

CARING FOR THE RETURNED SOLDIER.

The establishment of the Soldiers' Aid Commission for Ontario is the first result of the report recently issued by the Hospitals Commission, and the forerunner of others.

The care of the soldier who has returned to Canada, mutilated or weakened as a result of active service, is the prime duty of Canadians. For some months the Canadian Patriotic Fund has been endeavouring to ensure that the men already back from Europe should suffer no want. This work has been voluntarily undertaken by local committees of the Fund, although in most instances their time is fully occupied with the task of making provision for the families of soldiers.

Each soldier is interviewed at Quebec by a representative of the Fund and a confidential report sent by the latter to the patriotic committee of the town to which the soldier is going. This serves the two-fold purpose of protecting the Fund against the greedy or unscrupulous and of giving the local committee information that is helpful in finding employment for the deserving. Not every man who returns to Canada wearing His Majesty's uniform is included in the latter category, but the great majority have done their duty in the fullest degree. To the latter it has been the privilege of the Fund to present a small badge bearing the words, "For service at the Front." The men who are wearing these badges are the worthiest citizens that we can acknowledge. Like charity, that badge should be allowed to cover a multitude of sins.

The work that the Canadian Patriotic Fund can do for returned soldiers, however, is limited by Act of Parliament, and it has been specifically enacted that no assistance can be given by the Fund to "any person who is in receipt of any gratuity, pension or allowance paid by His Majesty or by any foreign government in consequence of incapacity or death occurring as aforesaid." Partly on this account and largely because the pensions and gratuities paid to incapacitated men are oft-times admittedly inadequate, it has been necessary to establish a Hospitals Commission and Disablement Fund. The officials of the latter, in their report to the Federal Government, recommended among other measures, that provincial commissions be formed for the purpose of supplementing these pensions either by monetary grants or by free training in various trades. Manufacturers and others will be asked to lend their aid in discharging a great national duty and the banks, insurance companies and financial organisations generally will, we hope, lend a hand in order that the traditional tragedy of the returned soldier may be avoided.

MR. E. P. HEATON BECOMES PROVINCIAL FIRE MARSHAL.

Mr. E. P. Heaton, well known in fire insurance circles throughout Canada, has been appointed Provincial Fire Marshal for Ontario at a salary of \$4,000 a year. Mr. Heaton's last executive appointment was as manager of the Central Canada Manufacturers' Mutual, a position he resigned in 1913.

Toronto has expended \$533,000 to date in the insurance of soldiers going to the Front.

INFORMATION FOR THE ENEMY: A WARNING TO INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The Secretary of the British Admiralty has made the following announcement:—

"Considerable misapprehension appears to exist in regard to the permissibility of British insurance companies communicating particulars of risks on Government work to persons other than British companies or British subjects with whom they may have been in the habit of effecting re-insurances.

"In order to remove this misapprehension, it is hereby notified that any person or company so communicating any information that may be of value to the enemy, either by re-insurance or otherwise, in connection with insurance upon such work, to any firm or person other than a registered British company or British subject, is liable to prosecution for enabling important information to reach the enemy in regard to works and materials in this country existing or in preparation for the conduct of the war.

"Such prosecution may also be instituted in the case of any such particulars being passed out of this country to countries other than those comprised within the British Empire, whether to branch establishments of registered British companies or otherwise.

"This notice is to be read as applying to all work or material in preparation or in stock for any Government Department or Government contractor.

"It should be observed that it has already been found necessary to remove the name of more than one insurance company from the list of companies who may participate in Government insurance on account of failure to take due precautions in regard to the secrecy of particulars of Government work."

TRADE RETURNS CONTINUE SATISFACTORY.

The Canadian trade returns for November continue the satisfactory figures noted in recent months. Exports totalled \$92,000,000, made up principally of agricultural products, \$54,000,000; manufactured goods, \$13,000,000; animals and meats, \$12,000,000; minerals, \$6,500,000; lumber, etc., \$4,500,000, and fisheries, \$2,000,000. All these show a substantial increase over the corresponding month for 1914: agricultural products jumping from \$18,000,000 to \$54,000,000; manufactured goods from \$6,000,000 to \$13,000,000, and animals, etc., from \$8,000,000 to \$12,000,000. The export of minerals is also exactly double that of November, 1914.

The feature of the imports, totalling \$45,000,000, is the large increase in the value of free goods imported during November last, these totalling \$19,000,000, as against \$12,000,000 for November, 1914. Materials for use in the manufacture of munitions probably account to some extent for this increase.

Imports for the eight months of the year, were \$298,000,000, a decrease of \$20,000,000 for the corresponding period of 1914.

The domestic exports for the eight months of the present fiscal year were \$419,000,000, as against \$269,000,000 for the same period last year.

Mr. O. E. Lane, assistant manager in the United States of the Yorkshire Insurance Company since June, 1912, has been appointed vice-president of the Niagara Fire, to take office on the re-organisation of the official staff in accordance with the plans recently notified.