

# **1.—MANY SOLDIERS ARE ARRIVING IN ENGLAND FROM CANADA MEDICALLY UNFIT, WHO SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ENLISTED.**

## **HUNDREDS OF MEDICAL UNFITS FROM CANADA.**

Many hundreds of Soldiers obviously medically unfit for Service overseas have been sent from Canada to England.

This serious blunder has been more noticeable in Battalions and Drafts arriving from Canada in the second year of War, and led to an order (A.D.M.S. Order No. 394) being issued on March 9th, 1916, for the Medical Inspection of all Drafts immediately on their arrival in the Shorncliffe Area.

This Medical Examination of newly arrived Drafts showed that they included from 5 to 15 per cent. of unfit men in their ranks—the Canadian Pioneer Draft, arriving June 29th, was found to have 57 unfits out of 254 all ranks.

The Director of Recruiting and Organisation has long recognised the gravity of the situation, and his Medical Officer in charge of the Medical Board Department (Captain F. W. Blakeman) has most carefully collected and analysed the returns. Captain Blakeman's Report of August 22nd, 1916, is freely quoted from, as it was written only after prolonged analyses of Medical Board Returns.

## **ACTUAL FIGURES.**

50 per cent. of Permanent Base Duty Men, and

56 per cent. of Discharges from the Army have never been at the Front.

Of 2,670 soldiers, regarded by the Medical Boards from June 12th to August 22nd, 1916, as only fit for Permanent Base Duty, 1,340 had never been at the Front, while 816 of the total 1,452 Discharges from the Army for the same period had similarly never got beyond England.

The great majority of the Local Casualties, thus put on Permanent Base Duty or Discharged from the Service, had disabilities which were obviously present on enlistment.

This is at once shown by the following list of Local Casualties with Disabilities necessitating Permanent Base Duty:—

Over Age .....	413
Under Age .....	128
Extreme Flat Feet .....	90
Defective Sight .....	78
Extensive Varicose Veins .....	40
Chronic Rheumatism, Bronchitis, Asthma .....	81
Missing Fingers, Toes, and Other Deformities .....	16