

When the soldiers returned to London on leave comfortable quarters in a Canadian environment were provided by the Government in the Maple Leaf Clubs. These clubs were largely financed by the Ontario Government at a cost of nearly one hundred thousand dollars.

Soldiers' Aid Commission

In the fall of 1915 the Soldiers' Aid Commission was created, and opened 205 branches. This Commission undertook to care for returned men and their dependents, Imperial army veterans and men discharged from Allied forces. Over 120,000 men have passed through the records of the Commission. A relief fund was provided to assist those in need. A total of 12,497 loans have been made, aggregating \$331,882. This Commission worked in co-operation with the Department of Labor, and has been successful in placing thousands of men in satisfactory positions. Ninety per cent. of all applicants have been satisfactorily placed. The Trades and Labor Department, which has now assumed this work, has established branch offices in every important city in the Province, and 40 per cent. of those in charge of those offices are members of organized labor and 50 per cent. returned soldiers.

The Government took up the problem of the men incapacitated by war service, and established a system of vocational training. This work was entrusted to the Commission, who organized a staff of experts to give free advice and instruction. In the three years that this vocational branch has been in operation 15,000 students have passed through the classes, and 5,358 have been trained for new occupations. Of the staff of 276 instructors the majority have seen active service.

A comfortable hostel for soldiers' children is maintained in Toronto. To deal with special cases of distress, a staff of women visitors has been organized whose duty it is to make personal calls and provide necessary advice and assistance. Over 10,000 visits have been made.

Soldiers, sailors and nurses below the age of twenty-one years were given the full electoral franchise. The Assessment Act was amended so that the homes of soldiers assessed for not more than \$3,000 could be exempted from taxation, and changes were made in the mining laws protecting soldier-prospectors against loss of their rights in mining claims and a generous extension for doing assessment work was allowed during the post-war period.

The soldiers' settlement at Kapuskasing provides agricultural training for those who desire to take up holdings in Northern Ontario. A fund is provided to make advances for stock and