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CONNECTING THE JOBLESS MAN WITH THE MANLESS JOB

By **EDWARD B. CLARK**
STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE WESTERN NEWSPAPER UNION



UNCLE SAM today is engaged in the beneficent work of securing employment for his unemployed nieces and nephews, whether native or foreign born. Uncle Sam's workers in chief at the problem of connecting the jobless man with the manless job are William B. Wilson, secretary of the department of labor; Anthony Caminetti, the commissioner general of immigration, and T. V. Powderly, chief of the division of information of the immigration bureau.

Nobody knows definitely how many unemployed men and women there are in the United States today. One thing, however, is known definitely, that the number probably is not as great nor anything like as great in proportion to the population as it has been at times in the past. There are enough of the unemployed, however, to make the problem a serious one, but there seems to be a belief on the part of government officials that the broadening of the field of federal effort to help men and women to work steadily will sap the strength of that dreaded and at times actually de-vouring monster known as unemployment.

The division of information of the bureau of immigration not only is engaged in the work of promoting the beneficial distribution of aliens admitted to the United States, but under the general power of the law is directing the distribution of residents and citizens of the United States "who wish to avail themselves of opportunities for labor afforded through its instrumentality."

Recently the post office department and the department of agriculture have entered into a co-operative arrangement with the department of labor in aid of the plan "for the employment and distribution of laborers in the United States; the former through its postmasters, officers in charge of branch post offices and rural carriers; and the latter through its field and other services throughout the United States."

Every officer of the department of agriculture, no matter where he is located, is charged with the duty of keeping Washington officials informed concerning the necessity for workers in the locality in which he resides. Every farmer in the United States through the post office department by this time has been, or soon will be, furnished with application blanks upon which he can state any need which he has of farm laborers or of help of any description. These blanks filled in and forwarded will do the service for which they are intended—the connection of some competent man with work of the kind which he seeks.

The work which is being done in connection with farm labor is, of course, only one part of the service which the department of labor through its division of information is performing. Manufacturers and employers of labor of all kinds are furnished with blanks similar to those sent to the farmers, except, of course, that they are adjusted to meet other kinds of working needs. The correspondence of the department is tremendous and the work of giving men work is going forward rapidly.

Before going into the details of the mechanism of the system by which natives, sometimes residents, and recently arrived immigrants are directed to fields of employment, something should be said about the development of this great governmental plan to provide work for the workless. For a quarter of a century William B. Wilson, now a member of President Wilson's cabinet as the head of the department of labor, has been deeply interested, concerned, perhaps, were a better word, in the solution of the problem of forging the connecting link of information between the man seeking work and the man seeking workmen.

For just as long and perhaps a longer period T. V. Powderly, the chief of the division of information, has been interested in the same problem. Mr. Powderly has been connected with the government service for some years and has developed a system of getting the work and the workless worker together until today the post office department and the agricultural department are co-operating with the department of labor in a broad and comprehensive plan to reduce the evil of unemployment to a minimum which might be called natural.

Perhaps Mr. Powderly will enter no objection if one tells a story of how he first became interested to a heart and mind feeling point in plans to get work for the workless. To me the story is an interesting one and it seems that it ought to be to others.

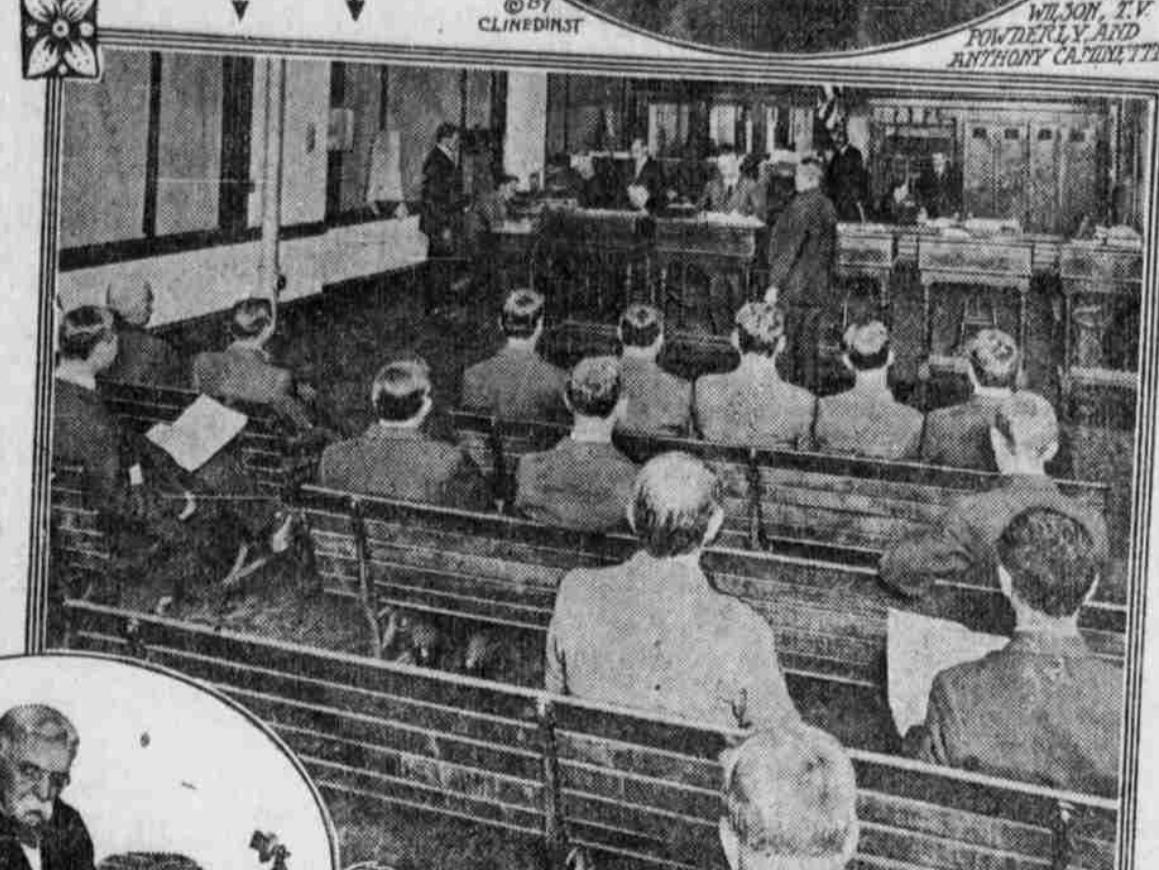
In the year 1873 T. V. Powderly, a machinist by trade, lost his eyesight. For three months he sat in darkness, and being unable to work he lost his job. His sight came back and he started on a tramp looking for work. He was a tramp seeking work, not a tramp seeking handouts. He left the United States and went into Canada. He found no work. On the eve of New Year's day, 1873, he found himself in St. Thomas, Ont., with no money in his pocket, no food in his stomach and no place to sleep. A watchman allowed him to sleep in the freighthouse of a depot on a bed made of bagging. From there Powderly walked to Buffalo seeking work. There a good-hearted Irishman gave him breakfast, the first one he had had for some days. All this time the trapper was asking himself why there was not some means of letting him know where there was work. In asking himself this he was charging his heart and mind with a purpose in life, the same purpose which Secretary Wilson of the department of labor fixed in his own mind and heart a quarter of a century ago.

"Tramp" Powderly reached one town where there were some machine shops. He applied for work and there were no vacancies. He left.

WON WITH HARD LUCK STORY

Generous Citizen Couldn't Resist Such a Heart-Rending Narrative as Beggar Told.

The generous citizen had been approached three times that day by beggars who claimed that they were in hard luck, and to each of them he unhesitatingly gave money. But when he was accosted by the fourth alms-seeker, who also asserted that luck



T. V. POWDERLY AT HIS DESK

Shortly afterward he learned that at another machine shop they had needed men. If he had known it he could have secured work at his trade and have been clothed, well fed and happy. He had no means of knowing except by direct application that at this place there was work.

Today, as a result of study of systems and of the development of ideas formulated through the years, a workless man can go to any post office, or soon will be able to do, in the United States and there learn from the government officials of the employment possibilities in the neighborhood. Uncle Sam is using his postmasters as a means of getting the willing worker to the waiting job.

There are many factors in this problem of unemployment. It must be known that there are tramps and tramps. There is the man who is looking for work and who seeks it and has to tramp to do it, and then there is the man who has lost his work and has become discouraged and apparently does not care whether or not he ever finds work again. The first man has not lost his self-respect and the second man has either lost it or has come pretty close to losing it. It is not going too far, perhaps, to say that a part of the governmental function eventually will be to recultivate a spirit of self-respect in men who through idleness, enforced idleness in the first place, generally, have lost it. Some day these men will be brought back to manhood. They are in the minority, for experience shows that most of the idle ones are idle because they cannot help being idle. The government through its division of information is seeking to destroy idleness.

The United States, for the purpose of connecting employment seekers with employment, has been divided into distribution zones. There are 18 of these zones. The official of the immigration service already on duty in a city in each zone attends to the work of distribution. For a long time the labor of distributing workmen was carried on from New York city, and it is true that in the future a large part of the supply of material will come from New York, because it is a big city and also a great immigration port. The headquarters cities of the different distribution zones are New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk, Jacksonville, Fla., New Orleans, Galveston, Cleveland, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Denver, Helena, Seattle, Portland, Ore., San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Let New York city as a distributing center and as a center of information be taken as a chief example of how things are being done in this effort to connect the unemployed with employment. Canon L. Greene is the inspector in charge of the information work at the barge office in New York city. Now, it should be known that the government not only tries to connect workless ones with work, but it also tries to put men who have saved a little money and who want to buy farms in touch with conditions in any part of the country in which it seems likely that they will make a success of their farming efforts.

A man seeking work on a farm comes into the barge office in New York. First, the officials read a lesson in human nature from the man's face. They try to discover, it is said, and almost always succeed, how much sincerity there is in him. Then he is asked how much money he has. If he has enough to take him to the place of employment all well and good. The fact that he is willing to pay the money to take him there is first proof of his desire to work and to stick to it.

ious to work. In many cases the farmer who needs a special kind of man is willing to advance the transportation which will take the employed from the place of his application for work to the scene of action. Now, of course, some men might take the transportation and never show up and the government has not funds to make good such petty defalcations. Nearly every man, however, who applies for work wants work, and such men generally have some personal belongings. He is told that if he will check his belongings, which are first examined to see if they are valuable enough to cover the cost of transportation, and will give the check to the authorities, they will give him the money to send him to his place of employment. This system of baggage checking has been going on for a long time and almost never has there been a slip. The men go and in most cases make good.

Chief Powderly of the division of information says that in the belongings of most of the men who apply for work are found pictures of a mother or a father or of a family group, and that almost invariably when the baggage is turned over for inspection and transportation the workseeker says: "Don't lose the picture." It is a human trait and a sign of the softer nature which underlies almost every exterior, even if it be a rugged one and perhaps seemingly at times a hard one.

The remedy for unemployment is employment. This is what Mr. Powderly says and it seems as sharply true as the saying of the past in connection with the resumption of specie payment. "The way to resume is to resume." It is the effort today of the department of labor, through its division of information, to ask all employers in the United States, agricultural, commercial, manufacturing, to tell the government what men they want and what they pay. The rural carriers, the post offices and every postal means is being used to get the information. The responses have been most generous. The officials at one distribution center when they find that the proper place for a man or that the place to which he wishes to go is located in another zone communicate with the distribution center of that zone. The work is systematized and rapidly it is becoming the most effective agent to diminish the condition of unemployment in America.

The officials of the division of information are now seeking definite information concerning how much repair work on barns and other buildings on the farms is done each winter. The plan is to see if through the farmers who need the help of carpenters or machinists in winter, relief cannot be given to many city workers who have little or nothing to do during the cold winter months. The farmers are to be asked what repairs they will need next winter and what kind of a man they would like to have. The federal officials will find the man and thus they hope to supply with employment during the slack times in the city many men willing and anxious to labor through the entire year.

It seemingly is a wish of the officials of the department of labor that it should be known that while the division of information is a part of the bureau of immigration that this work of connecting the jobless with the job does not concern itself alone with the immigrant, but aims to give its service fully and freely alike to the incoming stranger and to the man who knows this as his native land.

me hand the last bit o' money I owned—ten cents. I was tryin' to make up my mind how I should spend the dime, but it was hard for me to decide 'cause I needed three things an' the coin could only buy one. You see, mister, I needed somethin' to eat, I needed a shave, and needed a drink.

"By an' by I decided to let chance settle it; but the dime had only two sides, so I had to cut one o' me needs. I'll be honest with youse, mister; I cut out the shave. Then I flipped the coin

into the air an' said: 'Heads I eat, an' tails I drink.' An' then—right then the most turrible an' unfortchun blow that could fall upon a human bein' happened to me—the dime fell to the ground an' rolled into the sewer! Now don't youse think, mister, that that was genuwine hard luck?"

The generous citizen hastily pulled out a dollar and gave it to the beggar.

"Get somethin' to eat and get shaved, but leave drink alone," he advised.

HOME TOWN HELPS

UTILIZING THE BACK YARD

Ingenuity Must Be Displayed in Laying Out the Small Space That Is Available.

The problem of combining some semblance of design with the uses to which the average city back yard is put is a difficult one. Take a trip on the elevated in summer and consider the acres of waste land and the countless wasted opportunities in those sad, hot, dusty back yards. Think of the tons of delicious vegetables they might have raised, the lovely flowers.

Gracious; let's not think of it any more—let's get out our seed catalogues and pencil and paper and plan to have our back yard an oasis this summer.

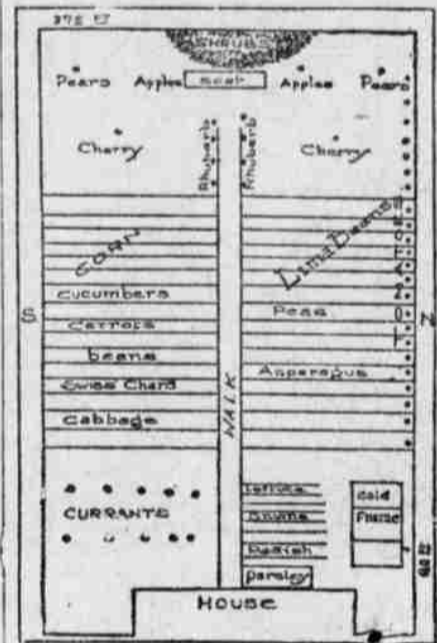
Here are suggestions for the planting of very small yards. The design shows a garden 25x60 feet of lawn, shrubs and flowers, the whole completely hidden from the street by the heavy planting in the northwest corner.

The yard is 37 1/2 x 60 feet and has a small cold frame at right.

In the cold frame can be raised the twenty-four tomato plants that later go against the north fence, the earliest crops of lettuce, radishes and onions and the first planting of sweet corn and cucumbers.

The six dwarf fruit trees, the clump of shrubs at the end of the grass walk and the bench make an attractive outlook from the back porch.

A delightful flower and vegetable garden can be achieved in a planting space 20x60 feet by dividing them with a pergola. Suppose there is a long walk down the middle of the



yard. It will seem less long because of the little rustic pergola dividing flower from vegetable garden.

Grass surrounded by flowers and shrubs would be employed to make the little flower garden in front of the pergola restful and beautiful—an outdoor room of great charm.

The pergola itself should have grape vines trained over it.

Behind it would come the biggest outdoor workshop imaginable, the vegetable garden.

At the right an asparagus bed—if the bed is properly cultivated and fertilized. Peppers, eggplant or cauliflower can be grown between the rows of asparagus.

Against the fence would be two rows of tomatoes (even in a small garden one must grow many of them, they are so satisfactory), lettuce, radishes and onions, six hills of rhubarb and the cold frame.

At the left, Swiss chard, beans, three hills of cucumbers, and sweet corn—a quarter of the garden in sweet corn, the most delicious vegetable in the garden.

Protecting Trees on Highways. A movement for a law prohibiting the nailing of advertising signs on trees on the public roads of Rhode Island, inaugurated by the National Highways Protective society, is deserving of encouragement. Trees are valuable property. Nails and spikes driven into their trunks invite decay, and the signs, besides being offensive to the eye, afford refuge for insect pests. The state law proposed has the merit of protecting the trees from injury and of making the roads more attractive. In five states laws against this kind of outdoor advertising are in force, and it is stated that the restrictions meet with general approval.—Providence Journal.

Plants 56 Miles of Roses. Fifty-six miles of roses were added to the beauties of Portland, Ore., with the planting recently of 100,000 bushes. They have been purchased as a result of the campaign started by the city-beautiful committee of the Rose Festival association, the purpose being to make the city more than usually attractive in preparation for the coming of visitors on their way to and from the exposition at San Francisco.

Many roses worth one dollar were sold by the committee through the co-operation of florists at 12 1/2 cents each. The bushes sold are large enough to bloom in time for the rose festival next June.

Sympathetic. He was middle-aged and untraveled. For 45 years he had lived in the country. At last he made a trip to the city. There, for the first time in his life, he saw a schoolgirl go through her gymnastic exercises for the amusement of the little ones at home. After gazing at her with looks of interest and compassion for some time he asked a boy who was standing near if she had fits. "No," the boy said. "Them's gymnastics." "Ah, how sad!" said the man. "How long's she had 'em?"—New York Times.