

Relief Camps... Home Away From Home?

Relief Camps:

Relief Camps Rules and Regulations:

1. To be admitted to a Relief Camp you must be single, male and not living at home, healthy and fit, unemployed, at least 18 years old, and not a political agitator
2. You will be given free transportation to the camp
3. If you decide to leave the camp for any reason except to take a job, you will not be allowed to return.
4. On entering the camp you will receive for free:
 - a. a set of work clothes
 - b. soap and towels
 - c. a bunk bed
 - d. three meals a day
 - e. use of showers, toilets and laundry facilities
5. You will work 44 hours per week on projects such as road building and tree planting.
6. You will be given an allowance of 20¢ per day plus 1.3¢ per day for tobacco.
7. No committee of camp workers may be formed. Any complaints must be reported individually to the camp foreman.

Would you take this deal? Why or why not?

The camps were intended to handle 2,000 men, a year later the camps supported over 11,000 occupants. By 1936 when they were shut down, the camps had taken in 170,248 of the unemployed in Canada.

In the organizer below, brainstorm some of the similarities and differences between living the life of a homeless vagrant or life in a relief camp during the Great Depression.



Homeless

Camps