

HOUSE No. 374.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Jan. 17, 1908.

Introduced on leave by Mr. Nichols of Boston. Ways and Means.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eight.

RESOLUTIONS

Relative to the Massachusetts Unemployed.

Of the Massachusetts Unemployed adopted on Boston Common, January eight, nineteen hundred and eight, for presentation to the State Legislature.

1 The present crisis exhibits anew the incapacity of the
2 capitalists and financiers to carry on the nation's business
3 without disaster. As usual the chief burden of panic
4 suffering is shifted upon the poorer and working classes,
5 who deserve none of it. They are expected to bear a de-
6 crease of wages, loss of employment, impoverishment,
7 want, sickness, and perhaps death, without complaint or
8 revolt. This cruel periodical weakening keeps the workers
9 on their knees to the rich.

10 But the day for such servile submission is past. The

11 people have learned that the loss and misery that follow
12 from rich men's greed-caused panics should fall on the
13 rich who created them. Least of all should these blows
14 fall on the workers, who are the least prepared to stand
15 them, and whose deprivation is ten thousand fold greater
16 than that of the rich can be, because the rich have sub-
17 stance heaped up.

18 In view of these truths, *Resolved*:—

19 One. That the state and city are the agencies for
20 rectifying these wrongs, which must be done by special
21 emergency laws.

22 Two. That we ask the legislature of Massachusetts to
23 appropriate five hundred thousand dollars to be used for
24 supplying remunerative work for the unemployed.

25 Three. We ask the legislature to co-operate with the
26 city to reduce the rents of the poorer classes twenty-five
27 per cent. by law.

28 Four. We ask the state to establish a state farm tract
29 near Boston, to be permanently state owned, for the trans-
30 fer of the city population to the land; that the renting of
31 from one to three acres and the building of a dwelling be
32 made easy and possible for all; that instruction in farm-
33 ing be given there to each family, fitting the residents for
34 agricultural self-support.

35 Five. We ask the enactment of minimum wage laws
36 for all industries.

37 Six. We ask for a state board to investigate the profits
38 of all industries, with authority to prohibit the reduction
39 of wages or curtailment or stoppage of work intended to
40 compel the workers to bear the brunt of the panic.

41 Seven. We ask that a public board to study and re-
42 lieve the present need independently of all charity bodies
43 be constituted. When organized society permits its law-

44 less robber financiers to bring on a crisis of want by their
45 buccaneering tactics, it is the duty of society to rescue
46 the victims. If it shirks this duty government abdicates,
47 laws cease to exist, and the obligation to obey laws ter-
48 minates.

49 Eight. We request the legislature to immediately in-
50 augurate a system of pensions for the unemployed.

51 Nine. We request the state to suppress all private em-
52 ployment agencies, and to perfect a complete state employ-
53 ment agency system, that it may keep in constant and
54 accurate touch with its unemployed.

55 Ten. We denounce the pharisaical fear of pauperizing
56 starving people. They are already pauperized by the
57 violent avarice of the rich, and starvation adds corruption
58 and degradation. This is the false plea of those who do
59 not want to take money out of their full pockets to help
60 the desperate. They can go to Europe for the winter
61 holiday vacation, but they are afraid of pauperizing the
62 dying.

63 Eleven. In order that unemployment may be wholly
64 and finally done away with, production of wealth raised
65 to its maximum, every individual made an owner of
66 wealth with certainty of labor and income, and living
67 human beings lifted above dead property, we ask you, the
68 present legislature of Massachusetts, to assist us to alter
69 the industrial system so that every citizen will become a
70 permanent and inalienable stockholder in the instruments
71 of wealth production. This can be done by voting over
72 the title of all great industries to united popular owner-
73 ship.

74 This needless and wanton capitalist panic should finally
75 convince you and the people that you must retire capital-
76 ists from the ownership and management of American

77 industries. We ask you to do this without compensation
78 to the present so-called owners, but that you pension them
79 for life.

80 We advise legislative action of this kind in preference
81 to a universal strike of all workers of all industries in the
82 United States to displace the rich and revolutionize the
83 industrial system, which, legislators failing to act, may
84 be necessary.