

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYMENT BUREAU A BIG SUCCESS

Other Cities Will Follow Winnipeg's Example Whereby 5000 Positions Were Secured
For the Unemployed in Six Months.

In all the large centers of population the problem of caring for the unemployed, particularly during the winter months, oftentimes becomes a matter of serious proportions. Winnipeg, as the largest city in the Canadian West, comes in for her share of the work when it comes to the solution of the question, for it invariably seems to be the disposition of those out of employment to seek the larger cities. This is particularly true of the great army of men who come under the classification of unskilled laborers. While there are some thrifty ones who save up their summer earnings and make provision for the time when they must cast about for some other form of employment, these are in the minority. With the others it is a case of securing work of some kind or becoming dependent on the charity of the general public.

But the hobo, the "blowed-in-the-bottle-stiff" who never works in summer or winter, is practically an unknown quantity in this northern country. The Canadian railroads do not tolerate these wanderers, while the rigorous winters keep these birds of passage pretty well to the south. Here in Canada the man out of work is generally a pretty decent sort of a chap. Nine times out of ten he is sincere in his efforts to land a job and will work if given a chance, hence the problem is by no means such a colossal one as might be judged at first thought.

Last fall when the laborers from the farms and the construction camps began heading for Winnipeg, the municipal authorities got busy and the Civic Employment Department opened the Winnipeg Free Employment Bureau on October 1. Up to the first of April, last, or during a period of six months, the bureau filled an average of thirty-five situations per day. While this did not take care of all the applicants by a good deal, there was a steady call for help from Winnipeg industrial concerns, from the rural communities and from smaller towns and cities where there was no congestion of the unemployed, and during the period above mentioned positions were found for considerably more than 5,000 men and women. There were calls for skilled and unskilled labor from near and far and the management of the bureau used every possible means to fill the positions in a manner at once satisfactory to the employer as well as to the employee.

Through its instrumentality many a man and woman found the way to a comfortable existence. It lifted them from the ranks of the dependent and freed them from the humiliation of accepting charity. Willing workers who would rather starve than beg were given a helping hand, and all told, this Free Employment Bureau accomplished a most noble work—a work that was indeed a lasting credit to the city and to the municipal government.

Considering the great good that was derived from the maintenance of this office, the cost of conducting the same was only nominal and it is doubtful if any civic investment was ever made that brought more downright comfort, happiness and peace of mind to the workers than this free employment bureau.

"Every mason in the quarry, every builder on the shore.
Every chopper in the palm grove, every raftsmen at the oar.
Hewing wood and drawing water, splitting stones and cleaving sod—
All the dusty ranks of labor, in the regiment of God,
March together toward His triumph, do the task His hands prepare.
Honest toil is holy service; faithful work is praise and prayer."

—HENRY VAN DYKE.