

## LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Summary of Conditions During Past Year—What a Canvass of Kingston Firms Shows.

W. Alan Stroud, superintendent of the Kingston Branch of the Employment Service of Canada, when asked by the Whig about labor conditions in Kingston offered the following as a report in brief of the year's work carried on from November 1st, 1922 to October 31st, 1923.

After a short survey of last year's report, it has been forcibly brought to our attention that conditions that exist in Kingston and which is practically general throughout Ontario around the latter part of October of nearly every year, when building construction and road work are practically finished for the year. It is about this time that the local office is besieged with men seeking employment for the winter months, and the local representative was kept busy giving interviews to applicants, and making every effort to solicit work and seeking orders for employment from the various plants and factories. During December of last year a successful effort was made in getting the City Council interested by submitting accurate figures and information in having work started such as snow-shovelling and sewer construction, which kept approximately 100 married men employed three and four days a week during the winter months until the spring work opened up. This employment started in with a rush until July 15th, there was a small shortage noticeable. All placements on the above unemployment relief work was made through this office.

During November, 1922, about 125 men were employed at Kingston's largest industry, the Canadian locomotive works, and from a canvass made of the various firms, showed that piano workers were busy and working overtime, candy and biscuit makers were working on day and night shifts, and the Textile Company were in need of female help, tanners were busy and a large staff was employed by the Davis tannery.

It is absolutely necessary to know local conditions in order to have this information to give to the large number of workers who apply at this office seeking work, and so be in a position to send them where work is most likely to be found, even if there is no orders listed, by some firms who were taking on help.

### Clearance System.

During the year through the clearance system, a number of skilled mechanics, who were not available locally were brought to Kingston. In reference to this system it

is absolutely essential that reliable information must be had that none are available before putting an order through the Clearance System, and that can only be obtained by being in close touch with the various organizations of which these mechanics are members. It does not follow that all mechanics out of employment are listed; therefore if any kind of labor is brought in when they are available locally, the system is liable for censure from these organizations.

Beginning April the Canadian locomotive works had 450 hands employed, and were daily increasing their staff, and two large contractors started work on the new buildings for the Bank of Montreal and Library for Queen University. In almost every case all help required for this work was taken on through the local office and this office was successful in meeting their wants during the entire season. Many calls were made upon the local office during the season for all classes of marine workers and freight handlers. Although there was a big demand for farm help during the year and many placements effected, the supply was not nearly equal to the demand. Every effort made by this branch to cope with this phase of employment.

Another important work that this branch of the Employment Service was interested in during the latter part of this year was the effort put forth to place a fairly large number of British immigrants that were listed, which shows the greatest necessity for closer connection between the Employment Service and the Immigration branch. Although approximately some fifty immigrants applied for work in this district during the past two months very few would accept farm or bush work. Most of the applicants were skilled mechanics and wanted work in their own line, and from a survey of local industries, practically no vacancies existed. If work cannot be found for them, then they become a public charge upon the community; many of them made efforts to gain entrance to the United States. These incidents are stated in an endeavor to show that the Employment Service is the only factor that falls the responsibility of placing a large percentage of new comers to this country.

### Present Employment Conditions.

The employment conditions in Kingston to date show that the Canadian Locomotive Works have approximately 550 hands employed, the Collingwood Shipbuilding Company have 113, which increases to

150, with prospects good for the winter months; A. Davis & Sons, Ltd., tannery, have 120 employees, some of these due to re-adjustment arising out of the recent fire at this plant; the Dominion Textile Company report business good with 200 employees, and state that this condition will prevail throughout the winter. The W. J. Crotners Company have 155 hands employed, and up to the present business has been very active; the Weber Piano Company's factory have 65; with business fairly active. The Collie woolen mills are running with a reduced staff which will be increased after the New Year.

Building construction work is still in progress at the library building at Queen's University, and the firm of Anglin & Norcross are now putting in temporary windows so that inside work can be carried on during the winter months. Practically the same condition exists on the Bank of Montreal building. The heating system is being installed, plaster and labourers are busy, and work will be carried on until the completion of this building. H. Watts, contractor, has construction workers employed at the Royal Military College; and other contractors are finishing up small jobs in course of erection.

The number of those listed at the employment office seeking employment total 150, mostly unskilled, which is a problem to handle, some of whom are in actual need. Every effort is being made to remove this situation.

The Kingston branch of the Employment Service, has been greatly patronized, during the past year 3,255 placements effected from November 1922 to October 1923, and has proved itself a public utility, which besides the routine work of placements in banks, business houses, telephone company and the press are regular callers on the service to inquire as to the only reliable source on conditions of employment.

### CAROL SINGERS

I have some pleasant memories of carol singing in the Old Land. The practice among the boys was to begin caroling as early as possible; some could scarcely wait for December to come in, and would make feeble efforts to awaken the Christmas spirit in the busy housewife long before that lady had bought the fruit for her bun-loaves and plum-pudding.

The legitimate time for carol-singing among us boys was about a fortnight from Christmas day, but it never really got into full swing till the twenty-third of the month. Then the still air of the suburbs was smitten with the sound of many voices; I have known three or four groups of boys to commence singing within a few doors of each other—the effect of such a competition must be heard to be appreciated. The average boy carol-singer had not a very extensive stock of carols, and these were of a very shaky quality; he was usually very shaky in his knowledge of the words, and sometimes he would run one carol into another. But, boy-like, he was equal to all emergencies, and would valiantly struggle the most lamentable rendering, finishing up in grand style with:

"God bless the master of this house, Likewise the missus, too, And all the little children Around the table, too, With pocket full of money and a cellar full of beer. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year." Sometimes the "master" of this

house" would appear waving a stick; but this reception was only done in a spirit of fun to startle the boys, and often enough he would call the little singers back and distribute coppers amongst them.

On one occasion we had sung our carols and exhausted our appeals, such as:

"Knock at the knocker, ring at the bell, Please spare a copper for singing that so well; If you haven't got a penny, ah! penny will do; If you haven't got a ha'penny, God bless you!"

We had run our tether in these things, when an old lady appeared in response to a loud rat-tat upon the door. She seemed surprised to find so many boys in her garden path and rather sharply inquired what we were doing there. One boy ventured to inform her that we had been singing carols.

"Singing what?" she snapped, putting her hand to her ear and stooping to the nearest boy.

"Carols," said the boy. "Then you must have been singing through your hat, for I didn't hear you!"

She advised us to go home to bed and we retired as meekly as we could; but some of the boys passed rude remarks as they banged the gate behind them.

Such cases, however, were not the rule; we were often kindly treated, and feasted with coffee and bun-loaf.

Carol singing is not merely a boyish custom in England. Some of the church choirs make a round of visits to the homes of the members of the church, and sing from Christmas eve till the dawn of Christmas day. There was something angelic in the sound of the carol singers by night. I used to think, as I sang with others on those keen, starry nights, that our voices might fall upon the ears of some wakeful suf-

# Greetings

Wishing our many  
Friends and Patrons  
a very Merry Christmas

## ALLAN LUMBER CO.

Victoria St. Phone 1042

ferer, or some world-weary souls on sleepless pillows, bringing glad tidings of hope and comfort; melodious messages from the spirit-world which comes so near to our mundane life at this season of the year.

### THE GUIDE POST

By Henry van Dyke.  
Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.—Luke 2:10.  
Is it too early to give a thought to Christmas?

Do you think the war has spoiled Christmas?

Do you believe the coming revolution, the social upheaval, the triumph of materialism, the dictatorship of the proletariat, or whatever may be before us is going to destroy Christmas and leave no room for its return?

I tell you, no! Whatever turnings and overturn-

ings, whatever calamity and ruin, are in store for this battered old world, you and I will never be poorer than the blessed Mary and Joseph when they walked to Bethlehem, and that same night

"The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,—  
The little Lord Jesus aleep on the hay."

Whatever fantasies of government or no-government the brains of men may devise, the heart of man will always ask and take a day of rest and peace, gladness and good will to sweeten the long year.

The older you are the quicker Christmas comes. The younger you are the slower Christmas comes.

Why not give your wife a nice, soft, ribbed, rolling pin for Christmas?

If some men were able to make money as easily as they make trouble their wealth would soon become burdensome.

### THE BUBBLE BURST

Young Tom was spending Christmas in the country, and had been invited to the beautiful home of a sweet young thing named Agnes.

"What a charming place!" he said enthusiastically, to Agnes' proud parents. "Does it go as far as those woods over there?"

"It does," remarked the somewhat unsympathetic father.

"Ah," said Tom, still cheerily; "and to that old stone wall over there, sir?"

"It does," came the gruff answer; "and it goes as far as the river on the south, and to the main road on the north."

"Beautiful!" put in Tom.

"Yes," went on the old man, "but it doesn't go with Agnes!"  
Then Tom faded peacefully from view.

Literature is the immortality of speech.

# SAFETY FIRST!

- IN OUR EFFORTS TO GIVE SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC, ONE OF OUR GREATEST LABORS IS THAT OF AVOIDING ACCIDENTS.
- ALL CITIZENS, WHETHER MOTORISTS OR PEDESTRIANS, CAN AID IN THIS MATTER BY BEING CAREFUL AT ALL TIMES.
- WE THANK OUR PATRONS FOR THEIR KINDNESS DURING THE PAST YEAR AND RESPECTFULLY SOLICIT A CONTINUANCE OF THEIR GENEROUS USE OF THE SERVICE.

## K.P.&C. Electric Railway

OFFICE AND CAR BARN: KING STREET EAST.



ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# EASTERN DAIRY SCHOOL

## Kingston, Ont.

WHAT DOES THE EASTERN DAIRY SCHOOL MEAN TO THE CITIZENS OF KINGSTON AND SURROUNDING DISTRICT?

During the last two years at least, the Eastern Dairy School has occupied a very prominent place in our public affairs, and yet it is doubtful if many of our citizens have a true conception of what this institution means, not only to the citizens of Kingston and adjacent territory, but to the Province of Ontario as a whole.

In the first place, our work is primarily of an educational character. Our new building is provided with facilities for the prosecution of research of all subjects relating to the manufacture of butter and cheese and the dissemination of the knowledge thus gained to the parties most vitally interested, so that dairying, the most important branch of agriculture, may be placed on a more satisfactory footing.

Secondly, in order that this work may have the greatest possible value, it was decided that it be conducted on a commercial basis. For this reason we have an equipment capable of producing butter and cheese, not only of high quality, but in commercial quantities, so that the industry may be studied from every angle.

Lastly, it has been our constant aim to increase the consumption of dairy products by putting on the market a superior article and at the same time to create a demand for high quality to the exclusion of inferior goods. This policy has not only enabled us to dispose of our entire output in Kingston, but has permitted us to pay the dairy farmer considerably more for his raw material than he could get elsewhere, and has also encouraged him to supply us with a uniformly better quality of milk and cream. The result is obvious, better raw material, better finished products, better prices and a brisker market with a smile on the face of all concerned.

### Courses for Instruction, 1924.

Regular Course .....	Jan. 2nd to March 21st
Examinations .....	March 19th, 20th, 21st
Special Cheesemakers' Course .....	Feb. 25th to 29th
Special Creamerymen's Course .....	March 3rd to 8th
Dairy Instructors .....	March 24th to 29th

FORMAL OPENING OF THE NEW DAIRY SCHOOL BUILDING WILL TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 10th, AT WHICH THE HON. J. S. MARTIN, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WILL BE PRESENT.

HON. J. S. MARTIN,  
Minister of Agriculture.

L. A. ZUFELT,  
Supt., Kingston.

GEO. A. PUTMAN,  
Director of Education,  
Toronto.