

prevent them from following. And that is not all, for employment is practically assured to them by the provincial commissions (under the Federal Military Hospitals Commission) which have charged themselves with the duty of finding work and wages for the returning veterans.

I should add, that the men in the homes and hospitals are fully maintained and that their pay continues. The whole system, which I have sketched in the barest outline, is quite admirable, and fully realizes the object of the Military Hospitals Commission which Mr. McLennan defines in these words:

"The aim of the commission is to do its best for the physical and economic well-being of the man, and to bring to bear on him such influences that he may perform for his country a service not less important than those of the firing line, namely, that, instead of being an idle ward of the State, he becomes a shining example to the young, of self-dependence, of courage, and perseverance in overcoming disabilities.

It would be an excellent thing if we had a system similar to this, and based upon the same sound principles, established in these islands.

• Rubs by Rambler. •

Appealing to householders—particularly the well-to-do—to economise in coal, gas and electric light, the National War Savings Committee state that every ton of coal saved means the saving of the day's work of a miner, the saving of money which could be lent to the nation, increased power to help our allies, and improvement in foreign exchanges.

All very good, but if the British government, when they had a magnificent chance, had been possessed of the necessary back-bone they could have saved to the country a hundred times any saving that can possibly be effected by fuel economy by taking the liquor trade by the horns and shaking the life out of it.

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Apropos of church union, which Rambler is forbidden to discuss, the following well expressed truths may be serviceable, more especially as they were not uttered by one directly interested in the agitation in progress in Canada. The embargo is lifted so far as to permit me to say, Hear, hear:

"It is useless to reiterate that our fathers claimed such and such things for the Scriptures, or that the 'standards' of any church are what they have been. Our fathers were as fallible as they were sincere; and when any 'standards' of any church are manifestly contrary to what is true, then the only religious and Christian as well as rational thing to do is to amend them according to the fuller light which now beats upon them."

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The one thing possibly I have against Sir Sam Hughes—one can smile at his peculiar picadillos—is that he did not put his foot down, go even on strike, when the British military authorities insisted that Canadian troops should have the "rum rations." A Montreal paper says that rum is the rawest kind of liquor, but Canadians object to the ration not because it is rum but because it is a fiery liquor. I had the idea that our soldiers could take

or leave the ration just as it suited them, but the following from a British paper puts an entirely different face on the matter. Can it be possible that the soldiers must gulp the ration willy-nilly? The matter should be sternly looked into. Allowance is made in Britain for those having conscientious objections to military service—the quakers for instance—why should not allowance be made to conscientious objectors to a rum ration—the teetotallers?

A short time ago a paper which holds that the government is largely responsible for increased prices because a war tax of seven per cent, was added to the tariff, clinches, as it supposed, its case by asking: "How does it happen that, in Britain, which has largely to import foodstuffs, living is cheaper than in Canada, which produces more than it consumes?" Go softly; such line of argument is antiquated. In Britain the four pound loaf is twenty cents, in Canada eighteen. Irish butter was selling four weeks ago at forty-eight cents a pound; four weeks ago in Canada it was selling at thirty-eight cents though the "new order" has since increased it to forty-five—not quite up to the price of Britain.

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Are people economising or are they not? This is more of a puzzle than a simple question. Judged by the attendance at the places of amusement, by the money spent on smart attire, by the higher style of living, by the number of automobiles speeding about, one might come to the conclusion that economy is no part of the present day creed, and yet he may be mistaken. I have it on good authority that, in certain industrial centres, there has, within the past eighteen months, been a notable increase in the number of savings bank depositors, and, further, that old depositors are adding largely to their credit balance in the banks. And yet for all this it is being dinned into our ears that the cost of living is so high that folk cannot make both ends meet. The lie is given seemingly to the wall about the impossibility of living at present incomes, not only by the large sums needlessly spent, but by the large sums being saved. If living never was so high then, of a truth, wages were never so big. It is just thirty years since there was a strike in Pictou County for the abolition of the rule, or custom, which fixed a laborer's wages at eighty to ninety cents a day. The strike was successful. At the present time there are calls, in the newspapers, for laborers at \$2.75 a day. Will some one reconcile the cry "inability to live with food prices so high," and the money being so freely spent on things extraneous. Let people talk as they will there never was a time in the province when there was less want than at the present. Are people spending too freely is a question demanding an answer. Some may answer they are in view of the uncertainty of the future not only after the war is over but while the war is on. Another question is: "Can the people as a whole economise further than they are doing?" With many I think the answer is, they can, and evidently our rulers are of that opinion, for the minister of finance has a scheme on hand whose object is the promotion of thrift, or for encouraging savings. He intends to issue war certificates, bearing a higher rate of interest than payable by the banks. These certificates will be for sums within the reach of people of small means. The war has touched many hearts. Can it