

be done to show our appreciation of the men who went overseas and are returning, must be done without any delay. Every single complaint of unfair treatment should be investigated and adjusted.

While there may be amongst the men returning some who no amount of consideration will satisfy, the great majority will be very thankful for the kindness that the Government can show them and the concrete way in which the appreciation of the people through the Government can be expressed.

It is extremely galling to a returned soldier to learn of appointments that are made to offices within the gift of the Government, and particularly within the jurisdiction of the Militia Department, of men who have made no sacrifices whatsoever; who have enjoyed all the emoluments of the office which they held and to which they were not entitled still continue to profit from the favoritism which was responsible for placing them in the positions which they do not really honour.

Men who were opposed to conscription should not under any circumstances be allowed to occupy any military position, be it ever so humble. If they are allowed to wear the uniform which they thought was not sufficiently honourable to don in order to fight for King and country, they are not good enough or loyal enough to be employed by the Government. In several cases that have recently happened, appointments were made that can only be classed as an insult to the heroic dead and the brave living.

A great deal of criticism has been levelled at the Government for making these appointments and the antagonism which as a result has been aroused will continue to become stronger and by no means redound to the advantage of the Government. No man should be called to sit in judgment upon another who is charged or convicted under any one of the several military regulations where the former refused to show his willingness to fight for the great Cause.

Those who have been properly termed uniformed shirkers, i.e. officers and men attached to the different military districts who did not volunteer their services or offer to go overseas, should not be kept a moment longer. Their places can and should be filled in accordance with the declaration made by the

Minister of Militia and Defence that the preference in all cases will be given to returned men.

One can understand that men of the class named do not relish vacating their positions for those who are better than themselves, but there should be no option given. The public of this country pay the money that supports it. The majority of the electorate voted overwhelmingly to assist the men in the trenches. They are unanimously in favour of everything possible being done for their splendid fellow citizen soldiers. They will not tolerate place and preferment, still being kept by those who wore the uniform and all the marks of rank, but were not prepared to make any sacrifices that would make them worthy wearers of it.

Our splendid men will now be coming back in their thousands. At heart they are loyal Britishers. No finer men live. Their feelings though, will be outraged if they learn of instances to which reference has been made, multiplying after their return.

If the Government does not wish to provide material highly inflammable, from which the flames of Bolshevism will rise, it must not countenance under any circumstances the growth of a feeling of discontent on the part of the returned soldiery. The cowardly civilian Bolshevik will very gladly incite the soldier. He will exploit him for his own fell purpose and if any campaign of this kind succeeded, the harm done could never be remedied.

Already pamphlets, booklets, and circulars are being distributed throughout the length and breadth of this Dominion. The soldier is being told that he battled for capitalism and that he was nothing more than a victim of wage slavery. The usual arguments of the revolutionary socialist are embroidered with all the verbally vitriolic trimming that characterizes the literary output of the normal and abnormal disciples of Karl Marx.

With the likely depression that will ensue within the next six months, the Bolshevik may be able to secure recruits to his banner. However, if the returned soldiers, knowing that the Government has done all that humanly can be done for them, do not become susceptible to the vicious teachings enunciated by the Lenine Trotsky disciples we need have no fear as to normal conditions of law and order being

maintained.

Officious and offensive military officers, be they the general officers commanding districts, or mere subaltern uniformed shirkers, must be kept in their place. This can be done without any loss of discipline or diminishing of the respect which the enlisted man and non-com owes his superiors.

We must likewise not forget that every soldier is a citizen first and a soldier next. Upon his return to Canada he automatically resumes all the rights and privileges that belong to him as a citizen. He therefore will not brook any presumption on the part of those who, if he was in civil life, would have to treat him with the respect that one citizen does another. Any officer, be his position of the highest importance who makes a recommendation or suggestion, as to the appointment of a subordinate who is not entitled to such preferment either on account of his failure to have offered his services or because he opposed the Union Government, should be summarily dealt with. He is not fit to occupy the position which, from the standpoint of loyalty and patriotism he abuses.

I have on more than one occasion pointed out that the loyal population of this country, male and female, will stand by the returned soldier and woe unto him or them who do things that hurt the feelings of the returned soldier and the loyal population, or refuse to revoke appointments hastily made and which entirely disregard the principle laid down by the Militia Department and concurred in by the sincere and loyal electorate of the Dominion.

Ships That Pass In The Night.

The steamer had just arrived and had cast anchor outside a well-known port. The captain gave orders to the watch to allow no one to come on board. After a while a pinnace came near, and a voice shouted out:

"Hullo there, lower your ladder."

The watch replied:

"You can't come aboard tonight, sir."

The voice from the small boat said:

"I'm the Admiralty Pilot, you silly ass."

"Can't help it; I don't care a rap if you're Pontius Pilate, I've got my orders."

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