

A WOMAN'S PLACE IS THE HOME

BOSTON, Nov. 14,—The terrible conditions prevailing among the working girls of this city are strikingly described in the following article appearing in the Traveller, and fully corroborate an expose of Boston industrial and social life published in The New York Call a few months ago:

"According to social workers thousands of working girls in this city are out of employment and approaching actual hunger. There is no work for them in home, in factory, in department store, in sweat shop—anywhere. They say Boston is overrun with willing and intelligent young women who are forced to accept charity or go hungry.

"'In all my experience,' said Mrs. Clara Locker, lieutenant major of the local Volunteers of America and superintendent of the Working Girls' Home, at 80 Warrenton street, 'I have never seen such pitiable conditions among the working girls. From our home hundreds of girls daily tramp the streets enquiring for work. They go from factory and home, they haunt the employment bureaus, and nowhere can they find the slightest opportunity, skilled and intelligent though they may be.

"'At the Working Girls' Home I take care of over 500 girls a week. A year ago I used to be able to find them places, but now it is a desperate matter. They would starve if not for our free lunches every day, and go sleepless if not for free beds. At present I know of no place in town, be it store, factory or family, where I can locate a single one of the hundreds of girls who are growing sick and despondent because of no work. I feel utterly helpless.'

"Mrs. Locker believes that the suffering of the unemployed comes from the hard times. She cited many indications of this fact, where girls have been engaged as cooks or servants in houses and dismissed immediately after the first week when the house was put in order. Families, who can usually afford a girl, say they must have only one on rare occasions to clean their house, because the high cost of living uses up their entire income. She says many families employing servants have given up their homes to live in hotels this winter, that they may avoid the cost of house maintenance.—New York "Call"