

# TO FACE CRITICAL RELIEF PROBLEMS

(By H. H. MILLER)

BOISE, IDA., Nov. 30 (Idaho News Bureau)—The relief crisis of last week leading up to Governor Clark's decision to call a special session, calls attention to what probably will be the principal problem of the Bottolfsen administration—the matter of relief for unemployed.

Of Course, WPA takes care of most of the employable unemployed who desire such assistance, and that state are used chiefly for unemployables, the aged, the blind and dependent children. But lax methods on the part of some county commissioners as some charge, or desire to further political fortunes, as others maintain, or a kindness of heart which wants everybody to have all the comforts of life, have,



of the employable unemployed who desire such assistance, and that state are used chiefly for unemployables, the aged, the blind and dependent children. But lax methods on the part of some county commissioners as some charge, or desire to further political fortunes, as others maintain, or a kindness of heart which wants everybody to have all the comforts of life, have, one or all of them, led to a critical situation, and must give the incoming governor pause to think what can be done.

The case of the county which has nearly 50 per cent of its persons over 65 on the relief rolls, started out paying each of them \$50. a month, and then found it was necessary to ask the state to supplement its relief funds, is notorious.

It is noteworthy that the worst conditions are not in the industrial counties of the state, but in the larger farming counties. For example, prob-



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ties of the state, but in the larger  
farming counties. For example, prob-  
ably the largest industrial operations  
in the state are the mines and smelters  
of Shoshone county, yet the relief load  
in that county is rather light. Those  
familiar with relief problems explain  
that this is because the miners have  
refused to close down and throw their  
men on the county, in spite of the de-  
pressed metal market. A system of  
"shared work" has been worked out  
instead. Operations are curtailed, the  
men work shorter hours, but receive  
the same basic wage. That, Incident-  
ally, is where some of the miners are  
kicking, because they say the new  
wage-hour bill will cost them money.

On the other hand, some of the rich-  
est agricultural counties are the worst  
problem. While by the nature of min-  
ing operations men can be given reas-  
onably steady employment for perhaps  
a fraction of what they'd make in  
boom times, the average farming com-



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munity either furnishes lots of work,  
or none at all. That's what has hap-  
pened in Canyon, Twin Falls, and oth-  
ers of the big farming counties.

To show this tendency: Shoshone  
county in September had 220 families  
on state relief, while Canyon county  
had 782. The population of Shoshone  
county in 1930 was approximately 19,-  
000, the population of Canyon county  
was about 30,000. Payette county, with  
a population of 7800, had 182 on relief.

Relief officials interpret these fig-  
ures to mean that such wealthy cor-  
porations as the mines are more likely  
to prefer to give their "relief" through  
keeping men at work, even on reduced  
hours and wages, rather than to be  
taxed to pay relief costs through a  
system which often they charge with  
being ridden with politics.

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Mr. and Mrs. Monte Cross spent  
Thanksgiving Day with Mrs. Cross' Pa