

FILE NO. **134309**

Report
OF

Mayor's Commission for improved
Employment

FILED **JAN 18 1932**
BY
ADDRESS **H. W. CARROLL**
CITY COMPTROLLER AND EX-OFFICIO CITY CLERK
BY *CMH* DEPUTY

ACTION OF THE COUNCIL

REFERRED JAN 18 1932	TO FINANCE
REFERRED	TO
REPORTED	REPORT ADOPTED
REPORTED	REPORT ADOPTED
REF. FOR ORD.	C. B. ORD.
	DISPOSITION
AUG 8 1932	ON FILE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Mr. President:

Your **FINANCE** Committee

to which was referred the within *Report*

would respectfully report that we have considered the same and respectfully recommend that **THE SAME BE PLACED ON FILE**

Huber

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN

Carroll

Seattle, January 8, 1932

Honorable Mayor and City Council,
City of Seattle,
Seattle, Washington.

Gentlemen:

Large numbers of men, women and children in Seattle who by reason of unemployment would otherwise experience severe suffering from lack of food and clothing are now being assisted through the District Relief Program of the Commission for Improved Employment.

The appropriation of \$10,000 made by city ordinance some weeks ago for the purchase of food staples to distribute through the relief depots to citizens in need proved useful in meeting an acute situation at the time but this resource was quickly exhausted.

In order that the Mayor and Council may have data on the work of the Commission, which was created by the City, we are filing this as a preliminary summary of some of our activities and we are accompanying the summary with a number of photographs and identifying lines that tell a graphic story of the relief depot work in various parts of the city manned and operated through voluntary assistance and in large measure supplied by donations from generous citizens.

Scope and Purpose of District Plan

Our local district relief organization was initiated by this Commission to supplement and coordinate on a city-wide basis direct relief activities of the Community Fund, of the Unemployed Citizens League, of the Goodwill Industries, and of all other relief and charitable institutions. It was also designed to supplement unemployment relief undertaken by the City in its public works program and whatever unemployment relief could be developed through other public bodies and through private business and industry.

The city was divided into five geographic districts in which community interests are common. This division sought to localize relief and employment problems in a manner to create neighborly interest and an understanding by the residents in each locality of the conditions within their own immediate neighborhood. In operation the plan has sought to afford citizens in fortunate circumstances the satisfaction of seeing how their own neighbors who are the victims of unemployment could be benefited and assisted.

The plan has now been in operation about two months. A portion of the early period was consumed in establishing depots and perfecting the organization so that it would be efficient and operate intelligently. We now have some statistics which indicate that real service is being accomplished through the district plan. Citizens and firms whose help has been enlisted in the cause of relief have responded generously.

In listing donations and contributions of clothing, foodstuffs and other useful materials, the number of "donations" appearing on the list is far from representing the number of articles given or the number of persons contributing. This is due to the fact that many contributions have been delivered to the Commission depots as one donation including hundreds or thousands of articles of food and clothing collected from the pupils of an entire school or the members of a club or the employees of a business organization. In each such instance the collection is listed as one "donation" although, as in some cases, a "donation" comprises thousands of items given by hundreds of persons.

With this understanding in mind the following approximate record of the period from November 6 to December 31 gives an idea of the contributions turned in, the requests received for relief and the relief requests filled:

<u>Items</u>	<u>Donations to Depots</u>	<u>Requests for Assistance</u>	<u>Requests filled</u>
Jobs	418	2483	262
Food	1483	15609	9834
Clothing	1025	3728	2280
Fuel	86	1504	671
Miscellaneous (Such as furni- ture, bedding, etc.)	690	397	92
	3702	23721	13139

The foregoing gives impressive evidence of the demands for relief and the pressure under which the relief distributing agencies of the community are placed in meeting these demands. As an interesting sidelight, the activity of repairing and issuing shoes to needy persons, the record of the various depots shows that 3,626 pairs of donated shoes were put into condition to wear and distributed to that many applicants up to December 31.

As a practical demonstration of the self-help cooperation obtained from those in need of relief, a total of 1566 men have done work in exchange for fuel obtained and 1854 persons have given services and time work in return for other supplies.

As indicated above, it should be borne in mind that donations may mean in the case of food, one can of beans or one hundred cans, a loaf of bread or five hundred loaves per donation, while clothing may be a suit or several suits and overcoats and fuel a sack or several cords per donation. Thousands of pounds of food and hundreds of articles of clothing were donated per school by many hundreds of pupils, whereas the donations are listed and counted in the above summary as but one per school. Other instances of mass contribution under the auspices of firms, clubs and associations are included as but one donation in the summary.

In the case of jobs the requests as yet are very definitely above the offers made at the depots to supply jobs. The response is, however, increasing and as the citizens become better informed of the importance of this feature of relief work now being systematically placed before all residents of the city through house to house canvass under the district organization.

The Commission has enlisted the hearty cooperation, in each of the districts of the city, of organizations such as the churches, community clubs, parent-teacher associations, Unemployed Citizens League, organized labor and many others working to the common end of relieving distress through bringing home to the more fortunate citizens the needs of the unemployed. Too much cannot be said of the enthusiastic response given by these many organizations and by individual citizens, who, in the last analysis, through their unstinted giving are largely carrying the load and supplying the required relief.

Very truly yours,

COMMISSION FOR IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT

Attachment

Chairman

EXPENDITURES and REQUIREMENTS
SEATTLE RELIEF PLAN
WINTER
1932

ORGANIZATION	Expenditures and Requirements			Av. Weekly Expenditure	Weekly Relief Unit	Total Appropria- tion Required
	January	February	March			
City Work Program						
No. of Families	3,000	3,000	3,000			
Dollars Available	-	-	-			
Dollars Required	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$25,000	\$7.00	\$300,000
Deficit	100,000	100,000	100,000			
District Relief Plan						
No. of Families	3,500	4,000	4,500			
Dollars Available	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$4,669	\$1.20	
Dollars Required	105,000	120,000	135,000	\$26,250	7.00	
Deficit	90,000	100,000	110,000			\$300,000
Community Fund						
No. of Families	2,500	2,600	2,550			
No. of Homeless Men	2,000	2,000	1,800			
No. of Dependent Children	1,310	1,320	1,330			
Dollars Available						
Family Relief	\$28,500	\$20,700	\$21,500		\$2.30	
Homeless Men	10,000	9,000	8,500		1.18	
Dependent Children	25,600	25,600	25,600		4.87	
Total	\$64,100	\$55,300	\$55,600	\$16,825	\$8.35	
Dollars Required						
Family Relief	\$75,000	\$78,000	\$76,500		\$7.00	
Homeless Men	17,000	17,000	15,300		2.12	
Dependent Children	29,475	29,700	29,925		5.50	
Total	\$121,475	\$124,700	\$121,725	\$27,917	\$14.12	
Deficit						
Family Relief	\$46,500	\$57,300	\$55,000			
Homeless Men	7,000	8,000	6,800			
Dependent Children	3,875	4,100	4,325			
Total	\$57,375	\$69,400	\$66,125			\$192,900
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED						
City Work Program	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000			\$300,000
District Relief Plan	90,000	100,000	110,000			300,000
Community Fund	57,375	69,400	66,125			192,900
GRAND TOTALS	\$247,375	\$269,400	\$276,125	\$66,322		\$792,900

NOTE: Women's Employment not included, probably will require not less than \$5,000 per month.