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The Beaver:

A Live Weekly for Canadians Overseas.

LONDON: MARCH 15th, 1919.

Editorial Offices: 49 Bedford Square, W.C. 1.

DISABLEMENT.

Britain's callous neglect of her disabled heroes of other days was a disgrace to her and more so because the neglect was acknowledged. Tommy and Jack, broken in the wars, were left to peg it through life on a pittance of 2d. a day, or had to hold out a paralysed arm in mute appeal for assistance. It was considered part of the price of Empire and the "old soldier" was made to pay in full. But never again. As an American writer puts it no disabled soldier in this war "will be compelled to sell pencils and shoe laces to eke out an insufficient pension, or to be immured in a soldiers' home to rust out the years until death comes to his relief. If there is enough of Pte. Jones left to wiggle a finger, the wiggle will be capitalized and made to yield a pretty good living in addition to what he draws from the Pensions Board." The problem of reinstating the disabled soldier in a position of "economic self-sufficiency and manly self-reliance" was not tackled. In this war, however, the duty of the nation to those who have fought for Freedom and especially to those who have suffered disablement is paramount. Canada was first in the field with plans and proposals for the treatment of the maimed and the establishment of Vocational Training Centres is the result. Australia and the United States have taken a leaf out of Canada's book and have modelled their plans on similar lines. No human wreckage from the battlefields of Europe is to be allowed to drift in and out on the tides of life. It is much too valuable for that. Re-educated and re-trained even the most severely broken are enabled in a comparatively short time to earn a decent livelihood. At one of these Governmental institutions for instance a soldier who has lost both legs and one eye has been taught silver polishing, soldering and gilding, and is making \$75 a month. The economic value of this retraining is therefore at once apparent. And instead of dragging out his remaining days in enforced idleness the man who has "done his bit" can look into the future with confidence, knowing that as he has discharged his duty to King and country his country will not forget its duty to him.

FOR REFLECTION.

Let us be of good cheer, however, remembering that the misfortunes hardest to bear are those which never come.—Lowell.

CANADIAN NAVY LEAGUE.

The Canadian Navy League has arranged to have a training ship, possibly a cruiser, placed on Thunder Bay next summer. Training accommodation will be provided for 400 men.

VICTORIA CROSS FOR INDIAN SNIPER.

Stephen Toney, a Nova Scotia Indian who has but recently returned home from the western zone of war, has been recommended for the Victoria Cross. To have individually disposed of 71 German snipers is his proud record as a member of the 193rd Nova Scotian Battalion.

BEAVERS BUSY IN NEW QUARTER.

Beavers are exceedingly busy at present in the Ennismore district, not far from Peterboro, where the "first engineers" supposedly have been long extinct. The theoretical explanation is offered that the industrious rodents may be a colony escaped from Algonquin Park.

CANADA'S SHIPBUILDING OUTPUT.

360 ships were constructed in Canada for Canadian registry during the period of the war to the end of November. Of the number 199 were sailing vessels aggregating 44,135 gross tons, and 160 were steamships totalling 69,612 tons. In addition, 22 ships were built through the Imperial Munitions Board for the British Government.

QUARTER OF A MILLION TONS.

Nearly a quarter of a million tons of meat, dairy products and eggs had been purchased by the British Ministry of Food in Canada up to the end of 1918. The exact total is 486,150,000 lbs. The provisions section purchased directly 153,453 tons, made up of 86,438 tons bacon and hams; 420 tons lard; 222 tons butter; 1,674 tons milk; 4,535 tons preserved meats; 60,140 tons frozen meat. In addition to this the Dairy Products Commissioner, on behalf of the British Ministry, purchased 80,622 tons of food, made up of 65,955 tons cheese; 3,988 tons butter; 10,334 tons milk; 345 tons eggs, a combined total of 234,050 tons.

WATER POWERS OF ONTARIO.

As an indication of changing conditions in Ontario, almost imperceptible but very real, the "Globe's" Annual Financial Survey points out as follows: "The commercial activities of the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario commenced in 1910 with the sale of 750 horse-power and contracts in force with thirteen municipalities. To-day the Commission is selling over 200,000 horse-power to some 225 municipalities. To meet the future needs 350,000 horse-power of additional power is being developed at Niagara and elsewhere in the province. Having fulfilled its obligations as an economic factor in time of war, the system of the Hydro Electric Power Commission now stands ready to meet the immediate and pressing problems of the reconstruction period, and the demands of the ensuing era of peace."

YEAR'S GROWTH OF CALGARY.

Building permits for last year in Calgary totalled \$1,197,300. Business was briskest in January, when the permits reached the figures of \$505,000, June coming next with a total of \$133,600, followed by August with a figure of \$127,700.