

We cannot fail to be impressed with the fact that despite the frequent condemnation of the dole, we have in fact the dole at the present time. We have been criticized for supplying relief and recreation without demanding work and the committee is quite aware of the undesirability of this practice. The truth is that there is no work. As is well known, plans have been made for development of public works throughout the city but financial difficulties have arisen which will be adjusted, we hope, in the near future. In this connection the name of Mr. Norman Holland should be mentioned. It is difficult to imagine what the City of Montreal would have done without Mr. Holland's help and we desire to record our appreciation of his advice and help in the many problems which have arisen. It is our belief that the great majority of individuals who have applied for assistance are anxious to work and would welcome an opportunity of becoming self-supporting. Prolonged idleness probably creates finally a disinclination to work and this is one of the worst features of a period of economic depression. It is to be hoped that the future will hold a better solution to the problem than that now in force. In this connection it will be of interest to know that the Council has appointed a special committee to study the question of Unemployment Insurance.

Once more we have to express our appreciation of the action of the Federal Government in making available public money for the relief of distress due to unemployment. Under the Unemployment and Farm Relief Act, 1931, a similar plan to that of last year has been put into operation. Under the Act the City of Montreal is reimbursed by the Federal and Provincial Governments to the extent of two-thirds of its expenditures for relief to unemployed families in distress. That is to say, if the City of Montreal expends \$60,000 on unemployment relief it may recover \$20,000 from the Provincial Government and \$20,000 from the Federal Government. The arrangement in Montreal is to make available to the Advisory Relief Board of the City a certain sum of money and this Board apportions the money to four groups of the population according to their relative population distribution. The Protestant group of the population receives 19% of money allotted. Difficulties arise in this method of distribution for there is no reason for believing that the ratio of destitution is the same as religion. It has been our contention that the only fair way of distributing the money is on the basis of need rather than creed. However, at the present time the money is allocated on the religious basis.

The Special Committee on Unemployment has met the Executive Committee of the City repeatedly by delegation in regard to the financing of its work, and has at all times been received sympathetically. During the year 1931, \$217,859.00 has been paid to the Montreal Council of Social Agencies by the City for unemployment relief.

In the fall a delegation from the Special Committee on Unemployment met the City Council of Westmount and appealed to that body for financial help. A most attentive hearing was given and as a result a very substantial sum of money was voted by the City of Westmount towards unemployment relief in Montreal. The Protestant share of the money already allotted is \$14,910.00. The contribution of the City of Westmount was actuated by the highest motives and we wish at this time to record publicly our sincere appreciation of its generosity.

The audited financial statement of the Special Committee on Unemployment now follows. We are indebted to the Sun Life Assurance Company for the services of the auditors in this work.

Frank G. Pedley, M.D.,
Secretary, Special Committee on Unemployment.