

advocate measures for reducing the evil of unemployment, that would facilitate rather than retard wise legislative changes of a more comprehensive character.

Turning, then, to the immediate causes of unemployment, let us summarise what has been stated in more detail in the preceding pages.

CHARACTER AND EFFICIENCY OF THE UNEMPLOYED

We have seen that in the two principal classes of unemployed workers, namely, those seeking regular work and the casual workers, numbering altogether 732, or 57·3 per cent of the whole, about half were men of good character and physique, while the others were more or less handicapped by some physical, mental, or moral defect. Of the unemployed lads, four-fifths had a bad start in life, and the majority of them were certainly below the average in ability and character. In the building trade, on the other hand, the ability of the unemployed men was not markedly inferior, but we found that moral defects which did not actually lessen their value as workers were here less of a handicap than in any other trade.

The majority of the women were of good character and physically capable. Leaving aside the 105 work-shy, it may be roughly stated that about one-half of the unemployed in York were not in any way disqualified for work. This does not imply that they were on the same level with the best section of employed workers, for when the demand for labour