

FIRST STEPS TO AID AUBURN'S JOBLESS TAKEN AT BIG MASS MEETING

No Definite Action Taken As Direct Information On Numbers Out of Work Were Unavailable—After Many Suggestions and Views from Men Prominent in All Walks of Life Resolution Empowers Mayor to Appoint Committee to Deal With the Situation.

Preliminary steps to combat the nation-wide problem of unemployment and to care for possible distress and suffering of the poor, so far as the City of Auburn is concerned, were taken at a mass meeting held in the Council Chamber at the City Hall last night.

In the assemblage were representative citizens of the city, the financiers, manufacturers, clergy, contractors, professional men of various capacities, private citizens and city officials, many of whom offered suggestions to relieve the situation, but the bulk of whom had come to listen to arguments and promise every assistance in their power when some definite action is outlined and the work gets under way.

Several of the speakers urged expressions of optimism just now, taking the view that Auburn is better off than a lot of her sister cities at the present time and that expressions of pessimism would only assist in business depression and resultant increase in the ranks of the unemployed.

Very little of a definite character could be done as there was no direct information as to the number of men and women out of jobs in the city and no accurate statistics on which to build a definite program.

But the start was made in the passage of a resolution for the appointment of a general committee by Mayor Burkhardt to canvass the situation and the general committee to appoint an executive committee and subsidiary committees for quick and comprehensive survey of the situation and then outline recommendations to reduce the jobless and the needy to a minimum not only now but throughout the winter.

Cementing Oswaco Outlet.

Some of the suggestions offered to provide jobs were the trying to get the state interested in cementing the Oswaco outlet through the city, the construction of sewers and other work by the city which can be started this fall, action towards getting a spur of the Barge Canal constructed into Auburn, merchants making repairs helpful for sanitary reasons, if nothing else, in the rearways of the rear of their stores. Even merchants were asked to be more modest in their margins of profit to relieve the distress among the poor.

Mayor Burkhardt will announce the appointment of the general committee some time this week and he invited representatives of all Auburn organizations interested to send in names of live wire members to be included in the list of committees.

What Mayor Had to Say.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Burkhardt who outlined the purpose of the gathering. He said in part: "Fellow citizens, this meeting has been called to take into consideration one of the most important subjects that has attracted the attention and thought of the American people since 1916, the problem of the unemployed."

"It is estimated that at the present time there are between four and five million men out of work in this country which means additional number of dependents which will probably increase that number four times."

"The unemployment question has received attention of the officials at Washington. A convention there took up the subject and formulated thoughts and suggestions and sent same out to the different states. The result has been conventions called in many states. Governor Miller has called a conference of mayors of the state under the auspices of the Albany Chamber of Commerce for Wednesday at which all phases of the situation will be discussed."

Mayor Burkhardt outlined the work which has been done by the city during the past season and stated that while there might be some distress in Auburn he felt that the city was in much better shape than many of her sister cities in New York and adjoining states. But that while Auburn might be a little better off it was no reason why the citizens should stand idle and not fortify against possible future suffering and distress.

The Mayor stated that Auburn had taken more men into employment this season than in the history of the city and if there had been more funds more would have been placed at work. He pointed out that it was not only up to the City of Auburn to help but for every man and woman in the city to take an interest in the movement and give heartiest co-operation. That every citizen should be interested irrespective of vocation or nationality. That labor do its bit, manufacturers do their bit and every citizen his or her bit. He urged the members of all civic and fraternal organizations, every organization in the city to become contributing forces to the success of the movement.

Mayor Burkhardt pointed out that the city is handicapped in engaging in any great municipal enterprises because of lack of funds in the budget appropriations. That it is now too late to begin any paving program or construction work. But he explained that the city would combine with citizens and organizations and welcome any suggestions in relation to public enterprises or improvements and help carry them into effect.

Remarks by Jaeckel

City Manager John P. Jaeckel was first called upon and he stated that the work done by the city had been pretty well covered by the mayor. He stated that the unemployment situation was one with which he was quite intimate as there were many requests for jobs filed with him every day. The city manager took the view that when the committee has gone over the situation he doubted if very little could be done.

Again the wonderful record of the administration in furnishing jobs was advanced in the extensive street program, extensive paving program and that fact that last week 268 were employed on the street pay roll as against 133 for the same week last year. The difference was explained, however, by the fact that weeks were split up and men given part time work, making little difference in the pay roll for either year.

The city manager stated that the problem was not only for the unemployed but should go further and include care for those in distress and actual needs of the poor during the winter months. Mr. Jaeckel made it plain that he was willing to cooperate with the mayor's committee in any movement that will relieve the situation.

In response to a query by Chairman Burkhardt, Superintendent of Charities Lattimore furnished the information that he has 34 families on his books due to inability to get work and a total of 95 needy families receiving aid.

Payne Gives Views.

William K. Payne of the Cayuga County National Bank was called upon to give his views. He stated that he did not come to the meeting to talk, but to learn the views of the people. That he had nothing particular to suggest in the way of recommendations.

"I hope the report will not go out from this meeting that Auburn is in distress and need," said Mr. Payne. "To my mind Auburn is not in such dire distress. Mr. Hoover claims that one per cent of the population of the country is in need. If the same percentage applies to Auburn we are not in such a terrible emergency."

"I do not think Auburn is in such bad shape anyway. Merchants tell me that traveling men say Auburn is in better shape than any of the cities they visit. We ought to be out strong for optimism rather than pessimism. What is needed to be done in Auburn will be done. It always has. No community responds to an appeal more readily than Auburn."

"This is not the time to get emotional but to see just what is needed and go at it in a hard headed business way. Then everything necessary will be accomplished."

Other Speakers Heard.

Eric Buesing of the McIntosh-Seymour Corporation expressed confidence that a citizens' committee as suggested would be able to take care of the situation and promised any assistance in his power. That he came as a listener to get light on the situation and plans for relief.

The same sentiments were expressed by Superintendent A. W. Seacord of the Auburn Works of the International Harvester Company.

A. J. Lauer stated that he was deeply interested in the unemployment situation. But that information should be had of the number of people out of jobs to form a basis on which to get to work to relieve the situation.

Storke on Figures.

Charles W. Storke stated that there are 2,500 more men out of work at this time than there were at the corresponding period last year based on the statistics of factories of which he had knowledge. About 150 more women. He stated that to get the information desired by Mr. Lauer would require almost a house to house canvass. Mr. Storke urged optimism along all lines from now on.

City Manager Jaeckel stated that the plan of the city taking a census of the unemployed in the way of a register at the Chamber of Commerce or some other place had been discussed and he expressed his belief that a complete list could be obtained that way.

John M. Shetland, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that the question was one of tremendous moment and that when the minds of the country at Washington and other places could not find a solution, he asked if Auburn could. Mr. Shetland stated that the first thing required is the organization of a committee to analyze the situation. To find out how many people are in need and whether the situation is as bad as reported.

AUBURN MERCANTILE PUTS CAPITAL STOCK TO \$175,000

Albany, Oct. 18.—(Special)

The Auburn Mercantile Company of Auburn has filed a certificate with the State Department, announcing that the amount of its capital stock has been increased from \$75,000 to \$175,000.

Mr. Shetland suggested an employment bureau or agency if thought advisable to the end that information could be secured which would enable effective relief work to be done. He stated that the Chamber of Commerce is behind the movement to help in any way in work which may be assigned the organization. That it was up to the committee to work out a plan and all citizens to get back of the movement and cooperate for success.

James T. Doyle stated that he was not foolish enough to present a solution to the problem as it is pretty hard to spend a dollar when you haven't got it to spend. He did suggest that the matter of cementing the Oswaco River waterway through the city as one improvement which would furnish employment and an improvement badly needed. He advised the city officials getting in touch with the state to see if anything could not be done along that line.

Mr. Doyle stated that he was opposed to bond issues for in his opinion that was only taking money out of one pocket and putting it into another.

Robinson Offers Services.

Herbert Robinson of the firm of Robinson & Bynon stated that he came to the meeting to listen to suggestions and offer his services in any way that he might be helpful. Mr. Robinson urged optimism on the part of the citizens and explained that pessimism always makes business worse than ever. He outlined the plan when business men in a community begin to get scared they buy less, then the manufacturers can make less goods and that means the employment of less help.

Further Mr. Robinson stated that the matter of water transportation will loom large in the public mind and if the State could be induced to build a spur of the Barge Canal to Auburn that would furnish work for a large number and help solve the problem. He stated that as his suggestion.

Fred J. Blauevelt, employed by the Lehigh Valley Railroad stated that he came to listen to suggestions and offer his aid in any way it might be considered helpful.

George Thatcher of the Seventh Ward stated that the big difficulty now is lack of funds, the high general cost of living eating up what the workmen had laid by in the time of high wages. His view was that if the necessities of life could be reduced the problem of the unemployed would be reduced. Mr. Thatcher suggested that the merchants open up their hearts a little and be satisfied with a little less margin of profit.

Mr. Thatcher took the view that if this locality had a Tom Platt in the legislature there might be a chance of the Barge Canal spur being built to Auburn but under present conditions he doubted if the spur project would materialize.

W. E. Nagell of the employment bureau at the International Harvester Company, George M. Wright, manufacturer, both made offers to help in any way they might be called upon.

Rev. C. C. Russell, pastor of the First M. E. Church stated that he was present because he is interested in the movement. He stated that from his experiences as pastor he found that there are a lot of people out of work and some very desperate circumstances. Doctor Russell stated that he thought some plan had been outlined for relief but that all was far away from a plan as when he came to the meeting.

His suggestion was to find out how many men and women are out of work and then the committee would be in a position to do some effective relief. The pastor stated that there were several families in his church where work was a necessity and where some had been unable to obtain employment for five or six months. He reiterated that in some cases conditions were desperate, and something must be done in the way of relief.

Doctor Russell also stated that he had visited frequently in the county and found many farmers snowed under with work and unable to get help. He expressed the belief that the committee get in touch with the rural district and some employment might be found on the farms.

Supervisor Jerry Quill stated that he knew of many men who were willing and able to work but unable to get jobs. He urged the committee to get information on the number out of work and take steps to procure jobs if only on part time. He suggested that the city start sewer work under contemplation.

Chief of Police Bell suggested that public improvement of property in the business section might be extended to the rear of properties as well as to the front. He pointed out that the rearways in the rear of stores are regular quagmires at certain seasons of year and the cleaning up of conditions would not only improve the value but improve sanitary conditions and provide some work.

The meeting was brought to a close by the adoption of a motion by City Manager Jaeckel that the City of Auburn follow the plans of Syracuse, Ithaca and other cities by the organization of a Mayor's committee. That the mayor appoint from the Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, all fraternal and civic organizations, the Associated Charities and other charitable organizations and such citizens as the mayor or shall find in sympathy with the movement a permanent committee.

The first committee on executive committee and other subcommittees be appointed to do the subsidiary work.

The motion prevailed and Mayor Burkhardt stated that he would announce the personnel of the committee some time this week.

POET-LECTURER GUEST DELIGHTS LARGE AUDIENCES

Excellence and Entertaining Quality of Affair Augurs Well for Remainder of Course.

The average man urged to go to Osborne Hall last night and listen to a poet read his own effusions either balked outright or went like a galley slave determined to be utterly bored. Both those who went and those who did not got delightfully fooled. Those who went had a solid hour of keen enjoyment and those who did not missed a treat.

Edgar A. Guest was advertised as a "poet-lecturer," but he protested vigorously against this. He declared that he was not a lecturer and he proved that he was not. He is simply a poet. Any who pictured him beforehand as a longhaired aesthetic dwelling up in the clouds found himself guessing wrong. Guest is a poet of the same human sort that America loved in Eugene Field and James Whitcomb Riley.

This poet writes poetry as a side line. His real job is being just a plain reporter on the Detroit, Free Press, and confidentially he told a newspaper man that he wished he was right back there at that moment grinding out copy.

He told his audience that he could think of several places that he would rather be than right there. After the recital he assured the reporter that his remark was not a bluff. "I will finish this lecture contract or die in the attempt. But never again."

Guest is a lovely little fellow with a wife and kiddies back there in Detroit that he would rather be with than with any appreciative audience. He is delightful in his simplicity and in the way in which he takes his audience right into his private family. The poems he recited were all inspired by the little home incidents that every family experiences. This is where he made them so delightful to married people and especially those with children.

That simple truth was in every line recited, was easily proved by the fact that fathers nudged mothers and vice versa as each was given a touch on the common foibles of married life. The themes were all simple and homely. Their inspiration was drawn from the modest home near Saginaw where Guest was born, and from the Detroit home where he with the little wife worried and fretted and loved a brood of kiddies.

The course provided by the Business Women's Club of Auburn comprises four distinctive attractions. The excellent and entertaining quality of the first one augurs success for the course. No more could have been accommodated in the hall last night with comfort. The second entertainment will be by the Gertrude Crosby Company on Wednesday evening, November 9. Miss Crosby is a monologist and impersonator of world wide repute. Soldiers and sailors learned to love her from her work among them in army camps in America and France during the war.

Miss Laura Hill, president of the club, prefaced her introduction of the entertainer with a statement as to the objects of the course provided. It is to furnish high class entertainment of an elevating sort and at the same time it is designed to net funds wherewith to build a swimming pool for the girls of the Woman's Union.

At the Universal.

Packed houses have been the rule since Sunday at the Universal when Footlights, Miss Elsie Ferguson's newest and greatest production, began its four-day run which ends tomorrow night. Miss Ferguson, a big star of the legitimate stage before entering the cinema field, has never before had such an opportunity to display the versatility, charm and natural histrionic ability which have made her famous from coast to coast as she has in Footlights.

The picture is replete in the kind of dramatic suspense that holds one's undivided and absorbed attention until the very end. Its final climax is as amazing as it is expected and its action is kept steady and balanced throughout. So perfectly proportioned are the production's charm of story, gorgeous settings, timely climaxes and dramatic interest that not one dull foot of film is to be found through the entire six reels.

Of particular interest to the feminine element are the gowns Miss Ferguson so beautifully displays. "The gowns have helped me in my interpretation," she said, "just as they helped Lizzie Parsons to lose her identity in Lisa Parsonova. My only regret is that the audiences will not have an opportunity to see their exquisite coloring."

As Lisa Parsonova, Miss Ferguson wears the most magnificent costumes of Paris and America. Beside being the latest word in fashion, they have the added interest of having a Russian note. Everyone of the 39 changes from the silver cloth and pearl evening dress, to the velvet bathing suit, are original in design and unique in treatment.

Do not forget the Annual Donation at The Home, Wednesday, October 19.—Advertisement.

Tender to Meet Leonard.

New York, Oct. 18.—Low Tender, Philadelphia boxer, who meets Rocky Kansas of Buffalo, in a 15-round decision bout here Friday night, has posted \$5,000 with Tex Rickard to back a match with Lightweight Champion Benny Leonard.

Leonard and Tender were to have met in a championship bout at Philadelphia recently but the contest was called off when Leonard injured his hand in training. Kansas stayed 12 rounds with the champion in a bout in New Jersey last winter.

GEORGE HOFFMAN CLAIMED BY DEATH; HIS PASSING THINS RANKS OF CIVIL WAR VETERANS

The Angel of Death sounded the last bugle call for one more of the fast dwindling remnant of Civil War veterans yesterday morning and George W. Hoffman of 137 Curtis Place reported to Great Headquarters. Although nearly four score years old the call came unexpected.

The aged veteran had been pottering about his yard the day before, but an attack of neuralgia of the heart brought a sudden end.

Mr. Hoffman was born in the Town of Fayette, Seneca County, April 3, 1842. In '62 he enlisted in Company D, 148th New York Volunteers and served until at the battle of Fair Oaks he was captured and imprisoned for nine months in Libby Prison and at Salisbury. He was exchanged and came home a tottering living skeleton with scant hope of ever recovering strength.

Like many other similar wrecks his youth rebounded and he became a strong man again. He took up photo-copying as a trade and was one of the pioneers in this work. In 1869 he married Miss Mary A. Ermsberger of Romulus and for 52 years they traveled down the path of time until the Grim Messenger called out the old veteran first.

About 50 years ago Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman moved to Auburn where he continued in the photograph business until a few years ago when he retired. Although not in vigorous health Mr. Hoffman has been active about his home and there he loved to work.

Besides his widow he is survived by two brothers, John of Romulus and Levi of Fayette; one sister, Mrs. Jacob Kunev of Romulus; three daughters, Mrs. J. S. Bedell, Mrs. Harry A. Warrick and Miss Mildred L. Hoffman, all of Auburn, and one son, Claude E. Hoffman.

The funeral will be held from the late home, 137 Curtis Place, tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock.

TRUCK OVERTURNS AS IT BACKS INTO TROLLEY; DRIVER INJURED

Patsy Rainone, truck driver of this city was cut about the head, bruised and shaken up shortly after 10 o'clock last night when he backed his big auto truck from 110 Clark Street

and bumped into a Clark Street trolley car. The auto was overturned and Rainone thrown out. His head was cut and bruised and he was taken to the City Hospital where his injuries were given attention by Doctor Johnson. Sergeant Randall and a detail of police went to the scene and righted the truck which was not seriously damaged.

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The Reward of Justice

"SALADA" TEA

The Largest Sale in America

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