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## Representative Citizens Discuss the Labor Problem

At the meeting convened by Chairmen Gosling, of the Civic Commission, and held at the Board of Trade Rooms yesterday afternoon, to discuss the labour problem, the following were present:

Messrs. Gosling, Harris, Ayre, Anderson, Withers, Jackman, Mullaly, McGrath, and Bradshaw, representing the Civic Commission; Rt. Rev. Monsignor Roche, V. G., Rev. Dr. Kitchen, Fr. McDermott, Revs. Canon White, Stanbury, Clifton, Uphill, Hemmison, Guy, Boyle, Sutherland and Thomas, Staff-Capt. Cave, S.A.; Hons. W. C. Job, John Harvey, G. Knowling, J. R. Fennell, J. A. Robinson, F. T. McGrath, M. G. Winter, Sir Joseph Outerbridge, Messrs. M. J. Kennedy, A. Harvey, J. M. Kent, J. S. Mann, W. S. Monro, W. B. Grieve, A. McDougall, W. F. Lloyd, C. Ryan, Inspector O'Brien, Dr. Fraser, Dr. Macpherson; and the following ladies representing the various charitable organizations:—Mesdames D. J. Greene, W. C. Job, John Harvey, J. M. Kent, R. Simms, W. G. Gosling, Mr. W. G. Gosling, Chairman of the Civic Commission, Convenor, stated the object for which the meeting was called. He felt sure that all were aware of the destitution that existed in the city at present, owing to the lack of employment and increased cost of living. An idea had been prevalent that the city government should find work as a matter of charity, but the Municipal Act, which they can economically undertake immediately. Later in the season when the frost leaves the ground water pipes may be laid which work would probably give employment to about 200 men all the summer. The extent of this depends on the ability to borrow. The work of sewerage extension and road making could also be taken up in the spring, but to relieve the present situation there appears to be no immediate work in sight.

In response to enquiries concerning the amounts paid by employers of labour from the first of the year up to Feb. 12th, statistics received from 26 firms showed that \$75,000 had been paid for labour against \$93,000 for the corresponding period last year, which practically means a reduction of 20 per cent. There were firms from which information had not been received. In addition to this shortage, the cost of living had increased about 15 per cent. Altogether he estimated there was a shortage of \$50,000 in purchasing power during this period. The situation was a grave one and called for immediate attention, and the object for which the meeting was convened was to devise ways and means for the alleviation of the distress that at present was being felt all over the city.

Rt. Rev. Monsignor Roche in addressing the gathering said that he felt sure there would be no difference of opinion as to the destitution existing in the city, as all the charitable organizations had been inundated with petitions for relief. Under ordinary conditions the resources of these societies had been heavily taxed to cope with the wants of the poor that "we have always with us" but this year conditions were abnormal, due, no doubt, to the scarcity of employment. In his opinion there were only two solutions to the problem—employment and charity. Since it was not feasible to find employment a system of organized charity was in order. Rev. Canon White was the next speaker. He, too, was of the opinion

that the cause of poverty in the city was due to shortage of employment. The situation had on some occasions been somewhat relieved by some of the needy ones being given twine to knit, but the amount of this work that had been available was not sufficient, and earnings therefrom had been very small. He thought that if employment could not be had a system of organized charity might do something to cope with the difficulties.

Dr. Fraser, upon being asked to speak stated that he was not aware that such destitution existed, as he had not come in contact with much actual poverty during his daily rounds. If such destitution existed, as the statistics quoted prove, he thought the Civic Commission should be in a position to render assistance by giving employment to a great number at road making.

Rev. Mr. Hemmison followed, and stated that in the early part of the season the Methodist Churches of the city formed a united charity bureau which has been working satisfactorily the only drawback being that the funds have not been sufficient for the demands made upon them.

Rev. H. Uphill in addressing the meeting stated that on the way over from the Southside, he called together about thirty-five men who were standing around the dock. Some of them had been out for months from the dock. The average earnings of these men had been from \$1.40 to \$2.50 per day. He asked them if they would undertake to work for \$1.00 or \$1.25 a day if some public work could be found, and though their reply was rather a non-committal one, he was of the opinion that several work even for smaller wages than usual.

Rev. N. M. Guy, Pastor of George St. Church took a very practical view of the situation. He offered some very valuable suggestions emphasizing the fact that economy was not the main consideration in the matter of expenditure of public money, when destitution existed.

Dr. Macpherson was of the opinion that the people of St. John's were charitable to a fault, and had been giving indiscriminately, with the result that the needy poor were not receiving much assistance, while professional beggars were reaping a harvest. He suggested the formation of a charity bureau with a paid clerk in charge, and with whom the various charitable organizations of the city would co-operate.

Rev. Fr. McDermott thought that it was altogether unnecessary to form such a bureau as the clergymen of the different denominations only knew too well where destitution existed. He felt that something more practical should be done before four and coal advanced to prohibitive prices.

Rev. Mr. Sutherland said that though he had not come into actual contact with destitution he knew that such existed in the city, but to his mind the best way of relieving the same was to provide work. He felt that many who are in destitute circumstances are of the class that would not care to accept charity, and would prefer some kind of work, so as to feel less dependent.

Staff-Capt. Cave followed and cited as an example what had been done some few years ago at St. John, N.B., where he was associated with a charity bureau. He was of the opinion that such an organization would work satisfactorily here.

Rev. Dr. Kitchen was an advocate of charity and felt that if people were disposed to bestow the same, very little difficulty would be found in applying it effectively. Funds were the first consideration and the disposal of the same would be only a minor matter.

Mr. Charles Ryan on behalf of St. Vincent de Paul Society, stated that they had been greatly handicapped in their work because of the insufficiency of work in their industrial department. Other years they had been able to keep many poor persons employed all the winter knitting twine, but with the exception of one firm none of the business houses would purchase their products.

Mr. J. W. Withers followed and said that in a small city like this where clergymen of the various denominations know everyone within the several parishes a system of distributing relief could easily be found.

Hon. P. T. McGrath speaking from experience in connection with the Patriotic Fund, emphasized the necessity of immediate action in the formation of a fund, to cope with existing conditions.

Mr. J. M. Kent followed and stated that he knew from actual observation the many cases of destitution that exist at present. With regard to the two classes of beggars mentioned by a previous speaker, he said that both classes needed attention, as both were sufferers. One class suffered because they were so little known, and the other in the same degree because they were, so to speak, too well known.

Hons. John Harvey, J. R. Bennett, Rev. B. Grieve, Esq., also made brief speeches, and at the close the following committee was appointed to investigate the extent of destitution in the city, to consider means of coping with it and to present their report at a meeting to be held at an early date:

Rt. Rev. Mgr. Roche, V.G., Rev. Canon White, Rev. D. B. Hemmison, B.A., Mesdames W. C. Job, J. Harvey, W. G. Gosling, V. P. Burke, representing the various charitable organizations Messrs. F. W. G. Gosling, and a representative from the Men's Branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, were put on the committee.

This committee will make a thorough investigation of existing conditions and report at the next meeting which will likely take place before the end of the week.

KYLE BACK—The S. S. Kyle returned to Port aux Basques last night from Louisburg, having been unable to reach Sydney owing to ice. She brought no mail or passengers. The ship sailed again for Louisburg this morning.

Winnipeg's Liniment Cures Diphtheria

## This Date in History.

FEBRUARY 23.  
New Moon—14th

Days Past—53 To Come—311  
JOANNA BAILLIE died 1851, aged 89. A Scottish poetess and dramatist of considerable merit, who, in her day, was highly extolled. Her dramas are marked by much beauty of expression and nobility of thought but they are for reading rather than the stage. Sir Walter Scott greatly admired Miss Baillie's works.

HANDEL born 1685. The eminent German musician and composer, who passed most of his life in England, ultimately achieving world-wide fame by his great series of oratorios, including "Esther," "Saul," "Judas Maccabaeus" and "The Messiah."

SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS died 1791. The most eminent English painter of his time, devoting the greater part of his talent to portrait painting. Friendship is no plant of hasty growth. The planted in esteem's deep fixed things. The gradual culture of kind intercourse Must bring it to perfection. —Joanna Baillie.

THIS REMARKABLE WEATHER. Winter, with varied weather, moves along. Freezes us not, nor sweats us over-much. We tolerate it, since it does no wrong. Nor good to us as such.

A Christmas snowfall for the looks of things. A January thaw, for it's the style; A hint of spring, some of all sorts of things. Most every little while.

And then—a horrid, unexpected cold! A freeze, a blizzard—something ever wrong! A child that never came in days of old To choke the robin's song.

That's why we always hate and always must. This February month, whose ways It brings an unexpected frost at just The same time every year!

## "Cascarets" Relieve Sick, Sour Stomach

More acids, gases, and clogged-up  
waste from Stomach, Liver,  
Bowels—Cure Indigestion.

Get a 10-cent box now.  
That awful sourness, belching of acid and foul gases; that pain in the pit of the stomach, the heartburn, nervousness, nausea, bloating after eating, dizziness and sick headache, means a disordered stomach, which can not be regulated until you remove the cause. It isn't your stomach's fault. Your stomach is as good as any.

Try Cascarets: they immediately cleanse the stomach, remove the sour, undigested and fermenting food and foul gases; take the excess bile from the liver and carry off the constipated waste matter and poison from the bowels. Then your stomach trouble is ended. A Cascaret to-night will straighten you out by morning—a 10-cent box from any drug store will keep your stomach sweet, liver and bowels regular for months. Don't forget the children—their little insides need a good, gentle cleansing, too.

## Narrow Escape.

An outport volunteer had a narrow escape from drowning yesterday afternoon while in bathing parade at the Seamen's Institute. A companion who went to rescue him was also in grave danger, being held tightly by the former. Both were rescued in the nick of time by the officer in charge of the pool.

## Cape Race

Special to Evening Telegram.  
CAPE RACE, To-day.  
Wind E.N.E., fresh, weather fine; heavy slob ice packed on land eastward; shore clear west. S.S. Adventure passed west at 10 a.m. to-day. Bar. 29.66; ther. 31.

The S. S. Beothic was supposed to leave Glasgow for this port yesterday afternoon, according to a message received by Job Bros. and Co.

## MOTHERS

REMEMBER! The ointment you put on your child's skin gets into the system just as surely as food the child eats. Don't let impure fats and mineral coloring matter (such as many of the cheap ointments contain) get into your child's blood! ZAM-BUK is purely herbal. No poisonous coloring. Use it always. 50c. Box at All Druggists and Stores.

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NOTICE.

In the matter of the winding up of the Commercial Bank of Newfoundland.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Act 58, Victoria, Cap. 3, entitled "An Act to provide for the winding up and liquidation of the Commercial Bank of Newfoundland," notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, the 3rd day of March, A.D. 1915, at Eleven O'clock in the forenoon, or so soon thereafter as Counsel can be heard, application will be made on behalf of John Anderson and George Skelton, Trustees of the said Bank, to the Honourable the Supreme Court of Newfoundland for a Certificate to His Excellency the Governor in Council that the affairs of the said Commercial Bank have been wound up and its assets distributed according to law.

Dated at Saint John's, this 1st day of February, A.D. 1915.  
W. D. KELLY,  
Solicitors for Trustees.  
WINNIE'S LINIMENT CURES DIPHTHERIA.

Business as Usual.

Central Stores

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