

AC901
G
20.0158

THE UNEMPLOYED

A WORLD PROBLEM



The most outstanding problem that confronts the people of Canada to-day is that of the Unemployed.

This country gets more harmful advertising in Great Britain and other countries from our Unemployed than from any other cause. The British immigrant arrives here and secures employment. After he becomes established his wages are sufficient to take care of the wants of himself and those depending on him, but he makes little or no effort to provide for the future. Then comes a reaction in business conditions and he finds himself in the ranks of the unemployed. This usually takes place in the autumn. The cold winter months are very trying, and with his income cut off, the hardships that he has to endure are very great. He writes "home" to his friends, detailing to them his experiences, and the news is spread broadcast that Canada is not a fit country to live in. Thus, many of the better class of immigrants are deterred from coming to this country.

Climate conditions here are such that when cold weather sets in much of the outside work must be discontinued on account of frost. In the country the farmer, having harvested his crops, has less work for the farm laborer. In the towns and cities such works as bricklaying, concrete construction, road building, sewer work, etc., are curtailed. The natural result is that men are laid off. This condition reduces the purchasing power of the community, and the results are very far-reaching indeed. The retail merchants' sales fall off, and he immediately reduces the volume of his orders with the wholesaler. The wholesaler in turn curtails his purchases from the manufacturer, and the manufacturer, finding business quiet, discharges some of his workmen. The ranks of the unemployed are swelled and the process is repeated. This year extraneous influences make the number of unemployed much greater than usual, and a condition arises that is acute.