

MAKE EVERY DOLLAR COUNT.

It is fortunate for Kansas City that it is not threatened with the extent of want among its poor that confronts nearly every other city of its size in the country. While other cities are raising large sums for the establishment of lodgings for the homeless and for soup houses for the hungry, there is as yet no indication that Kansas City will be compelled to resort to other means of charity in order to care for its suffering poor than it already has in its long established and efficient Provident Association. The demands upon the charitably disposed will doubtless be greater than they have before known, but the facilities for dispensing charity, which this organization has yearly maintained, will be sufficient for all requirements.

The fact, however, that the depression under which the whole country is suffering brings less of a burden to this city than to other communities will be no warrant for ignoring the appeals which the Provident Association will doubtless have to make for further funds during the winter. There is no need whatever for that sort of indiscriminate charity that helps those who would rather beg than work, and at the same time leaves those who suffer from enforced idleness to go hungry and cold. It is the former class that carry their appeals to the individual who may become known as charitably disposed, while the more deserving make their necessities known only to such organized charities as the Provident Association.

The individual who dispenses charity to chance applicants is guided wholly by the story that is told and the evidence that has been prepared for the occasion. The Provident Association has two plans, one of which is the giving of work, and the other the giving of relief direct after careful but prompt investigation. It is safe to say that a dollar expended by the association will do more good, and in a direction more worthy, than ten times as much will accomplish as usually dispensed by individuals. By dispensing charity through this channel not only is the cause for which it is given strengthened, but many embarrassments arising from personal solicitation may be avoided. But the giving of a mere pittance in this way should not be used as an excuse for leaving others to carry the main burden.