

The Job of Getting Jobs.*The World's Work.*

The National Employment Exchange, a private organization in New York, in the first year and a half of its existence has learned many things about the task of bringing together the jobless man and the manless job. It was established with a fund of \$100,000 contributed by a number of wealthy men to relieve the deplorable conditions of unemployment in New York City. Two separate exchanges are maintained, one to supply manual laborers, skilled and unskilled, the other to supply mercantile employees. During 1910, the demand for men to do manual work greatly exceeded the supply. Work for more than 4,000 was found in the city, in New York, and in other States. Many more could have been placed had the men been available. It cost \$1.93 to get each man his job, over and above the small fee collected. Business depression this year has altered conditions, and not so many positions are open, but it has been established as generally true that the man who is willing to do manual work, skilled or unskilled, can find work if he wants it. There is plenty of room for him.

But not so in the mercantile bureau, for office help, salesmen, and similar occupations. The number seeking work of this kind is many times larger than the number of possible places. Positions were found for only 537 out of 4,540 applicants, and the cost of placing each one was \$16.40 more than the fee. Many of these successful applicants were forced to accept employment at \$5 or \$6 a week. New York is flooded with a horde of young men and women who want to do only "genteel" work, and this drugging of the market has forced salaries, which the average applicant must accept, far below a fair living standard.

Much of this over-supply of mercantile help is due to the young American's desire for easy work and a white collar; but this desire is due to the manner in which these young men and women have been brought up and taught. A public school system which does not teach a boy how to do anything that he may depend upon when it comes time for him to begin to make a living, must be expected to turn out an army of \$6 bill clerks or salesmen; it is the only work for which education has fitted the average boy. The unattractiveness of life in the country, too, has driven swarms of such persons to the cities, as the reluctance of the city bred to leave the city has kept others in these over-crowded places.

The man without a job is in a bad way. He will go to pieces sooner or later and his fall to worthlessness or worse puts a burden on society. Many communities are waking up to this fact. Kansas City is establishing a municipal employment bureau. The recent recommendations of the Wainwright Commission that the State of New York establish its own free employment agencies, and that sustained effort be made to induce young people to enter the skilled trades is a good sign. Congressman Martin W. Littleton, of New York, is beginning a campaign for a national organization with permanent exchanges in different states. In Germany such a plan has been successful, and in London thirty-two free public exchanges in one year found employment for 100,000 workers.

We have not such a menace of unemployment as England has long had, but the best way to keep free from it is to wake up to its approach. There is no lack of profitable work in the United States. There never has been and there need not be for generations to come. The chief troubles are a lack of proper training and a false social standard by which work is figured.

Befogged by Theories.*(Toronto Globe.)*

Mr. Wilson, M.P., objects to tariff removal on the ground that "ninety men will be shipping goods into Canada from the United States as against eight men shipping to the United States from Canada." It seems childish to reply to or notice such rubbish, but it is really all that the obstructionists advance. Mr. Borden and all his followers, the *News*, the *Mail* and *Empire*, the *World* and the Canadian *National League* are merely dressing up this absurdity in an infinite variety of aspects. Ninety men will be shipping to Canada for every eight men shipping to the United States. There will be more than eleven times as much shipped to Canada as to the United States. If they agree to a truce of eight men on a side eighty-two men will still

be shipping from the United States to Canada, and no one will be retaliating. As goods are evils, Canadians will soon be deluged deep with them and crushed under the weight of them, while the United States will virtually be in want. And all this will descend upon the Dominion if she relaxes the needless taxation she now imposes on herself. This is the view not of an ordinary citizen, but of a man chosen from his fellow-citizens to represent them in the councils of the Dominion. It is natural to ask if the men who cherish such notions ever bought anything or sold anything, if they ever traded or carried on any business transaction. Do they know what trade really is or how shipments are made?

If they have any knowledge or have had any experience they must have a faculty of closing their minds to both. They think people buy in proportion to the number of people ready to sell. They think if there are ten shoe stores in town a man will buy ten pairs of boots to the one pair he would buy if there was but one store. The fact that there are ninety or nine hundred million people shipping goods to Canada will not make any Canadian buy a single dollar's worth more than he would buy if there were only eight million or one million. The obstruction theorists seem to think that international trade is like the modern game of push-ball. They must fancy that the goods are in a gigantic ball on the boundary, and that the ninety million people pushing on one side can force it against the eight millions pushing on the other. What they do think, if they think at all, is difficult to fathom, for their basic delusions are kept in the background, but when these are discerned they can easily be dispelled. That there is method in obstruction madness is shown by the fact that the ninety millions are as much afraid of the eight as the eight are of the ninety. The arguments that enable the favored few among the ninety millions to delude the credulous many are different from those by which the favored few of the eight millions delude the credulous many. But although there is a marked difference, the one set is no more absurd than the other. If the campaign of the obstructionists helps to give them some capacity for economic understanding it will not be useless.

Forest Fires.*(The Paper Trade Journal.)*

The United States and Canada have just passed through an experience which has taxed alike severely the active energy of their people and the natural resources of both countries. The wave of intense heat which swept over the continent of North America within the last fortnight resulted in the most direful consequences. In a strictly commercial sense the losses have been much heavier than many people have any idea of. Never before has the necessity for conservation been more apparent. Not only have the streams dried up but immense tracts of most valuable timberlands have been laid waste by fire.

The news from Canada and Maine last week has been nothing short of terrible. One brush fire alone, which swept the Porcupine mining district of New or Northern Ontario, cost the lives of some forty-three men, who, from all accounts, were literally roasted alive, and the destruction of valuable timberland at the same time was well nigh incalculable. The loss will be particularly felt in the paper industry, as the tracts destroyed were chiefly covered by spruce and other timber peculiarly adapted to the manufacture of wood pulp.

The Canadian authorities, and those also of our State governments, have been growing more watchful of forest fires each year, and this last example of destruction will no doubt tend to make them draw the lines of prevention still more closely and may result in regulations as to brush and forest travel that may seem radically severe. But in the light of current events it would seem that no law could be too strict or too sweeping or too drastically enforced that would tend to curb the criminally careless use of fire in forest districts. In a leaflet, entitled "Fire," issued by the Western Forestry and Conservation Association, these pertinent paragraphs appear:

"If riot or invasion should sweep our Pacific Coast States, plundering their banks and treasuries of 40,000,000 of the people's savings and business capital, and by destroying the producing power of commercial enterprise reduce the communities' income by \$27,000,000 more, the catastrophe would startle the world.

"If this stupendous disaster should threaten to recur the following year, and every year thereafter indefinitely, annually taking \$67,000,000 from the earnings of the people, diminishing their invested wealth and paralyzing their industries, the situation would be unbearable. It would dominate the minds of men, women and children. All else would be forgotten in their preparation for defence."

The parallel between loss by forest fires and loss by the ravages of war has not been too closely drawn by the author of this paragraph. The only difference is that in the case of the latter we see the approach of danger, and the very fear of it inspires people to action, while in the former instance it is not perceived until the damage has been done.

Occurrences like the fires of this season should, and no doubt will, open wider than ever the eyes of those entrusted with forest protection to the necessity for taking drastic measures to prevent their recurrence. A Canadian newspaper, the *Ottawa Journal*, suggests that "some sharp sighted police duty on the part of the rangers would serve as a salutary example." A bad fire, it is said truly, is a far greater loss to the country than the necessary cost of an adequate patrol for scores of years.

If those responsible for forest fires were made to know that carelessness resulting in forest destruction would be treated as a crime, and punished accordingly, and if means were taken whereby the responsibility in individual cases could be traced, there would be a radical falling off in the annual losses in the destruction of timber by fire. The new conservation law of the State of New York, signed last week by Governor Dix, provides for a commission which shall have the power, among other things, of granting privileges and of revising forestry laws. These commissioners and all others in like control in the several States of the Union should see to it that laws for the further protection of forests are not only enacted, but severely and impartially enforced, and that a public example is made of the breakers thereof.

How Ships Become Junk.*(London Truth.)*

The March of naval history during the last nine years is forcibly shown when the coronation review of 1902 is compared with that of last Saturday. Of the 113 ships that assembled before King Edward 47 have disappeared from the active list. The biggest battleship then was the 15,000-ton *London*; in the present gathering it was the 20,000-ton *Delaware*. Then the oldest ship was the brig, *Mayflower*, dating from 1837, and the least powerful battleship the *Hero*, of 6,200 tons. Now the oldest ship is the *Blake* and the least powerful battleship the *Prince George*. Nine years ago the fastest ship in the review fleet was a 30-knot destroyer; to-day it is the 38-knot ocean destroyer *Swift*. The costliest ship is the *Dreadnought*, which ran to £793,100 more than the *London*, which in point of price headed the list in 1902.

Canada in the Lead.*(Winnipeg Free Press.)*

How completely Canada has outstripped Australia is revealed by the census totals of the Commonwealth now announced. The population of the island continent is 4,449,495, an increase of just three-quarters of a million in the last ten years. The Canadian figures for the same period will, it is expected, show a growth of at least two and a half millions with a total population in the neighborhood of eight millions.

New Zealand grows slowly. Its recent census shows a population of 1,007,811, an increase of less than 120,000 in the last decade. The population does not greatly exceed that of Alberta and Saskatchewan, the two new Canadian provinces that were wastes a quarter of a century ago. Canada is the only "overseas Dominion" which is growing rapidly. It has now more population than Australia, New Zealand and South Africa (whites only) put together.

Failures This Week.

Commercial failures this week in the United States number 205 against 233 last week, 176 the preceding week and 249 the corresponding week last year. Failures in Canada this week are 25 against 27 the preceding week and 25 the corresponding week last year.