This Brooklyn episode ove r the Unemployment Conference - World's misinterpretation of their circular, and the circular's misunderstanding of the Conference itself - all goes to show how opinion, prejudices, etc. are made, and how difficult it is to get over to the public what you are about, and how easy it is to over-estimate the value of what you have done.

Col. Woods tells me that they have never sent out from the office any such estimate as a 50% reduction in unemployment. This has been widely heralded. I have used the figures myself as an estimate, basing it on what Mr. Hoover had said, though I think he put it as an estimate not as a fact. He ought to have done so. A little over anxious to make a good showing in the press. He over estimates the value of publicity.

The episode is an excellent argument with which to push the programme for gathering labor statistics. Until we have that program,e in force we are never going to be able to tell the extent and the locality nor the quality of our unemployed at any given moment. With that we can do all three at any moment.

It is quite impossible to use intelligently the accumulated work under long range planning of public works until we have this statistical bureau. The best way to present the work of the Unemployment Conference seems to me the frankest. You face a situation. You cannot tell how serious it is. Everything shows it is bad, that there is very little hopes of its being better through the coming winter. That is, the Congress is face to face with an emergency situation. It was a Conference that had no power to say to Congress, You do so and so, or to anybody, for that matter, You do so and so. It was a Congree representing varied points of view, various business experiences - everybody with an obsession, his own way of remedying the thing, which generally so possessed him that he could not see anybody's else point of view. Out of that you must come to some unanimous proposals. How

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far could you get together? Anyone could see that so far as immediate results were concerned, it depended upon the local community, its realization of there being a problem, its realization of its responsibility, energy in getting together, efforts to push every possible form of occupation that was in any way legitimate. The Conference was dead right in throwing the emergency work on to the community, but it would have been all wrong if it had not given it a procedure, and if it had not followed up communities recognizing this responsibility, in few places, however, in the full hearted way that was desirable, for they recognized that back of any emergency work that they might do were bad methods of handling labor and handling business, bad instruments of business, like transportation, exports. While you might handle your emergency programme very well, it could only be for a brief period, and you must reform the fundamental faults that had produced the trouble. This produced a kind of stupor in some places; but so-and-so and so-and-so was done.

Edge taken off problem at many points. A general education in the business cycle and the relation to it of a long range planning of public works. This is all to the good.

What the Conference has been unable to do should be emphasized - why it could not do it - lack of coöperation, lack of energy and sense of responsibility on part of communities, impossibility of getting any quick and complete programme of public works carried out without long education on the need of them. Tendency of the public to sit still and wait for better times, and when better times come, to forget that depression will follow again in eight or ten years inevitably. Lack of energy in carrying out temporary programmes, coming through a realization that fundamental things must be corrected before you can get any permanent relief.

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