

war pensions were costing the United States \$159,000,000 yearly; a recently passed law adds several more millions to that total.) Its creation and perpetuation have resulted, in part, from allowing the treatment of old soldiers and sailors to become a question bandied between political parties and bid upon at successive elections. The result has been that administrations have distributed benefits to veterans and their dependents with a free-handed lack of consideration, not altogether to be justified.

Canadians, in many districts, are extremely like the citizens of the United States. Veterans' associations already exist in Canada. Nothing can be more certain than that returning Canadian soldiers and sailors will use their associations in order to express and secure redress for real or imagined cause for dissatisfaction with the arrangements made by the Government for their return to civilian life. It would be unfortunate if false ideas of what Canada owes, and can give, her soldiers should become general, and if societies should be formed for the purpose of urging unreasonable claims by political propaganda. The danger which such a situation might present to a country possessing a representative form of government is great; the political power commanded by a seventh of its voters is enormous. The danger will be removed when there is a sound understanding among us of the whole problem presented by the return of disabled men from our forces. Once such an understanding exists, all danger will disappear if forethought provides wisely-drawn legislation and devises machinery adequate for its administration and execution.

It will not be difficult to spread sound views concerning the pensions and other benefits which must be provided for our disabled men, if the matter be discussed freely. It is necessary that sound views should become universal; already some of us have a wrong idea of what a pension should be. Steps cannot be taken too soon to counteract any inclination towards a belief that a sturdy man should be able to rely upon his pension alone for his livelihood. The public-spirited