

July 8th, 1931.

Alderman Allan Bray,  
Chairman, Executive Committee,  
City Hall,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir:-

The unemployment situation towards which the City gave such timely aid last winter, still exists in a very large measure, although it was hoped that the coming of spring would result in an increase in business activity of a degree sufficient to absorb most of the unemployment.

The Civic Advisory Relief Board expended all its allotment in April, and since then no public moneys have been available for purposes of unemployment relief. The burden of assisting destitution due to unemployment has therefore fallen upon private charity, and so great has this burden become that financial resources are now exhausted and in some instances debts have been incurred by private charitable agencies.

So far as single men are concerned, the Meurling Refuge is nearly full to capacity nightly, and even if it were not, the two slices of bread given there twice daily are not adequate for an individual without resources, so that unless private charity steps in, the occupants of the Meurling Refuge are forced into the illegal practice of begging, if they are to maintain life.

The Central Registration Bureau for Homeless Men has registered over 2,000 destitute men, and is issuing nearly 2,000 meals a day. To a certain number of young men who cannot get into the Meurling Refuge, beds are also being supplied. The cost of this work is in the neighbourhood of \$2,000.00 per week. The great bulk of individuals registered there are foreign-born, English or Central Europeans, who do not fit into the regular relief channels and who, on account of popular opinion, are experiencing great difficulty in securing work.

Among married men an even more serious state of affairs obtains. The St. Vincent de Paul Societies are supporting families, the Catholic Welfare Bureau 176 families, the Family Welfare Association 136 families, the Emergency Unemployment Relief Committee 366 families, the Jewish Family Welfare Association 100 families.

The total of families, the bread-winner of which is able to work, but unable to obtain work, are being supported by these named agencies.

We understand that many cities in Canada have assumed the cost of unemployment relief. We also understand that a considerable part of the moneys voted by the Federal Government for direct relief are still