

Saturday, December 18, 1920.

WOULD RATHER PROVIDE WORK THAN RELIEF

Government Through Senator Robertson Makes Stand Clear on Unemployment Situation.

The unemployment policy of the Dominion Government was announced today. The gist of the announcement is that the situation should be met to the utmost possible extent by providing work instead of relief but should emergency relief measures become necessary by reason of utterly unavoidable shortage, the Federal Government will be willing to co-operate on the following basis:

"The organization for determining where relief must go, and for distributing the same, shall be provided by the Government, and in such cases before relief is given, and as relief is continued, a certificate must be obtained from the Government, Employment Service, showing that the applicant cannot be given employment. The general system and details, and the safeguards adopted must be approved by or on behalf of the Federal Government.

Embodied in Letter To Rollo.

The announcement of Government policy is embodied in a letter addressed by Senator Robertson, Federal Minister of Labor, to Hon. Walter Rollo, Minister of Labor for Ontario. A copy of the letter, handed to C. J. MacNeil, Dominion Secretary-treasurer of the G.W.V.A., as indicating "the Federal Government's attitude toward unemployment in connection with the Dominion Government's communication," is as follows in part:

"Dear Mr. Rollo—I beg to refer to our conversation of last week regarding unemployment. The views I then expressed have been submitted to my colleagues and have been approved. I communicate with you for the purpose of placing them in written form.

"The situation should be met to the utmost possible extent by the provision of work instead of the provision of relief. In this respect the Federal Government is doing, and will continue to do, the utmost within its power consistent with the authority granted it by Parliament. As respects Toronto, as to which our conversation had special reference, the Government will complete the Dominion Shipyard proceeding with the work forthwith. The contract for the engines for these vessels has also been placed in that city. This will give employment to something like four hundred men, who, so far as practicable, shall be taken from the city. It has also been decided to continue the Welland Canal construction work throughout the winter. The furtherance of other projects as well is under consideration.

"The Government has taken up with large employers of labor the great desirability of doing everything within their power, to aid, and I am glad to see evidence of the success of our efforts. The manufacturers in Toronto have, I believe, adopted as a general policy the practice of reducing staffs at the time instead of reducing staff. I feel sure the Provincial and municipal authorities will join in to provide a substantial amount of employment and in this way the situation should be materially relieved. Every possible effort should be made to avoid the necessity of any other form of relief."

"Continuing, Senator Robertson says that should the emergency relief measures become necessary by reason of utterly unavoidable shortage of employment, the Federal Government is willing to co-operate on the basis outlined in the opening of this article.

"He continues: 'In this connection I may again emphasize what I stated to you personally that in normal times these persons should be dealt with wholly locally. The Government of Canada, however, under present circumstances, is justified in co-operating to the extent set out above. It is in some degree correct that the numbers of the unemployed at the present time are increased by reason of the general contraction in industrial activity following upon a period of abnormal prices during the war.'

"Under extraordinary circumstances the Federal Government has co-operated as well at other times in the provision of relief, notably in respect of those in need on account of drought conditions in portions of Western Canada. In such cases of course the local authorities have joined in the sharing of the burden. The above is necessarily as you can understand a statement of general policy."

Ask for Councils.

Mr. C. G. MacNeil, Dominion Secretary of the G. W. V. A., commenting on the Government's unemployment policy, said the need of the situation was proper organization. "The machinery for this," he said, "is provided in the Provincial Employment Councils. For the establishment of which there is statutory authority. We are asking the Federal Government immediately to instruct us to bring these Councils into being."

NOT CHANGING NAME FARMER-LABOR PARTY

R. W. Burnaby Claims Perfect Harmony in Ranks.

TORONTO, Dec. 15.—"Everything is satisfactory," commented Premier Drury this morning after the all-night conference he and others had with the U.F.O. directors in reference to matters connected with the party. Beyond this, the Premier, who had a list of callers waiting, said he had nothing to say. When asked as to whether it had been decided to change the name of the Farmer-Labor Party he said he had nothing to say on that subject. From what was gathered from other sources, however, it was learned that the name will not be changed at present. W. E. Burnaby, president of the U.F.O., who was at the conference, also stated that there was nothing but harmony when the proceedings closed, about 4 a.m. Questioned about the proposed people's party he admitted that the difference of opinion which were reported to have existed between the Government and the U.F.O. directors had been somewhat exaggerated.

SEEK MEAL TICKETS WITH WORK AT HAND

Hundreds Can Be Placed On Farms, If Willing.

TORONTO, Dec. 15.—While a large number of men waited at the Government Employment Office here today for an opportunity to register for work or for a free meal ticket from the civic relief organization, farmers from various sections of Ontario who were in attendance at the U.F.O. convention stated that hundreds of men could be placed on farms if they had any experience at farming. It was stated that several experienced farmhands had refused to go out of the city when offered positions by farmers. There were 415 registrations at the civic bureau today, almost 100 more than registered yesterday. The list of applicants at the civic employment bureau totals 1,794, most of whom are registered to receive meal tickets or orders for provisions for their families.

MILLION MEN IDLE THROUGHOUT BRITAIN

Government is Taking Steps to Meet the Situation.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—Unemployment in Great Britain, which has been steadily growing, has created a serious problem, which during the last few days has become more urgent owing to the advent of severe weather. There is general anxiety over the situation, as nearly every trade in the country is affected. Unemployment is common among clerks and middle class occupations as well as among manual laborers, and official statistics show that about 900,000 are without occupation at present.

"Say Million Men Idle. It is admitted, however, that this is far below the real figure, as there are many without work who have not been reached by state or other organizations. Labor circles declare the actual number of men out of employment is fully 1,000,000. Upon a majority of these there are dependents, and the total number of persons suffering from the present conditions is placed at from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000, a large proportion being former soldiers.

"Rely Upon Government. There is a general tendency on the part of trades unions and local authorities to rely upon the Government to solve the problem, but in several places municipalities and other organizations have begun improvement works, the cost of which will be paid out of local taxes. The national executive of the Labor party yesterday passed a resolution declaring 'the present scandal of innocent starving persons cannot be allowed to continue,' and calling upon the Government to maintain persons for whom no work is available. The Government is asked to pay each man 48 shillings per week and each woman 25 shillings, with additional allowances for dependents. This, it is asserted, could be done for ten weeks for 'the modest sum of 15,000,000.'

"To Provide Work For 50,000 Men. In the meantime the Government is giving close attention to the problem and Thomas J. MacNamara, Minister of Labor, announced yesterday a plan expected to provide work for 50,000 men. They would be employed in the construction of buildings and the scheme will be submitted to the Building Trades Union next Monday for final acceptance or rejection. This will

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LITTLE JOURNEYS INTO YESTERDAY — By Collier



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deportation is said to have been meeting and discussed generally. brought up at yesterday's Cabinet Actual deportation of the Bolshevik agent may be delayed, however, by an appeal to the courts to stay the order of deportation.

TO PROCEED WITH WORK TO GIVE EMPLOYMENT

TORONTO, Dec. 16.—To give work to unemployed men, a clearing of the right-of-way for the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway to a point 25 miles north of Cochrane, the present terminus, is to be started. Although nothing further could be learned than the announcement by the Premier last night at a meeting in Queen's Park, it is evidently the intention to go ahead with the full construction of this new section, as the Premier said that it went into important timber and pulp sections.

It will be remembered that at the last session of the House a bill was passed giving authority of construction of the T. & N. O. north to James Bay. The bill was simply an enabling one. Premier Drury making the declaration that it would not be proceeded with at once.

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CANADA A POWER IN THE PACIFIC STATES ROWELL

Says Dominion is Taking a Special Interest in the Russian Question.

GENEVA, Dec. 16.—Canada's delegates took a prominent part in today's session of the assembly of the League of Nations, at which four new nations, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Finland and Luxembourg, were admitted to membership. The Canadian delegates voted for the admission of all four, but Australia and France abstained from voting when the admission of Bulgaria was before the assembly.

Canada's representatives favored the admission of Armenia, and the Canadian vote was registered in her favor. Switzerland, Sweden, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Portugal and Salvador also voted favorably, but the votes of twenty-one other states were recorded against her, China and Poland abstaining from voting.

Newton W. Rowell, for Canada, presented a resolution expressing a hope that the efforts of President Wilson, of the United States, would result in the saving of Armenia and the establishment of a stable government so that she might be admitted to the league in the not far distant future. The resolution was passed by the assembly.

Canada a Power in Pacific. It was learned today that during the consideration of the admission of Baltic and Caucasian states to the league by the committee, Mr. Rowell suggested that Canada, as a Pacific Ocean power, took a special interest in the Russian question. He declared the question had been raised in its entirety by the proposed relations between the league and the states carved out of the former Russian empire.

Although the Baltic states had the full sympathy of Canada, he asserted, the situation in Russia might change, and the league might find itself faced by a new government with access to the sea, whereupon the league would find itself meeting a grave responsibility.

CAUSE AND EFFECT.

Magistrate—Do you mean to say that such a physical wreck as your husband gave you that black eye? Plaintiff—Yer, washup, 'e wasn't a physical wreck until 'e gave me the black eye.

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ATTEMPTS AT REVOLUTION WERE COMPLETE FAILURE

PARIS, Dec. 15.—Attempts which have been made by Communists in Czechoslovakia to overthrow the Government and seize power in that nation, have failed entirely, according to the latest despatches to the French Foreign Office. The Czechoslovak Government, it is declared, is emerging from the turmoil of the past fortnight in a strong position.

The Communist leaders have been imprisoned, the advices state, and the Communist newspapers have been suppressed.

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