

# 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 opened 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 150,000 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 it is 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 wide-

spread among the Negroes. Official reports show

that although the death rate per 100 thousand

is increased to 97, among the Negroes it is

30 and among the other colored races, it is be-

tween six and seven hundred.

The Block-Aiders are robbing the workers in

the factories, stores and offices. Up to the pres-

ent time, they have collected \$274,000, of which

\$223,000 comes from Manhattan. Where in Man-

hattan, 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 reduc-

tion 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 Tam-

many Hall administration which reeks with

graft from top to bottom and which Mayor

Walker has the nerve to deny.

The Hoover government rejecting unemploy-

ment 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 unemploy-

ment insurance, but is only a fake, does not pro-

ceed any further. That it is clear that the work-

ers must rely upon their own strength in order

to get unemployment relief and insurance.

Commissioner Taylor declares that "reinvesti-

gation of registered cases of the Bureau show

that the need now is as great, if not greater

than, last winter when these applicants regis-

tered." Of course it is greater, and therefore the

unemployed must realize that they will get re-

lief only through organization and struggle.

The unemployed must organize into the Block

Committees and Unemployed Councils and demon-

strate 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 under-

stand 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 demonstra-

tions and struggles at the relief bureaus and

on April 21.