

FILE NO. 133991

Report

OF

Mayor's Commission on Improved  
Employment.

FILED DEC 21 1931

BY

ADDRESS

H. W. CARROLL

CITY COMPTROLLER AND EX-OFFICIO CITY CLERK

BY

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ACTION OF THE COUNCIL

REFERRED DEC 21 1931

TO FINANCE

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## REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Mr. President:

Your

FINANCE

Committee

to which was referred the within

*Report of Mayor's Commission on Improved Employment*

would respectfully report that we have considered the same and respectfully recommend that

THE SAME BE PLACED ON FILE

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN

MAYOR'S OFFICE  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

ROBERT H. HARLIN  
MAYOR  
EBER W. BADCON  
SECRETARY

December  
21st  
1931.

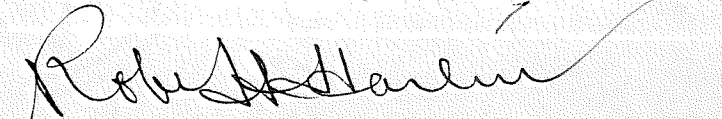
The Honorable City Council,  
Seattle, Washington.

Gentlemen:

I herewith transmit to you a report prepared by the Commission for Improved Employment; together with recommendations by that body relative to the need of additional funds for unemployment relief.

This report is comprehensive and self explanatory, and has my full approval.

Respectfully yours,



ROBERT H. HARLIN,  
Mayor.

RHH:DH  
Encls.

COMMISSION FOR IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT

MAYOR'S OFFICE

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

ROBERT H. HARLIN  
MAYOR  
EBER W. BADCON  
SECRETARY

December 19, 1931

Mayor and Council,  
City of Seattle.

Gentlemen:

The Commission for Improved Employment respectfully submits for your information, consideration and guidance certain statistical data and observations set forth below concerning the public work relief program of the City of Seattle, which calls for immediate, prompt action, if reasonably possible, to supplement the appropriations already made by the City, in the interests of unemployment relief, because these funds will be exhausted approximately December 26, 1931 at the present rate of expenditure.

At the close of business December 12th, the total registration of unemployed for Public Work Relief was 10,349 divided by classes as follows:

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Class A - 5 or more dependents | 879         |
| Class B - 2 to 4 dependents    | 5027        |
| Class C - 1 dependent          | 2594        |
| Class D - Single men           | <u>1849</u> |
| Total                          | 10349       |

Registration is now averaging about 500 per week so that by December 31st of this year it can be anticipated that the total registration will approximate some 12,000 men.

Since funds were appropriated by the City, for Work Relief, early in September and certain work designated and organized by the various departments of the City, as constituting emergency relief work, some 3,254 men have been given work relief ranging

from one to two weeks each, depending upon the relief scales paid. By classes the following number of men have been employed:

| <u>Classes</u>                 | <u>Employed</u> | <u>Total Registered</u> | <u>Percent Employed in each class Registered</u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Class A - 5 or more dependents | 580             | 879                     | 66.0%                                            |
| Class B - 2 to 4 dependents    | 1711            | 5027                    | 34.0%                                            |
| Class C - 1 dependent          | 727             | 2594                    | 28.0%                                            |
| Class D - Single men           | <u>236</u>      | <u>1849</u>             | <u>12.0%</u>                                     |
| Total (all classes)            | 3254            | 10349                   | 31.5%                                            |

Of the total registered at December 12th, 31.5% have been afforded one work relief period or in other words less than one-third of the total registered have been afforded work relief. By classes as indicated in the table above, 66.0% of the Class A registrations had been afforded work relief, 34.0% of the Class B, 28.0% of the Class C and 12.0% of the Class D. In keeping with the policy of providing work relief to family men first the figures above indicate that of the total men employed approximately 93% are family men.

Of the total men employed on City Work Relief the various Departments of the City provided employment as follows:

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Water Department       | 245 men       |
| Building Department    | 175 men       |
| Streets & Sewers Dept. | 864 men       |
| Park Department        | 1904 men      |
| City Light             | <u>66 men</u> |
| Total                  | 3254 men      |

The number of men employed weekly since the first 25 men were taken by the Building Department in the week of September 12th to 19th has steadily risen each week to a high of 708

men in the week of November 28 to December 5th and then dropped to 537 for the week of December 5th to 12th due to the Streets & Sewers Department having to discontinue employment because of lack of funds.

Early in September the City Council appropriated the sum of \$30,000 out of the 1931 Emergency Fund to Employment Relief, \$10,000 being set aside for the Building Department and \$20,000 to the Streets & Sewers Department. In the early part of November, the Council appropriated the additional sum of \$120,000 out of 1932 expectancies to the Employment Relief Fund distributed as follows:

|                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Park Department Work Relief   | \$100,000     |
| Women's Employment Relief     | 10,000        |
| District Relief Food Supplies | <u>10,000</u> |
| Total                         | \$120,000     |

Thus the City has made available to date (December 12th) a total of \$150,000 of which \$130,000 was for employment relief on City Work.

In line with the increasing numbers of men employed weekly since Public Work Relief was undertaken by the City the withdrawals against this fund for relief payments and necessary contingent expense has increased weekly until during the week of December 5th to 12th it reached the figure of \$24,838.79. Cumulatively the amount charged against the fund to date is \$81,943.41. This leaves a balance of \$48,056.59 which at the present rate of expenditure will be exhausted about or before December 26th of this year.

The Water Department and City Light have been employing men for City Work of a relief character out of their own departmental funds and to date have expended combined, approximately \$15,120 affording employment to some 311 men during the period September 19th to December 12th.

Thus the total expended by the City to date is approximately \$97,095.74 which has afforded one work period to 3,254 men.

By Departments the expenditures have been approximately as follows:

|                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Registration Bureau           | \$1,102.45      |
| Building Department           | 5,729.49        |
| * Streets & Sewers Department | 27,977.39       |
| Park Department               | 47,166.31       |
| Water Department              | 11,556.00       |
| City Light                    | <u>3,564.00</u> |
| Total                         | \$97,095.74     |

NOTE: \* The Streets & Sewers Department overran their appropriation, the deficit being made up by transfer of funds from the Park Board Appropriation.

The Park and Streets & Sewers Departments have organized and planned their work so as to afford employment to some 700 men per week. The remaining Departments, Building, Water and City Light are set up to employ combined about 75 men per week. Thus with the necessary funds available 775 men could be afforded employment per week. The funds required to accomplish this would amount to \$25,000 per week or for the period December 26, 1931 to April 1, 1932 approximately \$325,000

In view of the above the Commission recommends the immediate and necessary action by the Council to make available for unemployment relief, if possible and practicable, an additional appropriation or appropriations for the period December 31, 1931 to April 1, 1932, aggregating \$325,000.

Very truly yours,

COMMISSION FOR IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT

*N. F. Dix*

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Chairman