

## REMEDIES FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

The Daily News feels that the report of the Royal Commission on Unemployment will be generally accepted as a fairly successful attempt to trace a recurrent evil to its actual sources and to point the way towards measures that will be appreciably successful if earnestly and scientifically applied. Canada is so lacking in statistics that the Commission for the most part had to blaze its own trails, but its recommendations, based upon reasonably ascertained facts, make the report one of the most drastic and radical ever produced in any country. Is business safely and wisely organized if concerned solely with the accumulation of profits? Is that wage adequate which provides little or no margin for saving against periods of unemployment? Have the industrial profits of prosperous years no responsibility for the workers during lean years? Is labor ever wise in restricting production? What are the mutual obligations of capital and labor? How should the State interfere to advance the material and social well-being of the average man, woman and child? These are some of the questions raised.

The Commission has no faith in the ordinary palliatives of unemployment found in emergency relief measures, or in the wasteful invention of unproductive work to carry the workless over periods of depression. It believes in such preventive organization and timely co-operation by Governments, employers and workers as will measurably avert the recurrence of seasonal and periodic lack of employment. Dominion, Provincial and municipal governments should so arrange their public expenditures as to take up much of the labor slack in years when private enterprise lags. Many manufacturers and other private employers on a large scale will find it feasible and profitable so to arrange their orders and production as to employ their staffs constantly throughout the year, thus keeping their organizations intact and protecting thousands of workers from unnecessary suffering. Every artificial curtailment of production lessens the purchasing power of the general public and so operates to the detriment alike of capital and labor.

The creation is advised of a permanent Provincial Labor Commission and of Provincial Labor Bureaux in a number of centres to increase the mobility of labor and to bring men and women wanting work into immediate touch with employers requiring workers. It is argued that an increase in the national export trade would have a steadying influence upon Canadian industry. To this end the reorganization and supplementing of our foreign trade agencies is essential. Extended banking credits, increased technical and trade training, the study of tariffs and a wider acquaintance with foreign languages are designated as essential to the progressive stimulation of wider markets for Canadian manufactures. Much can be accomplished in these directions by the united efforts of the Dominion Government, the Manufacturers' Association, labor organizations, bankers, transportation agencies and educational authorities. An increased demand for skilled labor must precede any marked expansion in the demand for unskilled labor.

For years before the recent depression an immense amount of capital was placed in railways, new manufacturing plants and other secondary industrial machinery. At least for the immediate future expenditures apart from the war should be confined to industries and purposes more immediately productive. By this means the secondary machinery will be the more rapidly brought into full, and therefore profitable, operation. For one thing a greater proportion of the population must be got on the land. It is recommended that the Provincial Government should undertake community and assisted settlement with Provincial Farms and agricultural training schools at selected points in new and promising arable areas. It is believed that with expert guidance and moderate financial assistance from the Government carefully chosen settlers, placed on the land in groups or communities, would attain to a large measure of average success from their own standpoint as from that of the country.

Cheap and rapid transportation facilities from the heart of industrial centres to distances of 20 or 30 miles in the surrounding country are mentioned as a necessary means of reducing rents to

workers, enabling them to live in healthful surroundings, and giving them an opportunity to take part of their living from the soil, especially in slack periods of industrial employment. In this connection it is suggested that reformed methods of land taxation would free urban and suburban building lots from the grasp of speculators and promote the growth of garden suburbs for occupation by the wage-earning classes. Improvements in immigration methods and inspection are advised, as is also the creation of an Imperial Migration Board, representative of the United Kingdom and all the Dominions, in order that the man-power of the Empire may be conserved and time-expired soldiers be directed to the most suitable destinations after the war. The Commission devoted much time to the study of women's occupations and includes in its report a series of recommendations intended to better conditions in these occupations. It is pointed out that vocational guidance is required in the public schools in order that boys and girls may be safeguarded against entering upon blind-alley employments and led into fields of effort for which they are fitted. It is strongly recommended that a system of Government-assisted insurance against unemployment be established. The Commission is hopeful that its report may be influential in improving social and industrial conditions throughout Ontario and beyond.