

# Block-Aiders Expose Themselves

By J. AMTER.

WELFARE COMMISSIONER FRANK W. TAYLOR admits today that "The Bureau now has 154,000 applications for relief. The books will be closed in about two weeks and will be reopened only if it becomes apparent that it will be possible to offer relief to those found worthy of assistance. At present there are about 30 Home Relief Bureaus and these will be cut down to 24."

Having stated one week ago that there are 200,000 families unprovided for, now it is admitted that the number that has been reached and receive no relief amounts to 154,000.

But the worst aspect of the whole situation is that as the Block-Aid Committee admits "the average unemployed head of a family on the waiting list of the Emergency Work and Relief Bureau has been out of work 18 months." This shows clearly the starvation condition among the unemployed of New York. Not only are the workers suffering generally from starvation, but as reported only recently 95 men and women were treated for starvation in the city hospitals of whom 20 died. How many thousands and tens of thousands of cases, the origin of which is undernourishment and starvation, are treated in the hospitals or suffer without any aid, will remain unknown.

Tuberculosis is raging, and is especially widespread among the Negroes. Official reports show that although the death rate per 100 thousand has increased to 97, among the Negroes it is 130 and among the other colored races, it is between six and seven hundred.

The Block-Aiders are robbing the workers in the factories, stores and offices. Up to the present time, they have collected \$274,000, of which \$223,000 comes from Manhattan. Where in Manhattan, it would be interesting to inquire! For it is clear that since they cannot get support in the neighborhoods, they are pouncing upon the workers in the factories, offices and stores, and are compelling them through the foremen and supervisors, etc., to contribute, nickels, dimes, quarters and half-dollars weekly.

Mayor Walker refuses to consider the reduction of the high salaries of the city officials. He contemptuously declares that he is not, "talking for the crowd and certainly not for snakes." This is the scoundrel who pretends to be interested in Mooney, who spends his time at Hollywood and the South raking in hundreds of thousands of dollars in graft which Seabury will not even dare to uncover. This is the head of the Tammany Hall administration which reeks with graft from top to bottom and which Mayor Walker has the nerve to deny.

The Hoover government rejecting unemployment insurance and the U. S. Congress which rejected even the pitiful demagogic proposal of La Follette-Costigan, is placing billions in taxes on the shoulders of the workers to "balance the budget." The Six Governors' Conference, which made a so-called radical proposal for unemployment insurance, but is only a fake, does not proceed any further. That it is clear that the workers must rely upon their own strength in order to get unemployment relief and insurance.

Commissioner Taylor declares that "reinvestigation of registered cases of the Bureau show that the need now is as great, if not greater than, last winter when these applicants registered." Of course it is greater, and therefore the unemployed must realize that they will get relief only through organization and struggle.

The unemployed must organize into the Block Committees and Unemployed Councils and demonstrate at every relief bureau and not leave the relief bureau until every worker is provided for. Mayor Walker and Governor Roosevelt must be told in terms of struggle that the unemployed will not tolerate their fooling around with this question any longer. Starvation is rampant, and if Roosevelt can make demagogic speeches about the "common people", he will have to understand that the "common people", namely, the workers, do not intend to starve, do not intend to be laid off by the tens of thousands, do not intend to have their wages cut to the starvation line, without a real fight.

In every section, there must be demonstrations and struggles at the relief bureaus and on April 21.