

highest responsibility and importance. It became absolutely certain therefore, upon a consideration of the whole matter, that it could not be adequately or finally dealt with by Order in Council. Therefore the Governor in Council passed an order making provision as a matter of policy, pending the enactment of the necessary legislation. This Order, passed on the 13th of February last, provides that in future no appointments shall be made to the Outside Service except upon the recommendation and with the approval of the Civil Service Commission. There has been some criticism as to the delay in passing that Order in Council. I can only say that the duties which have been imposed upon this Government have occupied all our waking hours, and those waking hours have been pretty long. For myself, I returned to Ottawa on the 10th of January, and that Order in Council was passed on the 13th of February. We did not succeed in passing the Order in Council with regard to packing houses until the 9th of March, although we gave it all our time and energy, and we did not succeed in passing the final Order with regard to prohibition until the 11th of March. So I think that any criticism based on the suggestion that there has been undue delay is one to which no great weight should be attached.

The question of the demobilization of our troops has also been taken up and attentively considered both here and overseas. That subject will be discussed at the proper time. Perhaps hon. gentlemen do not realize that it will take from a year to eighteen months to bring our troops back from overseas—three hundred thousand men or thereabouts—at the conclusion of the war. Very serious questions will be involved in the considerations which have to be taken into account. We shall give them the best attention that is possible.

A more exact demarcation between military and civilian control in respect of the troops who have already returned and in respect of those who will come back in the future, has been effected. This has been accomplished by an Order in Council which has been placed upon the table of the House. The principle therein embodied is that the Department of Militia and Defence shall retain control of the men until they are discharged from military service, and after they are discharged from military service they shall be taken in hand, so far as they may require care and assistance, by the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment,

a new department which has been created for that purpose. The Military Hospitals Commission is in future to be called the Invalided Soldiers' Commission. So far as the care of men in hospitals is concerned, the work formerly undertaken by the Military Hospitals Commission has been curtailed, because the Department of Militia and Defence takes absolute and full control of men in hospitals until the time of their discharge. After they are discharged they come under the attention of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment and of the Invalided Soldiers' Commission. That commission now has greatly extended powers and duties, because its responsibilities will in the future extend not only to men in hospitals, but to all men who return to Canada from overseas after having seen service at the front. Perhaps the scope of the Military Hospitals Commission has not been fully understood and appreciated in all parts of the country. The work which they have undertaken is of great magnitude; in many respects they have given a lead to other nations. I may point out that they have established an artificial limb factory at which already 1,051 cases have been considered; a school for massage, a school for instructors in remedial gymnastics, and various courses in re-education. They have established on a commercial basis industries such as a planing mill, a furniture factory, machine shops, motor mechanics and farm tractor operation, a woollen mill, a power station. They give commercial instruction, instruction in dairying and in truck and glass gardening. Hon. gentlemen will realize, therefore, that their work has been very extensive and productive of great good. It will have still greater scope for usefulness in the future.

Now I come to the Canadian War Mission which was established at Washington a month or two ago. Mr. Lloyd Harris, who was a member of this House from 1908 to 1911, is the chairman of that mission, which was established in view of the importance of co-operation between the two countries and of utilizing and conserving for a common purpose the resources of Canada and the United States. The gentlemen whom Mr. Harris has associated with him in the work of that mission are men of wide experience and valuable business training, and I can assure the House that the mission has already amply demonstrated its usefulness.

For a similar purpose we have established at Ottawa a War Trade Board, which corre-