

Labor Joining Up With the Progressives

MONTREAL'S CRITICAL SITUATION IN EVIDENCE

"Only about 25 per cent of the number of men taken last year will be required from Montreal when the lumber camps open up, which will be in the course of a week or so," stated A. E. Ibbotson, head of the Montreal labor bureau which concerns itself chiefly with supplying out of town labor. "Over 15,000 men were taken last winter," Mr. Ibbotson pointed out, but this year does not expect a demand for more than three to four thousand. Wages offered, too, are much lower. Whereas \$60 was formerly offered, remuneration is now as low as \$20.

According to Mr. Ibbotson, Montreal is faced with an appalling amount of unemployment this winter. Over 25,000 men, he estimates, are now out of a job, and he prophesies that before the snow falls, the number will have risen to 40,000. "I am usually placed only about five," he said, and out of that five, a little usually in what is literally a desert of unemployment has been furnished in the hope of a request for 20 men per week from Montreal for the work of putting in sewer pipes for a township on the lake shore, 30 miles from Montreal. The work is to last for two months and the pay is 30 cents an hour, one dollar per day being deducted for board. The critical nature of the unemployment situation may be gauged by the way in which this work

is eagerly snapped up, the necessary quota for the week being supplied in a few minutes, leaving only disappointed for those who follow after. "If it is not a matter of life and death, the men turn up punctually to the minute at the time appointed for the signing of the contract, fearful lest the precious job shall be lost to them."

Not a few of the applicants are ex-service men. One of the men who eagerly closed with the offer described above, a young man, and showing the marks of privation, told that he had served three years and four months in France, having enlisted in Winnipeg in the Royal Canadian Regiment. He had been in the fighting at Amiens, Ypres, on the Somme and at Vimy Ridge, but his war record had not helped him to find a job and but for the help contributed by his wife who went out working daily he could not have managed. A miner by trade, he had no money to travel to the mining districts in search of work. The scarcity of employment has its effect on wages, contractors offering 75 cents an hour for a first class bricklayer for whom he would have been obliged to pay \$1.25 a year ago.

Mr. Ibbotson fed 1,100 men at his office during last winter, but is afraid that unless help is forthcoming the task will be too great this year. He has received a promise of assistance from Mayor Martin.

PRESENT PLAN TO AID UNEMPLOYED

A new proposal in connection with the unemployment problem was presented before Premier Drury, at Toronto, by a deputation from Hamilton comprising Mayor G. C. Copley, the Board of Control, and other citizens.

The suggestion made was that the city should undertake extensive public works during the winter in order to give additional work, provided that the Government would shoulder the difference in cost arising from the result of employing unskilled laborers, and of prosecuting the undertakings under unfavorable weather conditions.

The Premier was prepared to agree that the system of direct grants used last winter was far from being a desirable arrangement, and he promised that he would discuss the Hamilton proposal with his Cabinet.

ACTIVITIES DOMINION WIDE OF FARMER AND LABOR FUSION

From every section of the Dominion a get-together for Federal elections is in evidence of the Labor and Progressive forces. From Toronto it is stated a move toward co-operation of the United Farmers of Ontario and the Ontario section of the Canadian Labor party for the general election was made when J. J. Morrison notified James Simpson, that the U.F.O. had named W. C. Wood, Paris, and M. H. Staples, Toronto, as members of the executive committee of the Ontario section of the Canadian Labor party.

Simpson made this announcement. He added that Mr. Morrison would make an appointment with Hon. Mr. Crerar when he came to Toronto for President John Bruce of the C.L.P. and himself to give them an opportunity to place before Hon. Mr. Crerar the decision of the C.L.P. made in Winnipeg to co-operate with the Progressive party.

Mr. Simpson believed it was possible that an announcement of an arrangement between the Farmer and Labor organization for the federal election might be made from Winnipeg. F. J. Dixon, M.L.A., of Winnipeg, would appear, he said, before the Canadian Council of Agriculture to lay before the council the attitude of labor toward the progressive movement.

The Labor candidates whom the Labor representation committee proposes to run in the coming general election in four of Toronto constituencies will espouse the platform of the Canadian Labor party. That decision was reached at a meeting of the campaign committee with three of the four nominees in attendance at the Labor Temple.

The platform includes among its planks: State employment insurance, public ownership of public utilities, the proportional representation system of voting, old age pensions and health disability provisions, abolition of non-elective legislative bodies, international disarmament, direct legislation, referendum and recall, the enactment of the recommendations of the Washington Labor Conference, especially the eight-hour day, nationalization of the banking systems, and a capital levy for the reduction of the war debt.

The Trades and Labor Council of Kingston has approved the action of the Legislative Committee of the Council in placing a candidate in the field for the coming Federal election, and the committee was empowered to select a candidate.

United Farmers of Alberta political association for East and West Calgary Federal riding, will convene on October 7 to discuss nominations for one of the Calgary ridings. An agreement exists at present with the Labor party that the U.F.A. shall nominate in West Calgary and the Labor party in East Calgary. But this agreement is yet to be ratified by the rank and file.

That a broadening out policy may be adopted by the Independent Labor Party in Ottawa for the selection of local candidates in the next Dominion election was forecast by one of the leading officials of the party. Such a policy would be almost inclusive in character. Consumers returned soldiers, and other citizens who are not connected with any labor organizations or who have not subscribed to all the tenets of other political parties would, if such a policy were adopted, be eligible to attend and vote at the convention called by the I.L.P. for the selection of "Labor" candidates.

There is already considerable pre-election activity in Labor circles. A get-together meeting, at which the political situation was thoroughly discussed, was held this week by executive officers of the I.L.P. It is understood that the main topic of discussion at the meeting was the question of joint action in the selection and support of Labor candidates.

The Executive Committee of the Independent Labor Party is now arranging for a conference with the chief officers of all the labor organizations in the city. If present plans materialize, this meeting will be held within a few days. If a broadening out policy is decided upon steps will be taken to call a convention immediately.

Mr. J. W. Patterson, president of the I.L.P., Ottawa Branch, stated that there is no scarcity of men or women in the ranks of the party from which to choose candidates. But the convention would have to decide upon the candidates. "Our party is desirous of uniting all the forces of constructive democracy under its banner," Mr. Patterson stated. "The people have been clamoring for a change from the old beaten paths and policies of the two dominant parties in Canada and they now have the opportunity to give full expression to their desire."

Organized labor will contest every constituency in New Brunswick in which a labor organization exists during the coming federal elections, according to F. A. Campbell, president of the St. John's Labor and Trades Council. This will include the seats in St. John-Albert, York, Westmoreland and Charlotte and the North Shore counties. It is intended to start the campaign as soon as the official proclamation of the election is made.

While no definite announcement has been made it is rumored in labor circles that Mr. Campbell and George Maxwell will be the candidates in this constituency.

COST OF LIVING BUILDING OPERATIONS GOING UP FOR THE PAST MONTH

The cost of living for August in the United Kingdom, was three points higher than in July, according to official advices received here. Average increases since July 1916 were, for all items, 122 per cent, and for food, 156 per cent. The average increase in rent over seven years ago was between 50 and 55 per cent. The average increase in retail prices of coal since July 1914 was over 100 per cent.

Increases in the retail prices of food in August, as compared with July, were shown in statistics for a number of United States cities, made public by the Department of Labor at Washington.

In Rochester, N.Y., there was an increase of 8 per cent in Buffalo 7, and in Baltimore and New York 6. Minneapolis had an increase of 1 per cent.

The value of contracts for all of Canada during the month of August, the report shows, was \$36,307,200 as compared with \$17,741,400 in July, being an increase of \$18,565,800 or 104 per cent. Included in the August total were: \$5,272,300 or 16.1 per cent for residential building; \$10,049,000 or 27.6 per cent for business building; \$7,935,900 or 21.8 per cent for industrial building and \$12,430,000 or 34.5 per cent for public works and utilities. The demand for Ontario continued to lead the provinces, in the value of building undertakings, hanging up the magnificent total for the month of August of \$20,525,700, as compared with \$9,828,600 for the same month in 1920, and as against \$5,374,600 in 1918. This year's August building in Ontario is the greatest since 1918. Quebec ranked second in the individual provinces with \$4,925,800 as compared with \$4,797,000 for the same month a year ago.

Building in the Western Provinces totaled \$9,616,000, and in the Maritime Provinces \$1,401,700.

For the first eight months of 1921 Ontario leads all the provinces with a total of \$76,928,200, which is \$5,997,400 less than for the first eight months of last year. Quebec is second with \$42,799,700, about two million ahead of last year and the Western Provinces third with \$40,828,200, between eleven and twelve million behind 1920.

For the whole Dominion the total of \$165,812,100 is less than for the first eight months of 1920 by \$20,658,100. Residential building in August was valued at \$5,372,000; business building at \$10,049,000; industrial building \$7,935,900, and engineering \$12,430,000.

So far the year Ontario leads all in the matter of residential building, there being 6,336 contracts let for work having an estimated valuation of \$29,497,000. Residential building of Ontario's biggest city so far this year. Business buildings rank next, having an estimated valuation of \$25,014,000.

BUILDING OPERATIONS FOR THE PAST MONTH

The increase in construction activity during the month just past is by far the largest monthly aggregate since August, 1914, and is contributed to by the provinces as follows:

Province	No. of Projects	Value
Ontario	908	\$20,525,700
Quebec	382	4,925,800
Manitoba	174	6,907,600
British Columbia	210	1,320,800
Nova Scotia	42	302,000
Saskatchewan	70	703,300
Alberta	71	684,300
New Brunswick	23	477,700
Prince Ed. Island	7	32,000
Total for Dominion 1886	1886	\$36,307,200

Work was started on new factories and industrial plants generally to the value of \$7,935,900, whereas for the previous year the same month the current year the sum total of industrial work started amounted to only \$4,430,000. In other words the work started on August on factories was nearly 100 per cent more than the previous year's. This is a record for seven months. That this is an indication of better times cannot be disputed because industrial expansion in times like these is conservatively planned and carried out.

It is gratifying to note that in spite of reports to the contrary the provincial and municipal authorities are undertaking public works and utilities to an ever increasing extent. Contracts awarded for the first eight months for work of this nature amount to \$40,750,700 as compared with \$29,906,300 for the same period in 1920 and \$20,016,200 for the first eight months of 1919 and \$14,890,400 for the corresponding period of 1918.

For the year to date work has been started on 10,482 houses costing \$49,334,500, being an increase of 18 per cent over 1920, when work was started on 8,800 houses costing \$41,835,400. For 1919 the total was only \$29,950,600 for the same period and \$9,923,100 in 1918.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Development of a permanent and constructive national employment policy, systematic organization of public employment offices on a national scale, organization of industry to develop a greater degree of regularity in employment, and increased public works activities were recommended to meet the present unemployment situation, in resolutions adopted by the International Association of Public Employment Services, which closed a three-day convention at Buffalo.

Copies of the resolutions were sent to Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce, and to the Minister of Labor at Ottawa.

Officers elected were Bryce M. Stewart, of Ottawa, Ont., president; John M. Sullivan, Washington, D.C., and Miss Marion C. Flaherty, of Toronto, vice-presidents; Richard A. Flynn, of Brooklyn, secretary and treasurer; Charles J. Boyd, of Chicago, Robert J. Peters, of Harrisburg, Pa., and Thomas M. Malloy, of Regina, Sask., were elected to the executive board. Washington was chosen as the place for the 1922 convention.

Members of the Building Construction Employers' Association were planning to replace all union men who have not returned to work by Thursday morning with non-union workmen. This is considered the latest stage of the wage dispute, and followed action of Judge Landis, arbitrator, yesterday, in cancelling a date for a rehearing of matters in connection with the wage award he announced last week. The date for a rehearing, he announced, would not be fixed until the workers were back on the job. Union leaders were making an effort to keep all union men working, but many have already left their jobs. The Associated Builders also met today.

UNEMPLOYMENT DEMONSTRATION IN THE OLD LAND

Unemployment demonstration in the provinces were characterized in several cases by considerable display of temper. The demonstrators generally demanded increased allowances of free coal similar to the London allowances.

One of the most notable marches was of 4,000 people across the Welsh Mountains, a distance of twelve miles from Aberllyrry to Tredegar, where the Sunderland demonstration culminated in an attempt to force the gates of the workhouse. Falling in this the demonstrators entered the workhouse building from whence the police ejected them.

An ugly spirit was in evidence at Bristol where the crowd attacked the Board of Guardians and were driven off by the police. They then attempted to rush the building but the gates were closed just in the nick of time. A scuffle ensued, banners were broken and a red flag was captured by the police. Suddenly the gates opened and a large body of police made a baton charge and dispersed the disturbers who smashed a hundred shop windows in their flight.

Exciting scenes were also witnessed at Liverpool. After an encounter with the police, the workless presented to the council a ten minute ultimatum, threatening that after the expiration of that time they would be responsible for consequences. The lord mayor subsequently emerged and satisfied the leaders with an assurance that a scheme would be proposed to deal with the workless.

The guardians find themselves in an awkward situation on account of the fact that they are not completely unfettered regarding the distribution of relief, being personally liable to

recharge for any expenditure subsequently considered excessively lavish by the government auditors. A sharp reminder of their predicament was conveyed to the Islington Board of Guardians by the refusal of the ministry of health to sanction an unemployment dole of 7s 6d and sixpence weekly per family of man, wife and six children. This ruling, that the Islington scale is illegal, is bound to materially affect the agitation now spreading in the country owing to the discontent of the workless, with their relief as compared with the Islington terms.

Several of the unemployed marched through the streets of Dundee, smashing windows as they passed through the streets. Many of the demonstrators were taken to the police station and a number injured. In Manchester there are now nineteen thousand in the ranks of the unemployed. This is an increase of one thousand over last week.

The response to an appeal for voluntary relief funds in some parts of the country has been disappointing. Doubtless the reason for this is that who usually are generous under "such" circumstances, are proportionately hit themselves, although though there is little doubt but that the communist activity amongst the industrial class has alienated sympathy to a certain extent.

CHICAGO BUILDING TRADES DISPUTE

Two construction were being placed on the unanimous vote of the Chicago Building Trades Council declaring the Landis wage award "unjustifiable," and expressing the "universal dissatisfaction" of the workers over the decision of Judge Landis as arbitrator in the building trades controversy.

Wage cuts of 10 to 33 per cent, were made in the Landis decision. Builders and contractors held labor's verdict and demand for a rehearing was tantamount to rejection of the award. Others asserted labor had not broken its pledge to abide by the decision and termed the action "an acceptance under protest."

The declaration of the union bodies and the request for a rehearing, today was considered a serious setback to the prospective peace in the Chicago building world and the proposed immediate starting of \$100,000 worth of buildings and the employment of nearly 50,000 men.

Members of building trade unions on a number of jobs yesterday threw down their tools. Thomas Kearney, president of the Building Trades Council, today expressed his intention to try to keep the workers on the job until decision regarding a rehearing had been reached, but admitted that it would be a big task.

Unauthorized, sporadic walkouts of the various building crafts resulted from Judge K. M. Landis' decision cutting wages and reforming working rules. Despite the efforts of union officials, hundreds of workers threw down their tools in protest against the decision of the Building Construction Employers' Association were planning to replace all union men who have not returned to work by Thursday morning with non-union workmen. This is considered the latest stage of the wage dispute, and followed action of Judge Landis, arbitrator, yesterday, in cancelling a date for a rehearing of matters in connection with the wage award he announced last week. The date for a rehearing, he announced, would not be fixed until the workers were back on the job. Union leaders were making an effort to keep all union men working, but many have already left their jobs. The Associated Builders also met today.

BRITISH UNEMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Agitation for relief measures on a larger scale is troubling the local councils and boards of guardians all over the country. The daily demonstrations of unemployed in various towns are for the most part orderly, but in Liverpool today a crowd of demonstrators, being refused the use of St. George's Hall, attempted to take possession of the Walker Art Gallery. A considerable number gained entrance, but were expelled after a brief encounter with the police. Many were slightly injured in the police baton charges, and more than a hundred were arrested.

The cabinet some time ago appointed a special committee to deal with the problem of unemployment. The members were Sir Robert S. Horne, T. J. MacNamara, Robert Munro, Sir Alfred Mond and Stanley Baldwin. They have been busy inquiring into the whole situation by inquiries through the local bodies and guardians. The committee will hold its first formal meeting in London and it is expected to recommend certain public works, such as road making, with a small government subsidy.

SOUTH AFRICAN LABOR VICTORIES

The Government of General Smuts has sustained a blow in the loss of two seats for General and Lesbeek, Capetown, in the recent by-elections for the House of Assembly of the British Union of South Africa, according to Reuters correspondent at Capetown. Both constituencies, which were formerly held by the South African party and were considered safe for the election franchise, have been won by the Labor party on the unemployment and reform platform.

The results at Garden of Erosby, Labor, 1,604; Fuller, South African, 1,550. Lesbeek, Pearson, Labor, 2,125; Laite, South African, 2,043.

Reports recently arriving from Capetown indicate that these by-elections were looked upon as a preliminary general election. Party meetings were addressed by General Smuts, Sir Thomas Smart, South African high commissioner in London, and Rt. Hon. P. S. Malan, Minister of Education. These meetings were marked by considerable disturbance from the Socialist Labor supporters, who raised questions regarding the situation of the unemployed, and in regard to Government economy.

It is believed from Capetown that the overwhelming labor victory in the parliamentary by-elections of Garden and Lesbeek, surprised the common party of the day. These labor successes are attributed to the efficiency with which Boycott and the Labor party, in the house of assembly, carried out his campaign and the willingness of the voluntary workers who assisted him, also the fact that wages have been reduced and the people retrenched, there has been no corresponding decrease in the cost of living.

The leading newspapers attribute the turnover of votes to economic distress for which they declare the government has been made the scapegoat.

The Cape Times says the electors would be puzzled to explain what they hope to gain by the election, since neither of the labor candidates offered a practicable alternative to the government's policy.

PETERBORO REPORTS ON LABOR CONDITIONS

Reports from Peterboro hearing on the employment situation show they are fairly typical of conditions in communities of similar size throughout the province. The metal industries are dormant, but other lines of manufacturing are fairly good. Textile mills are working well. Canadian Woollen Limited have increased the number of their employees and are approaching almost to capacity. Colonial Weaving Company and Albion Knitting Company are busy, and night shifts have been put on recently to take care of rush orders. Milling is active and the working force of local cereal plants has been increased. The demand for unskilled labor is not as great as is desired.

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WINNIPEG MAN TO REPRESENT RAILWAYS

Mr. Isaac Pitblado, K.C., Winnipeg, has been appointed by the Minister of Labor to act for the railway companies in the board of conciliation which is to settle the dispute with regard to wages. Mr. Pitblado will confer with Mr. David Campbell, barrister, also of Winnipeg, the nominee for the employees with a view to agreeing upon a chairman. If the decision is not made within five days, the appointment will be made by the Minister of Labor.

On August 27 the large railway companies concerned in the application for a board of conciliation made by the employees in train and telegraph services, advised the Department of Labor that they were unable to agree upon anyone to represent the employing companies on the board, and proposed that the board should not be proceeded with until further direct negotiations had occurred, for the reason that the employing companies did not anticipate the breaking off of negotiations at

the time the employees made the application for a board.

The Department of Labor on that date advised the railway companies and the committee representing the employees that the final constituting of the board would be postponed until September 10, suggesting that, meanwhile, negotiations should be recognized a view to reaching an adjustment by agreement.

Conferences have been held between the respective companies and the committees representing the employees, but without any agreement being reached or substantial progress being made. The Department of Labor has therefore named Isaac Pitblado as the member of the board of conciliation representative of the railway companies.

He has been asked to confer immediately with David Campbell, the employees' representative, with a view to selecting a chairman within the five days allowed by the act. Once the chairman is appointed, the board will lose no time in getting down to work.

CO-OPS. GOING BIG

Los Angeles, Cal.—The Southern Pacific Co-operative Association is undertaking a very promising program and one that is destined to be productive of great benefit to the workers of this city. Delegates to the central labor union, representatives of the railroad brotherhoods and affiliated labor bodies recently met in the Labor Temple and laid plans for the establishment of wholesale and retail co-operative stores, a grocery store, a co-operative barber, and other services. It is expected to carry out the plans to a successful conclusion.

The Trade Union Congress of Cardiff dealt with three resolutions fraught with most far-reaching consequences to Labor's future.

Firstly came the question of the appointment of a full time chairman to the new general council, which is endowed with wide powers for the co-ordination of Labor action. The motion was withdrawn after a number of speakers urged postponement of action until the new organization shall have definitely settled down.

Secondly came a motion tending to improve and unify the movement's educational institutions, and overhaul the existing Labor colleges. This large majority.

BRITISH TRADE CONGRESS IN SESSION

The third was a motion of the iron and steel trades seeking to make provision to effect an equitable settlement of disputes without stoppage of work, failing which the whole industry is planned back to a general day of the tyrant and serv ever-workmen are compelled to work and live under the terms of a contract of this character. These contracts are not signed freely by workmen. They are signed only under duress and thus, even at the very outset, they constitute a denial of freedom of action. No worker signs away his rights freely. It is done so only under compulsion. It is a principle that a contract signed under duress or compulsion is void in law and in fact. It is reprehensible to compel workers to recognize their industrial franchise, their right to exercise a voice in co-operation with their fellow workers.

CONTRACT USED TO STRANGLE FREEDOM

Washington.—James O'Connell, president of the metal trades representative of the A. F. of L., has received this form of "individual contract" issue by the Moore Drop Forging Company at its plants in Springfield and Chicopee, Mass.

"I apply to Moore Drop Forging Company for employment as (blank), and if employed agree that such employment will be upon the following terms and conditions: Wages (blank). Hours of labor: to be arranged as employer may deem expedient, not exceeding (blank) hours in any one week (blank). To be optional, for which time and a half will be paid. Factory conditions are accepted as satisfactory and will not be the subject of controversy during my employment, though suggestions for improvement will be welcomed by employer. I understand that employment is upon a strictly non-union basis and I agree that while retained in employment I will not be or become a member of any trade union. That if I re-apply for membership in any trade union I will at once resign my position with Moore Drop Forging Company, and will not be re-employed by Moore Drop Forging Company. That upon termination of my employment for any reason I will not in any manner annoy, molest or interfere with the business, customers or employees of said employer."

In the September number of the American Federationist, President Goppers deals a body blow to the "individual" wage contract in general, and especially analyzes the Moore contract in particular.

"It is difficult to understand," he writes, "how any employer attempting to operate a modern industrial enterprise can hope to achieve success in relations with workers on the basis of a document as completely autocratic as the contract by which the Moore Drop Forging Company seeks to enslave its employees. Every clause in the contract is outraged by such a document. The entire concept of democracy in industry is made void by its use. Industry is planned back to a general day of the tyrant and serv ever-workmen are compelled to work and live under the terms of a contract of this character. These contracts are not signed freely by workmen. They are signed only under duress and thus, even at the very outset, they constitute a denial of freedom of action. No worker signs away his rights freely. It is done so only under compulsion. It is a principle that a contract signed under duress or compulsion is void in law and in fact. It is reprehensible to compel workers to recognize their industrial franchise, their right to exercise a voice in co-operation with their fellow workers."

UNCLE TOM IN REAL LIFE

Boston.—The auction block for men who are without work and seeking it, was resumed on Boston Common. A woman auctioneer, Miss Viola Roche, held the hammer on the men who were stripped to the waist, told of their several abilities to labor, and called for bids.

The crowd, which thronged around the bandstand, contained many women who took an active part in the bidding. Work for a week or more at wages that bidding carried as high as \$25 a week was obtained by several men.

The party of unemployed went to their West End headquarters to the Common through the noon-day crowds in the business district gathering a considerable audience as they went. The first of the men to be put up found jobs among the bidders, two getting two weeks with board, clothing and pay at the rate of \$25 per week from a retail store, and another getting a month with food, clothing, and lodging for unskilled labor.

One man who took part in the bidding contributed towards feeding the workless men.

The collapse of Edward Dixon, of Philadelphia, apparently from malnutrition, just after his services had been sold to the highest bidder, brought the second day of the auction block to a close after 13 men had been promised work.

Dixon, a war veteran, had prepared an appeal which Urban LeDoux, leader of the unemployed group, read to the thousands of persons gathered around the bandstand. As LeDoux was reading an account of the death of Dixon's father in the war which had left the young man alone, Dixon wept and collapsed. One meal a day and sometimes not that had been his portion, he said. "Physicians said tonight that this experience and excruciating from sleeping on the common made a condition serious."

Bidders were plentiful, and many pledges of food and clothing for the week in addition to payment of wages were forth coming.

LeDoux said that the auction would be continued tomorrow in an endeavor to find work for all the men in his care, as the best he could do for them now was to feed them once a day.

Francis Gennaro, the first youth put up, said he had been out of work since March without food two days and without a place to sleep two months. Miss Roche knocked him down for two months' work at \$25 a week, his purchaser handing the bid a \$1 bill to get himself together with Gennaro was almost too dazed for words over his good fortune, but managed to articulate thanks to Miss Roche and Zery before leaving.

The next man up had seen 25 months' service in the United States Army. He was willing to "do anything." Gennaro secured him as one of his group at \$25 and promised him a two weeks' job. The man refused an offer of food and shelter, declaring it was work he wanted. That third man up, with a record of two and one-half years' overseas, landed a job with Harry Freedman, at \$25 a month, with board, lodging clothes and laundry.

Here Miss Roche's voice gave out and she was obliged to be forced to give up because of her throat, and Olney Haskell, of Keosauqua, assumed the task. His first offering was Harry Freedman, 17 years old, of New York. An overseas sergeant finally secured him with the promise to care for him until he secured the demand for the stand several dollars to the good as the result of money pressed on him by sympathetic women and men.

Zero, having doctored his throat, now resumed the task, as bidding resumed, "I want a man to keep the interest up. He put William King, 23 years old, husky, freckled and smiling, on the stand, remarking, "I want a man who will man that you might all see that which you all most desire, evidence of muscular strength." Then to the boy answered, "Yes."

"Are you strong?" and again "yes" was the answer.

"Can you dig in anywhere?" and for a third time "yes" came back.

"Good," cried Zero, "when you are wanted by your masters."

A thrill of hope ran through the audience. Here within sight of the statue of Abraham Lincoln, the picture of the dead of Wendell Phillips, the picture of the ancient slave block was brought into mental perspective generally.

The slave continued to grin. For two weeks, the auctioneer interpreted, the boy had lived on coffee and doughnuts once a day.

"How much am I offered?" the cry from Zero's lips went ringing through the air. There was a sudden hush, then the raised rapidly. The bid was \$25 a month, with board to a carriage man for a week's lodging and board.

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