

ing develops certain qualities of mind which make the repatriated veteran the soundest civic element in the state. Furthermore, these habits of thought, being positive, have left their permanent impress on the character and will influence the veteran's point of view throughout the remainder of his life. To demonstrate this let us further contrast the life of the youth as a private citizen and his life as a soldier on active service.

The Collective Point of View

It has been pointed out that a young man starts life as a civilian from the standpoint of self interest. He notes that this is the common basis for himself and for all those with whom he comes in contact, and from this standpoint he obtains his first view of the state and his duty to it. The state, in his mind, is something which exists to maintain his rights, to afford him protection, opportunity or even privilege and to which his duty is discharged by the payment of taxes and the observance of its laws. In theory, it is true, he subscribes to the law of eminent domain or the supremacy of the collective interest—but in practice and in thought he is a pure individualist.

Now observe the youth when he has been in the army for a few months, and note the complete reversal of his mental attitude. Previously he began with self interest, and on that narrow basis constructed his world including states, governments and international relations.

To-day, however, the old vague theory of the supremacy of collective interest is a living, vital