S. C. A. A. Board Urges Enactment of Unemployment Insurance or Reserve at Current Legislative Session

Mr. HEAD TO KUM

SINCE the summer of 1930, when it became apparent that the volume of destitution caused by unemployment and poverty threatened to reach perhaps greater proportions than the welfare authorities of the State had in mind in any recent year, the State Charities Aid Association has been deeply interested in the development of adequate, sound, and practical relief activities. As months, weeks, and years have gone by, the problem has grown, local resources have been strained to the utmost and found inadequate. The State has stepped in with aid on a scale hitherto unthought of. Finally the Federal Government has also thrown enormous resources into the relief situation.

Cannot unemployment be prevented? In so far as it can be prevented, cannot some measures be taken for its prevention as for its relief? These questions have been more or less continuous in the minds of the welfare authorities of the State and are now being considered in the light of the increasing strain of the relief operations.

The S. C. A. A. has been thoroughly acquainted, for many years, with the principle that it is far better to prevent poverty than to relieve it. Its entrance into the field of adequate public relief activities was a result of this conviction, and has been deeply interested in the development of public relief to meet the needs of the destitute unemployed.

The S. C. A. A. has asked itself, can this principle of prevention be employed in the field of unemployment? It has given careful study to the subject and has concluded that unemployment insurance or reserves should be provided for more than a small proportion of unemployment. It has reached the conclusion that the moment a depression becomes apparent that it is far better to prevent poverty than to relieve it. Its entrance into this field of relief has been a result of this conviction and has been deeply interested in the development of relief activities.

February 15, adopted the following resolution by the Board of Managers of the S. C. A. A.:

1. That the S. C. A. A. has been thoroughly acquainted, for many years, with the principle that it is far better to prevent poverty than to relieve it. Its entrance into the field of adequate public relief activities was a result of this conviction, and has been deeply interested in the development of relief activities.

2. That such legislation, however, should be of the character of unemployment insurance, rather than for each individual employer.

3. That the Association will support whatever legislation is enacted at this session, if practicable, for unemployment insurance or reserves should be provided for more than a small proportion of unemployment. It has reached the conclusion that the moment a depression becomes apparent that it is far better to prevent poverty than to relieve it. Its entrance into this field of relief has been a result of this conviction and has been deeply interested in the development of relief activities.

4. That legislation on the subject of unemployment insurance or reserves should be proposed or likely to be proposed, will provide

5. That such legislation, however, should be of the character of unemployment insurance, rather than for each individual employer.

6. That, recognizing that no system of unemployment insurance or reserves will ever enable the Federal Government to accomplish this very desirable end, it will adopt the principle of prevention as employed in the field of unemployment, and that this principle of prevention be employed in the field of unemployment.