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## The Settlement of Returned Soldiers on the Land

It is now three years since the war started and quite a large number of soldiers, having done "their bit," have returned to Canada and been discharged. Many of the crippled men have, thanks to the vocational training given by the Military Hospitals' Commission been able to make a new start in life, a very large proportion of them earning good wages in spite of physical drawbacks, while others, not so fortunate, probably because they have not taken up the vocational training, have to take on jobs that bring them less wages than they were earning previous to the war—and the difference is not always made up by the pension. Such is the fortune of war, though the least the country can do is to see that the families of those who have fought for it, should not suffer in income because the breadwinner returned home so badly wounded that he could not take up his old occupation, with necessarily decreased wages. What is more the outlook for these men—many of them quite young—is none too bright unless they can take up something that offers a future, either to themselves or their family. And herein lies the opportunity of the Provinces to give tangible recognition to these self-sacrificing citizens by granting them blocks of land and a sufficient loan of money in each case to give them a fair start. In Ontario the authorities have already commenced farm colonies for returned soldiers, in the northern part of the province, and some of the other provinces are contemplating land schemes, though one or two are waiting to see what the Federal authorities are going to do in the matter. But it will be some time before any Federal scheme can be put into force, though a colonizing scheme for returned soldiers has now been decided upon. In the meanwhile men are being discharged every day, who, though desirous to take up farming, are com-

pelled by circumstances to swell the city populations. So that it is to be hoped that all the Provincial Governments will make the matter of placing the returned men of their respective provinces on the land their special business, outside anything the Federal Government may do, for be it understood that the Federal Crown lands are limited to the central provinces, which would hardly meet with the wishes of those men from other parts of Canada desirous to locate in their own provinces. And now is the time to make a start if the provincial authorities, who have not already done so, are as eager to people their lands with desirable settlers as they profess. A further reason why action should take place now is that the soldiers already returned and discharged would, in taking up farming become pioneers for the men now serving at the front, on the principle that example is better than precept. The soldiers who will be fortunate to return at the end of the war will then see their old comrades with their families happily settled on the land, and thus be encouraged to likewise engage in farming. The Federal scheme for colonization for the soldiers is not to be limited to Canadians, but will take in our Allies, and if the desires of those already returned are any indication then the demand for land will be tremendous, with correspondingly heavy responsibility on the Federal authorities. The Provincial authorities have, comparatively speaking, and considering their opportunities, done very little in the way of national service. In taking up this soldiers' land question seriously, the Provincial Governments have a special opportunity to help the national cause, and one that brought to a successful consummation, will be of lasting benefit not only to the soldiers themselves, but to Canada as a whole.