

Unemployment

July 6, 1931.

Honourable Gideon Robertson,
Minister of Labour,
Department of Labour,
O t t a w a .

My dear Minister,

With further reference to our telephone conversation yesterday, I hope nothing will occur to prevent your coming to Montreal on Wednesday evening. I would suggest that you take the late afternoon train down, dine with me at my house, 3450 McTavish Street, and after dinner we could have a chat with men who are interested in this matter of unemployment. I would gladly put you up for the night and you could take the early train back in the morning. This would be better than asking you to receive a deputation in Ottawa: I do not think the publicity attached to these deputations moving on Ottawa does any good.

I beg to give you the assurance that the situation here is very serious. There are very many single unemployed men who have nowhere to sleep and nothing to eat except what is given them, and the police have been very severe upon anyone caught begging. Certain funds have been raised privately but the response has not been as generous as in the past. The married unemployed are better looked after, the organization dealing with them having been in existence for a good many years and now works very effectively. It is the single men, who have no ties who are a problem. They are becoming truculent, articulate and aggressive. I honestly believe that many of them have most courageously and uncomplainingly put up with conditions, until now when they are becoming convinced that the situation is hopeless. I would gladly do anything to help you in what I know must be an anxious time for the Minister of Labour.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal