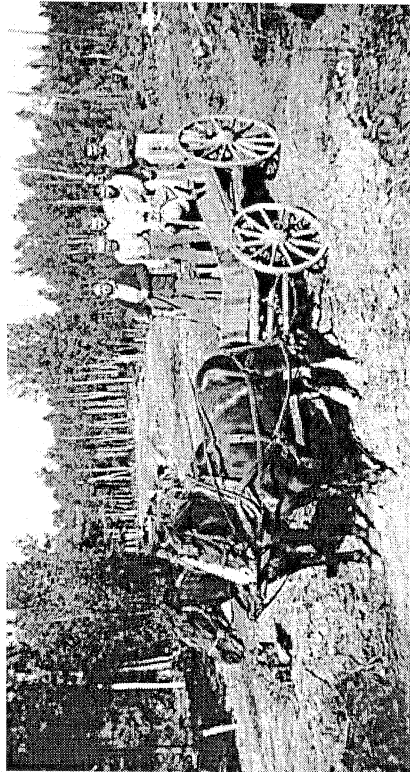
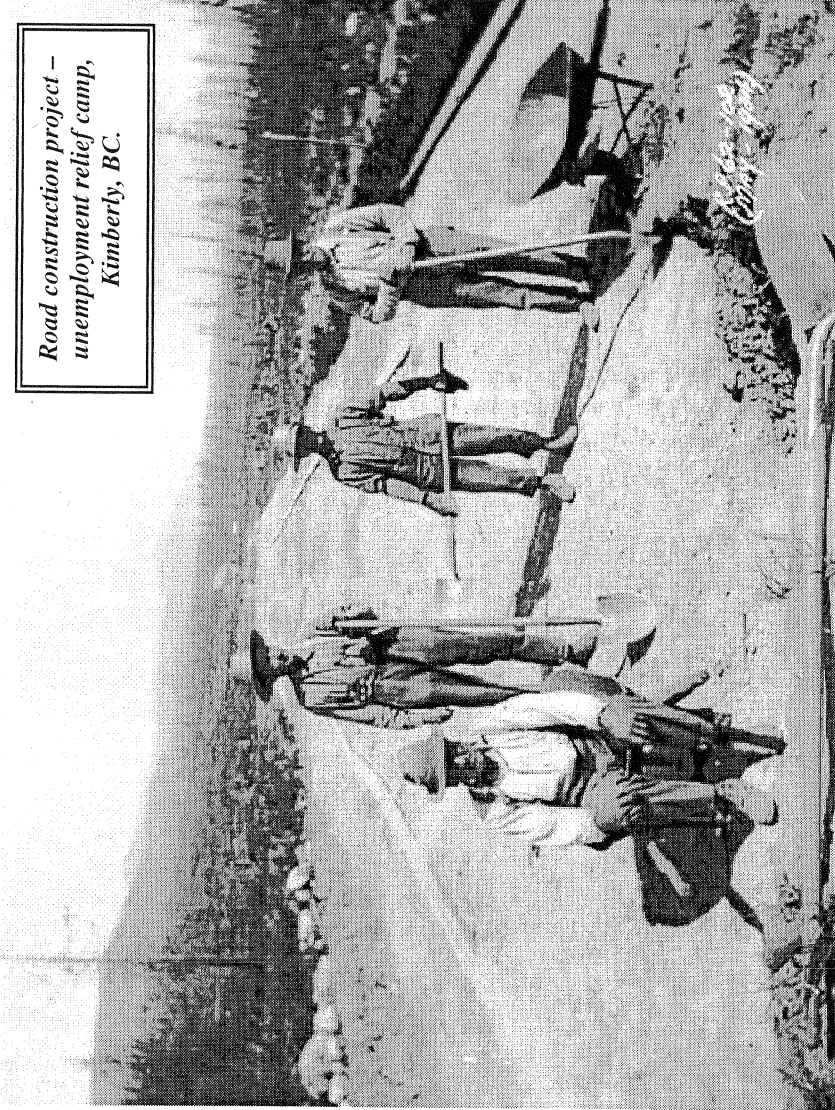


CANADIAN RELIEF CAMPS DURING THE DEPRESSION - PROJECTS

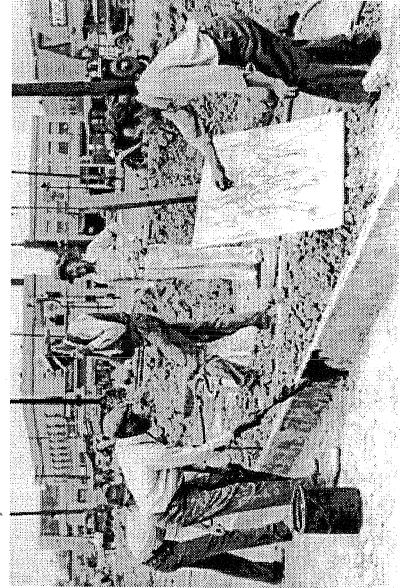
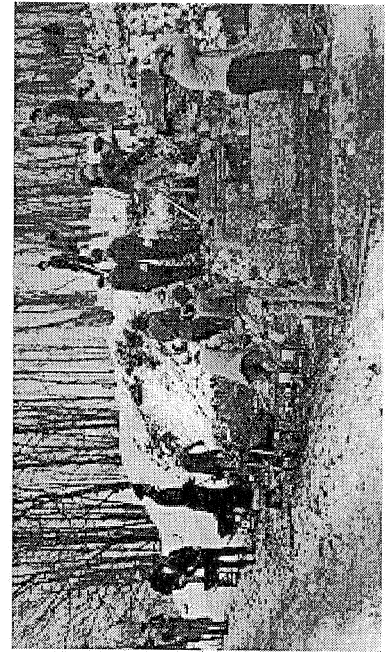
The relief camp workers were expected to work a 44 hour work week on various government sponsored projects. Most of these projects required hard labour.



Workers clear the land for an unemployment relief camp project.



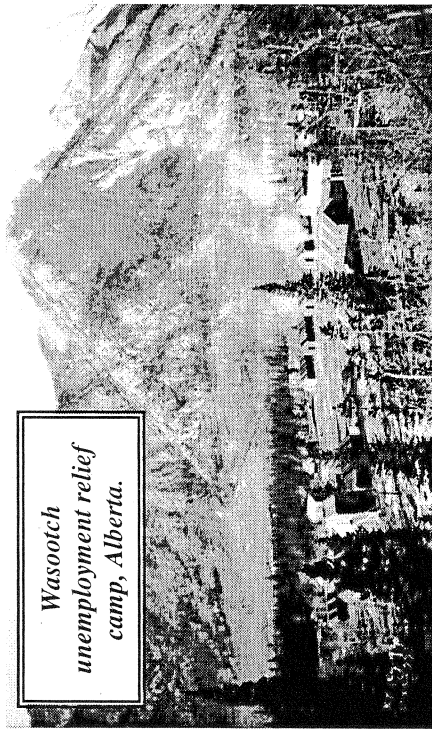
Road construction project - unemployment relief camp, Kimberly, BC.



*Once I built a railroad, I made it run, made it race against time.
Once I built a railroad; now it's done. Brother, can you spare a dime?
Once I built a tower, up to the sun, brick, and rivet, and lime;
Once I built a tower, now it's done. Brother, can you spare a dime?*

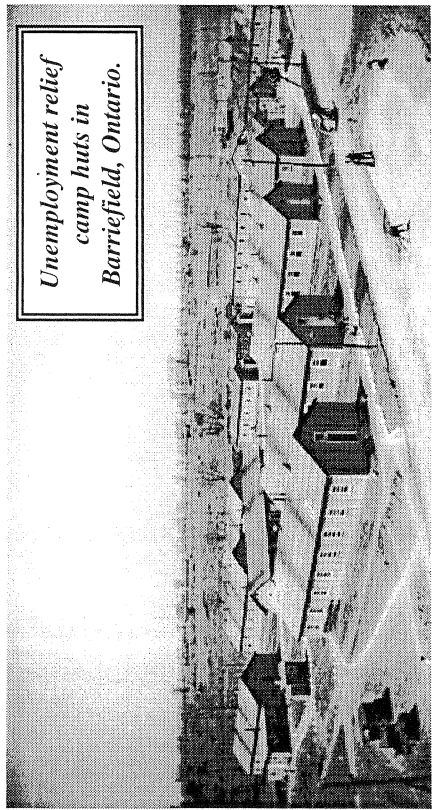
- "Brother, can you spare a dime (song lyrics from the Great Depression)

CANADIAN RELIEF CAMPS DURING THE DEPRESSION - SHELTER

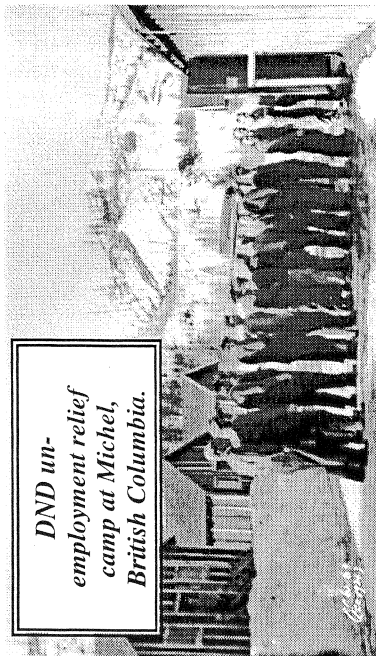


Wasootch unemployment relief camp, Alberta.

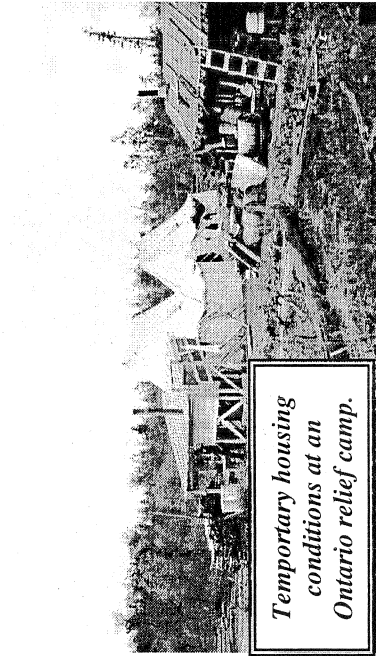
I can quite understand that life in these camps may be superior to that in very cheap lodgings and around the soup kitchens that have been established in many of our cities, but it does not seem to me the proper thing that relief camps should be under the Department of National Defence . . .
-J. S. Woodward (politician)



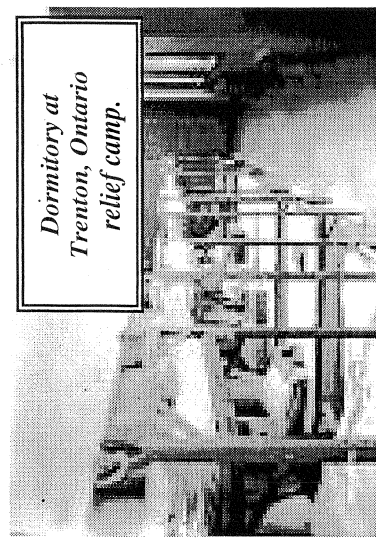
Unemployment relief camp huts in Barriefield, Ontario.



DND unemployment relief camp at Michel, British Columbia.



Temporary housing conditions at an Ontario relief camp.



Dormitory at Trenton, Ontario relief camp.

Unemployment relief camps were created by the Bennett government in 1932 as a response to growing unemployment across the country. They were placed under the Department of National Defence (DND) who would consult with the Department of Labour. The camps welcomed single, unemployed men who would receive temporary shelter, 3 meals a day, work clothes, medical care, and 20 cents a day in wages. In return for these items the men were expected to spend their days doing manual labour for various government projects.