

or previous wars, when the ubiquity of the soldier beggar was proverbial and accepted as a necessary feature of the war itself or of its aftermath. We need only go back a little more than a single generation to the two great wars engaged in by Britain and the United States respectively during the third quarter of the nineteenth century, viz. the Crimean War and the American Civil War. The one is concerned only with men of the British Isles, the other solely with men of the United States.

Regarding the re-absorption of the veterans of the Crimean War, Mr. John Galsworthy of the Ministry of Pensions in Great Britain, asserts in a recent issue of "Reveille" that seventy-five percent of those gallant fellows ended their lives in a work-house.

Turning to the period subsequent to the American Civil War, the picture, though less disturbing, even when we include the pension scandals and irregularities, is scarcely more attractive. The archives at Washington and contemporary history furnish abundant evidence that a seriously large proportion of the discharged soldiers of the Union army did not become re-absorbed in the productive activity of the nation.

But it may be argued that the soldier of '56 and '66 had not the high average standard of education and intelligence of the men of to-day; that his pre-war life was not the same, while his method of training and actual war experience were quite different. All this is undoubtedly true, just as it certainly held true of the soldiers of a generation or more ago when compared with the soldiers of the Napoleonic era. When, however, it is remembered that the record of the Crimean and Civil War veterans is a replica, with but slightly varying detail,