

Unemployment Relief

Mr. HANSELL: If a man works and receives pay, he is not on relief.

Mr. POULIOT: I am sorry, but I have not the time to argue that. For several days I have been in the chamber listening to what was being said and after I am through with my remarks I intend to see to my correspondence.

Before I take my seat I should like to give the committee certain information in connection with the department of welfare of the city of New York. We cannot compare Canada with the United States because the population of that country is ten or twelve times the population of this, but there is no reason why we cannot do in Canada what has been done in the city of New York. That city has a certain advantage in the regulation of welfare in that the population is compact, while the population of Canada is distributed from ocean to ocean. Regulations in connection with welfare differ in every municipality. However, I should like to let the committee know what has been done in New York city by the welfare department under the able leadership of Commissioner William Hodson. I intend to quote from a report covering the period from January 1, 1938, to June 30, 1939.

On January 15, 1940, Mr. William Hodson, commissioner of welfare of the city of New York, wrote as follows to Mayor LaGuardia:

The effort has been made to save money on administration, in places where it could be saved, not as an end in itself but as a means of providing the largest possible amount of financial aid and kindly, humane care for the distressed families of our city.

In his report to the mayor for the calendar year 1938 and the first six months of 1939, Commissioner Hodson has given most interesting figures about the efficiency of the work of the department of welfare of the city of New York. The accomplishments of that department may be quoted as an example. In New York city unemployment relief is no longer regarded as being temporary or an emergency. Mr. Hodson writes:

On January 1, 1938, the task of caring for the needy unemployed as well as the needy unemployable was established in New York city as a regular function of government thereafter to be administered by a permanent city department.

What have they done? On January 1, 1938, 167,226 were under the care of the home relief division. During the following eighteen months, 396,659 applications were disposed of, 195,380 were accepted and 201,279 were rejected. A total of 206,522 families left home relief to accept private employment, WPA, some other form of public assistance, or for other reasons. On June 30, 1939, the total cases under care

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were 156,084, a decrease of 11,142. The total cost of home relief, exclusive of administration, during that period was \$118,062,532.

In connection with the care of dependent children, the city maintained 22,610 children, half of whom were in private institutions and the other half in individual boarding homes, at the cost of \$13,304,324. In the matter of the care of the homeless, 5,466,000 night lodgings were provided and 14,641,000 meals were served to homeless men at the municipal lodging houses and in the commercial shelters. Approximately 1,000 men are under care at the rehabilitation center, camp LaGuardia, with a total of 517,000 night lodgings, and 1,612,000 meals over the period. There are 125 women cared for daily at the women's emergency shelter. The total cost of homeless care was \$3,020,466.

In connection with relief for non-settled families, there were an average of 3,784 families that did not have settlement in New York city receiving home relief each month. Settlement means residence in the city for one year without having received assistance. The department returned 1,449 of these families to their places of residence, and the children's division returned an additional 296 children. The cost of relief to non-settled families was \$2,534,075.

In the matter of special services, during that period the department collected \$230,873 for the care of children born out of wedlock and \$139,404 for the support of dependent children. In the matter of old age assistance, in addition to home relief, the department cares for dependent old people, 65 years and over. The total cost of old age assistance was \$22,532,029 for 49,969 persons.

In regard to veteran relief and assistance to the blind, the total cost of veteran relief was \$8,047,974 for 10,763 families, and that of assistance to the blind was \$614,622 for 1,482 persons. During any one month, approximately 566,253 men, women and children are receiving some form of public assistance from the department of welfare. There should be added to that total the 65,971 children and their mothers cared for by the board of child welfare, and the 550,912 Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers and their dependents. The grand total would be an average of 1,183,136 men, women and children assisted by public funds at all times during that period.

During the eighteen months there were 314,989 visits made by physicians and 22,510 visits by nurses of the medical and nursing service division to the homes of families receiving the various forms of public assistance, whenever acute illness occurred. The sick