britain is now at war.

6. That the Government establish a system of industrial exchanges throughout the country.

7. That the Government consider the advisability of immigration and to confine it to those willing to become agriculturists.

8. That the Government take immediate steps with a view to ameliorating and correcting the present deplorable conditions.

Can Men Get Work on Farms?

Mayor Walters, of Hamilton, who spoke on behalf of the Eastern delegation, declared that the question was one of national importance, which required immediate action for its amelioration. There were 4,000 at least out of employment in Hamilton alone.

"There is an unemployment commission which has been appointed by the Ontario Government is there not?" asked Sir Robert Borden.

"I never heard of it," said Mayor Walters. "If there is they had better get closer to the people."

"Aren't there scores of farmers in the vicinity of Hamilton who are looking for help and can't get it?" asked the Minister of Labor.

"Maybe scores," said Mayor Walters, "but not enough to take care of large numbers."

"In fact there are hundreds," said the Minister.

Mayor Young, of Fort William, declared that if the Government could secure funds sufficient to bring together the idle population and the idle land a great good would be accomplished.

Mayor Church, of Toronto, suggested that the 100,000 odd troops now on the Government pay-roll should be retained on the pay-roll for some time after the war was over. He further emphasized the various suggestions contained in the memorial.

PERTHS DEFEATED BRANTFORD TEAM

Fast Toronto Amateur Team Well Treated—Diamonds Lead at Stirling Park.

The Perth's journeyed to Brantford on the holiday and defeated McBride's senior team 4-0. The pitching of both pitchers was the outstanding feature of the game, Ward for Perth's having the better of the argument with 15 strike-outs to his credit. The Perth's wish to express their appreciation for the fine treatment received at the hands of the Brantford "Y." and the players of McBride's team.

Manager Bob McWhirter requests the members of the Northern Stars of the Northern Senior League to practice at Ketchum Park every evening this week.

R. H. E.
Oddfellows 0 2 0 1 2 0 0-5 10 1
Diamonds 1 2 0 4 0 1 X-8 13 0
Batteries: Byres, Hardy, and Montgomery; Harrington and McAllister.
Umpire, W. Davis.

The Diamonds will hold a regular practice to-night at Sterling Park at 6 o'clock.