

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH CANADA

The Dominion of Canada covers a vast extent of territory, a very large portion of which is exceedingly prolific in natural resources. Millions of acres are rich with agricultural possibilities, other millions are eminently suitable for fruit-raising, while vast stretches of land are available for grazing purposes. The timber resources of the country would, under anything like proper management, be practically inexhaustible. The hills and mountains are plentifully stored with all kinds of minerals, the coal deposits are almost beyond computation and the waters of lake, river and ocean are teeming with food fish of almost every variety. With all of this vast domain so replete with natural resources and with a population of but little more than 7,000,000, the entire land from the Atlantic to the Pacific appears as though stricken with a plague. Industrial depression is everywhere in evidence. Idle men tramp the highways and byways in the vain search for employment. Factories and shops are closed or working on short time. Miles upon miles of sidetrack have been filled with locomotives and cars that have not turned a wheel for many months. Towns are in many cases half deserted and a general feeling prevails that the near future holds in store experience even more bitter than that which has cursed the land for the past twelve months.

During the summer season just passed approximately one-quarter of the working force of the Dominion has been out of employment. Thousands of workmen will face the rigors of the coming winter without having earned a dollar during the summer season. Right in the great wheat country of the middle and western provinces the charity soup kettle had to be requisitioned to keep unemployed workers from starving, and that, too, right in the midst of the harvest season. Thousands of workmen were induced to come to the wheat districts with

the expectation of finding employment, only to meet with bitter disappointment. The number on hand to do the work was greatly in excess of the number required.

On railway construction work in the northwest it is an open secret that the wages have been brought so low because of the huge army of idle men pressing for employment, that the workmen employed have practically been working all summer for their bare food.

In the agricultural region good crops have been harvested, but the prices obtained rule very low, and after the crops have been disposed of and the farmer has settled his season's bill, he, like the wage earners of the city, will be indeed fortunate if he comes out even, as a result of the year's work.

The city authorities of more than one Canadian city are even now seriously considering what steps to take in order to cope with the unemployed problem during the coming winter, a problem that is continually assuming greater magnitude and becoming more impossible of solution under the rule of capital.

Many industries that have been running during the present season to at least some extent, will be forced to close before many weeks elapse. This will still further aggravate the situation and deepen the gloom that now hangs like a pall over the land. It is safe to assert that the coming winter will be as much worse than last as that was worse than the previous one.

If there is an ignoramus who stands head and shoulders above all other disciples of ignorance, it is the average capitalist politician. He knows nothing. In fact any knowledge of human society, its growth and development and the economic basis upon which social and industrial institutions rest, would be an unnecessary part of his equipment as a capitalist politician. It would be as super-

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