Gary:

Went down to Gary on Sept. 21st with Mr. Campbell of the Chicago office. Had interesting visit with Gleason who is the general Supterintendent of the Illinois Steel Company at Gary. He is as worried a man as I have seen in many a day. "I have been fifty years in the Steel business," he said. "I helped break the ground on which Gary stands today and I never dreaded a winter so before in my life."

He tells an interesting story of what has happened there. When the depression began in the automobile centers 10,000 men who had at one time or another worked in Gary invaded the town. The people had to be scattered as far as possible and they made a very thorough job. All of those who had families anywhere, single men, he advised to go back home. They seemed to have had considerable correspondence with their parents and where the men did not have the means to go the Company sent them.

There were 3,000 Mexicans at work in Gary that said, their country needed them for something. I don't know what. Arrangements were made by Gleason to send them back. Where there was a cheap car to be obtained a group would take it - the Company would fill it with food and send them off. In one case a little truck carried eleven men, loaded down with supplies for the trip.

In a good many cases they sent them by train at the Company's expense. That is, the first stunt was to sift down the population to those that were property holders or had been

some time with the plant, so that they were counted among the steady force. They divided up work here as everywhere, but still had an enormous number to feed. The work has been admirably managed, I should say. There are a good many independent agencies - philanthropic in Gary, and the Gleason Welfare Centre has headed these up and they claim they work with entire harmony. There is says the same careful scrutiny has the claim of a family or a man for relief that I found in the other corporation centers. They have had some 2,000,000 pounds of Red Cross flour, which they have distributed between fifteen different agencies, G. being the head of the Red Cross as he is everything else.

It is harder for us he says because we are a one industry town - hard for us to dig up work. But digging up work has been one of their chief occupations I should say. (See Egsberg's letter)

When I was there they were filling cellars with coal. The families must be kept warm, Gleason said. They buy it at cheap rates I take it, handle it with the greatest economy naturally. What impresses one is is that the experience of these men in efficient management has been turned wholeheartedly to the relief work, sothat they get results with the minimum of expense.

They are enormously proud of their gardens and more than one of the men told me that in his judgment there would have been disorder in Gary if it had not been for the fact that the men were so interested in the tilling of their soil.

There were whole families went out - worked all day. And the harvesting has been a matter of great interest. Many of the houses have their cellars filled with food. There was one field of fifty acres of potatoes, which was just about to be harvested when I was there. All this kept them from fussing and talking.

Down in Pittsburgh Mr. Crawford of the Jones McLaughlin told me that he had had a letter from a workman blessing him for the garden that he had given him within the city limits. "It kept me from cursing the company - the Government - things in general."

They cleaned up all around Gary - this I saw myself. The trees have yielded an enormous amount of wood. That is the way it is now on Company land of which there seems to be thousands of acres around Gary. Another thing that the men are doing is sifting slag for charcoal.

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