

## TO BRIDGE CHASM FOR SOLDIER BETWEEN WAR AND HIS PEACEFUL OCCUPATION

*Hon. Arthur Meighen, in Address at Winnipeg Speaks of Canada's Duty to Her Returned Fighting Man and what Schemes are Operating to Repatriate Him.*

[Continued from page 2.]

per month is fixed, so that a private with three years' service gets \$420, and if married, his separation allowance is \$180 as well, or a total of \$600. Then the Department of Civil Re-establishment, under which, by the way, the Board of Pensions and the Invalided Soldiers' Commission operate, are placing representatives in every labour bureau throughout Canada, which means in all towns of 10,000 or over and in any other useful point as well. These representatives are returned soldiers themselves in every case, and their duty is to join in the work of that bureau, to stimulate the co-operation of employees, to find out every soldier who needs work in the district and the kind of work he needs and where that work can be found, to visit him when he loses his position and seek him out another, and generally, with every assistance that the Government and Labour Department can give him, to prove himself a friend of the veteran, to stay by him until he is successfully launched in a permanent occupation, or until every effort that the state can make for its citizen has been conscientiously exhausted. Problem cases are handled with the assistance of an advisory council at each labour bureau and a central board at Ottawa will have full record of and will try its hand at every case that baffles the ingenuity of the local representatives.

"All the men overseas are divided into twenty-three occupational groups according to questionnaires which the soldiers themselves fill up, and every detachment for home is classified—so many experienced farmers, so many mechanics, so many for clerical work—each in accordance with information furnished by himself, and these facts are wired in advance to this dispersal area which the group itself has chosen. A representative of the re-establishment department comes across with the men, and right to the dispersal centre; another meets them there. At every point there is some one to advise and help. The Labour Department compiles from weekly reports from each industry and from its own special agents a prospective of industrial conditions in all lines and in all parts of Canada. This data is for the benefit of all, but by fixed policy the Department of Civil Re-establishment, on behalf of the returned soldier, has right of way. The veteran gets the preference. The field secretaries of this department and, as well, six field secretaries of the Great War Veterans' Association, all working in unison under a committee of council, are to be on the road continuously to see that these principles are followed and that the work is actually done. It is their business to report failures and it is the business of the committee to see that those failures are remedied.

### LAND SETTLEMENT.

"In the general scheme of re-absorption we have considered it sound policy to offer exceptional advantages to men who undertake land settlement. This is in line with traditional and well warranted Canadian policy. In previous wars the claims of soldiers have been recognized by inducements to take up land, and the general good is promoted by building as far as possible of our best human fibre into the basic industrial structure of our country.

"Under the Soldier Settlement Act of 1917, an additional homestead, a soldier entry it was called, was authorized for each man honourably discharged and for the widows of soldiers of the Canadian forces, killed in action. Loans up to \$2,500 were authorized on these homesteads and on privately owned land, such loans being re-payable by amortization

with interest at 5 per cent. Provision was also made for agricultural education. Under this Act, the available land within 15 miles of a railway, and all other lands falling in to the Crown and desired by the Settlement Board have been reserved. Up to date some 814 entries have been granted, loan and land regulations have been formed and 1,065 loans aggregating \$1,385,786 have been advanced. The area of suitable land, however, after as extended a survey as was within our power, does not appear adequate or nearly adequate to meet the requirements of any comprehensive scheme of settlement. Further plans therefore have been thought out. They have been discussed in conference with the Provincial Ministers and will be ready in good time for presentation to Parliament. The scheme is a big one and involves heavy responsibilities. We shall ask for authority to acquire privately owned land for soldier settlement by purchase or expropriation. We shall ask for the right to purchase from the provinces land that may be acquired by them, and of course the power rests with the provinces to enact such legislation as will prevent inflation of values by reason of Government purchases. This land will be sold to soldiers qualified for farming, and so passed by qualification Boards. The terms will be the most encouraging ever offered, the re-payments by amortization extending over 20 or 25 years with interest at 5 per cent. In addition advances will be made up to \$1,500 on equipment and \$1,000 on improvements and on the equipment advance interest for two years will be remitted. We shall ask for power to purchase equipment for re-sale at cost to soldiers. Plans for an extensive system of agricultural training, both overseas during demobilization, and in Canada, are already well under way.

### GUARDED BY STATE.

"In the common interest of the veteran and of the country the greatest care will be exercised in admitting candidates as settlers, so that the percentage of failures shall be confined to the lowest possible level. But when a man has been once passed as qualified he will be assisted, if desired, in the selection of land, in the planning of his buildings, in the purchase of his equipment, in the management of his farm, and the expenditure of all moneys loaned him by the State will be guarded with care. This system of supervision will continue as long as it can be of service to the veteran.

"I have outlined to you the activities and plans of three Departments of the Government in the programme of reconstruction—Re-establishment, Labour, and Interior. The Department of Immigration plays a part in taking care of the transportation home and welcome of the 35,000 to 50,000 women, wives and near relatives of our soldiers now overseas. An organization for this purpose is already complete. The Minister of Immigration presides also over a permanent committee of council, called the Repatriation Committee on which are represented all the activities which have to do with the return and rehabilitation of our veterans. The duty of the Committee is to direct and unify all these different agencies, voluntary, provincial and federal, to prevent overlapping, to supply defects, to superintend and supervise the whole. Mr. H. J. Daly one of our ablest business men is associated with them as Director of Repatriation and is doing splendid work. Acting with him is a Committee of the Great War Veterans, and an advisory Council of women. An illustration of the services rendered by this unifying body is the division of duties arranged at Halifax and at St. John for the care

## MEAT INDUSTRIES HAVE CAPITAL OVER \$85,000,000

Dominion Bureau of Statistics Have Completed Preliminary Census of Industry—Value of Production for 1917 was Over \$207,000,000.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics have completed a preliminary census of the meat industry in Canada for the year 1917, the statistics being compiled under the following heads:—

1. Slaughtering and meat packing with 69 plants.
2. Slaughtering not including meat packing with 10 plants.
3. Other related industries including sausage, sausage casings, tallow refined and beef extract with 11 plants.

The total capital invested in the industry was \$85,673,271, of which \$68,145,347 was in the first class, \$17,044,264 in the second and \$483,660 in the third class. The statistics of employees, salaries and wages by sex distribution are summarized in the following table for each of the above-named classes.

Class,	Employees on Salaries.			Employees on Wages.		
	Males.	Females	Salaries.	Males.	Females	Wages.
			\$			\$
Slaughtering and meat packing	1,486	375	2,211,683	6,218	687	5,772,545
Slaughtering not including meat packing.....	247	59	400,593	1,184	51	1,053,581
Other related industries.....	13	6	27,197	55	18	47,714
Total.....	1,746	440	2,641,473	7,457	756	6,873,840

### MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS.

The value of materials used in the production of meats for consumption was \$166,095,921, of which class (1) accounted for \$117,196,755; class (2) for \$38,669,565 and class (3) for \$229,601.

The value of production was \$153,279,252 in class (1), \$53,441,466 in class (2), and \$452,585 in class (3), or a total for all classes of \$207,173,303.

Itemizing the articles of production for value, fresh meats with \$79,586,596 occupies first place, cured meats with \$78,886,140 the second, various by-products with \$28,865,045 the third, and other food products with \$19,835,522 the fourth.

### EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The value of meats being the produce of Canada exported to all countries for the calendar year 1917 was \$77,119,877. Meats imported into Canada for consumption during the same period amounted to \$35,069,085, so that the total value of meats available for home consumption based on production and imports less amount exported, was \$108,106,329.

of the women on disembarkation at those ports. The Hospitals are managed by the Victorian Order of Nurses, the staff is provided by the Dominion Association of Nurses, the equipment by the Red Cross Society and the Rest Hostels, by the Y. W. C. A.

### PROBLEM GRAPPLED WITH.

"My purpose in this recital has not been to impress you with a sense of generosity of the provision made; we can only say that in the light of our experience to date, and of the extent of the responsibility, the scale of assistance is reasonably generous. But whatever the scale, the work is being done, the problem has been grappled with and the solution is well advanced.

"Any administrative machinery that a Government can set up, granting that it is adequate for the purpose in view will succeed only if that purpose reflects the considered unshakeable will of the great body of its people. Leadership is all right, organization is essential, but it is a million people, it is not a dozen that get results. Canada went into this war and made a success of it beyond her dreams, because the condition of overwhelming popular support obtained to a degree unprecedented in our history. We raised and re-enforced a great army and stopped at no sacrifice to do it. By the combined efforts of tens of thousands, we sustained the industrial structure at home as well as our forces abroad, and met in honour the calls of the needy. The sons of this country, conscious of the support of a great young nation stayed the conquering Hun at Ypres, made history in a hundred battles, never lost a flag or gun, and at Cambrai and Mons, drove the last nail in the coffin of Kaiserism. Such things this Dominion can do when

its mind is made up. We ended the millennium, having earned the seal of nationhood.

### "MUST HAVE WARM WELCOME."

"Emerson tells us that the wise ancients never rejoiced over a ship as she sailed with flying colours from port, but only over the brave vessel that came back with torn sheets and battered sides, stripped of her banners but having ridden out the storm. The Canadian Army in the long bloody trail from Ypres to Mons has ridden out the blackest storm that ever overhung this world. That army is coming home, and on the conscience of the Canadian people is the charge to give every man of them the warm welcome of warm hearts, the practical welcome of helping hands. Make use of every agency established for their benefit, use the bureaus, use the soldiers' aid commissions, use the War Veterans' Association. Give the veteran a position, a man's size position, the best position he can fill, make room for him as soon as you can. Exercise patience and encourage him, remember his handicap and don't forget his service. Remember, too, that the stuff is in him, that he has learned the lesson of courage, of tenacity, of endurance, and that all these will add to his value in time. Watch for the invalided man who is being trained in a new vocation, help to train him if you can; a dozen business institutions are doing that now. Make your wants known at the nearest bureau. Keep up the spirit of gratitude and welcome through every disappointment; do your bit to make good to these men; let us all get in line again the way we have done for four years, and the memory of the aftermath will not cloud the glory of the war."