

Our success in financing the war within ourselves, was, I believe, a revelation to the people of this country. It demonstrated the fact that Canada was in the fight to the finish, and not only so, but one year after the signing of the armistice, the men and women of Canada again came forward with their money largely in excess of the amount requested by the Minister of Finance.

I think one would be justified in coming to the conclusion that the people of Canada have faith in the men who are guiding the destinies of the country in the most critical period of our history.

When Union Government was formed one of the promises made, was that returned soldiers would be given the preference of Government positions. In looking over the official records, I find that 338,137 officers and men have been demobilized. Of this number 23,532 men have been placed in positions in the different departments of the Government services, as follows:

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Mines	90
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Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment and Pensions	7,364
Soldiers' Settlement Board.....	1,107
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Since these figures were compiled 2,000 additional appointments of returned soldiers have been made or a grand total of 25,532.

In addition to this the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment have placed over 129,000 men in various positions outside of the Government services.

At the end of the year 12,327 men were receiving training in schools operated by the Department of Soldiers Civil Re-establishment, and at the same time 11,223 men were

receiving training in industries throughout the country.

In the Land Settlement Department 44,278 men have made applications for farms, of which 33,496 have qualified.

\$55,000,000 has been advanced by the Government for the purchase of farms and equipment, for those who have settled on the land.

\$125,000,000 has been paid out in gratuities to the returned man, and, \$40,000,000 has been appropriated to assist the unemployed soldiers during the winter months of the present year.

Up to December 31 pensions paid to returned soldiers and dependents total over \$41,000,000.

So I think it can well be claimed that the Government are carrying out their pre-election promises to the returned men.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no member in this House, who is not disposed to grant all reasonable assistance to the returned soldiers; the extent of our desire to assist is limited only by the ability of the country to pay. I do not hesitate to say that in my humble opinion, in view of our enormous financial obligations. Canada has been generous toward the returned men, and I believe a large majority of the returned men realize the situation and appreciate the fact that a grateful country has done what it could do to assist them. Personally, I do not take second place to any in my appreciation of our gallant forces and a desire to assist those who require assistance, but I have little regard for those who at the present time are endeavouring to exploit the problems of the returned men.

As the world is groping its way out of the horrors that engulfed it during the eventful years of the great war, many are depressed because the thing we call re-construction does not spring up in a night. There are some who appear to entertain the vain expectation that the countries which were scourged by the scorpions of war, and are heavily burdened with its indescribable consequences, ought to quickly emerge, and, as it were by magic, re-establish themselves in normal conditions. There are others, and these are not few in numbers who imagine themselves to be heaven born reformers, re-constructionists and prophets endowed with unfailing knowledge, of sure cure, and cure-all panaceas, that are warranted to immediately restore the world's social, industrial, commercial, and financial equilibrium, and make every man, woman, and child contented and happy.

I venture to think, Sir, that what we need to-day in this country, in common with