

our population is larger than the country can support. There have been times when manufacturers have found it impossible to get sufficient labor. Under such conditions there was room for many more workers. The difficulty is with seasonal occupations. The months of January and February are usually quiet in manufacturing enterprises, with the result that workers are laid off. It is unfortunate that this condition should take place during the coldest weather—just when employment is urgently needed.

The question of supplying a permanent means of dealing with the unemployment does not appear to have been seriously considered by either the Federal Government or any of the Provincial Governments. The cities have to bear the greatest share of the burden, for the reason that the "out of works" gravitate from the country districts to the cities in search of work. The cities thus have not only their own unemployed to look after, but in addition they have many from the urban communities. Quite a percentage of these men are penniless and will become a charge upon the community unless work is found for them. They are not looking for charity; they want work and are willing to work. This is an annual occurrence, conditions in some years being more acute than in others.

I submit for consideration the following suggestions as a means of ameliorating the condition:—

1. That villages, towns and cities plan for construction during the autumn months of such works as improvement of parks, preparation of road material, building of sidewalks, construction of roads, sewers, or, in fact, any public works that could be carried on during the winter months.

2. That the Provincial Governments formulate a permanent scheme for the improvement of their forests and timber reserves as well as the construction of roads to provide work at this season of the year.

3. The discontinuance of the minimum wage by the cities when supplying temporary work for the unemployed. The knowledge of the fact that the cities pay a minimum wage of 25c. per hour acts as a magnet to those in the country districts, thus drawing them to the cities.