

Family Welfare Association was kindly received and is still receiving consideration.

The difficulty lies in the fact that the Public Charities Act was planned primarily to help institutions of all kinds to maintain indigents apart from their families, a policy not in keeping with the principle on which Protestant social work is organized.

This principle recognizes the family as the basic normal unit of society and prescribes that wherever possible dependent children or adults shall be assisted to maintain the normal family life even to the point of maintaining aged couples in preference to caring for them in separate institutions.

The loss of support from the Public Charities Act suffered by federation agencies as a result of conforming to this principle is a matter of very grave concern to your directors.

THE PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

During 1927 your directors were obliged to appropriate \$6,000 to the Family Welfare Association for this purpose, this sum was not sufficient and the Association ended its year with a deficit of over \$3,000 which was largely accounted for by extra relief to the unemployed.

In 1928 \$6,000 was again included in the budget for the purpose of unemployment relief and after less than two months of the year has passed over \$4,000 of this amount has been expended. The average uninformed citizen is apt to consider industrial conditions from the standpoint of the condition of the stock market; others who have some knowledge of the labour market and watch index figures published by the Ministry of Labour at Ottawa are apt to judge unemployment conditions by the index figures for employment.

In actual fact neither the condition of the stock market nor the index figure for employment based on the relation of the number employed now in certain industries to the number who were employed in 1920 in similar industries can afford an accurate basis for an estimate as to the amount of unemployment in the city.

Two factors contribute to unemployment, first and foremost the seasonal character of shipping, allied and other industries, secondly, the influx into the city of immigrants foreign and British, and the influx into Montreal of single men from other localities. Immigrant labour and labourers without families to support, whether immigrants or not, but who come into the city during the winter months, are as a rule willing to take a lower rate of wage than the summer scale. They can afford to underbid the permanent resident of Montreal with a family to support. It is not unnatural therefore that they should aggravate the problem of unemployment amongst the permanent residents.

The situation is a serious one from the standpoint of relief. On the one hand the creation of a permanent committee or department for the relief of the unemployed would tend to encourage dependence and discourage thrift and saving to tide over periods of unemployment which many wage earners experience.

On the other hand, failure to relieve real distress from unemployment has a disastrous effect on the morale, physical and frequently the mental health of the worker and his family and invariably results sooner or later in applications for hospital care, nursing care and relief in the home on account of sickness.

A contributory scheme of compulsory unemployment insurance in which the employed, the employer, and the state participate such as exists in many countries to-day and in some individual industries as for example in the Denison Manufacturing Company, suggests the most reasonable and satisfactory solution of the problem and your directors feel that this whole question is one which deserves the earnest attention of the Board of Trade and Manufacturers Association.

[Mr. Howard T. Falk.]