

demobilized, and where he can be placed in a profitable occupation if the position which he held before enlistment is not open. Many of those who will come back to us are young men who, as has been said by a special correspondent of The Toronto Mail and Empire, enlisted from High Schools, colleges and universities, who had never worked and who have spent in the army the years in which they would have been making places for themselves. Many of forty years of age or over will come back after long service without money or occupation, and with initiative and energy impaired. "Leaders of thought in the army" says this correspondent "favor the return of men from Europe to immediate occupation in Canada. They fear the effect on the men of a long period of idleness. They are anxious that other fields of labor than agriculture should be provided. Farming will appeal to but a small percentage of the army. Years in the turmoil of war, its excitements and associations, is not the best of training for the quiet life of the prairie farm. Industrial expansion in Canada must come if the army is to be provided with occupation." After the Civil War the United States disbanded an army of over 1,500,000. But the Republic had a population of 30,000,000 or 31,000,000 while we have 7,500,000 or 8,000,000 people. In the North the army was re-established in civil life without any serious season of unemployment or any general social disturbance but we have proportionately a far graver industrial problem and very different social and political conditions.

A Great Debt

Not only will we have to provide occupation or support for 1,500,000 people but we will carry a tremendous financial obligation. Thus far the greatest revenue we have raised in any year was \$170,000,000. When the war is over in order to meet pensions, interest and the general purposes of government our

annual charge will be \$350,000,000 and possibly \$400,000,000. If we are to bear this load it is vital that the production of farm and factory should be increased, new industries created, old industries expanded, home markets enlarged and exports of manufactures and farm products multiplied. The Provincial Governments all across the country show a disposition to vote liberal appropriations for agriculture. A like disposition is manifested by the Dominion Government. In this field all the money necessary for research, experiment and production can be obtained and should be obtained. The fertile soil of Canada is its best asset. Those who live on the land give balance and steadiness to the social forces. As they are the most independent so they should be the most prosperous element in any country. Where agriculture is depressed and farmers impoverished there is neglect of duty by Government or grave defects in national policy.

Position of Farmers

No one who understands will contend that farming in Canada has been too profitable or that the appropriations of Governments for agriculture have been excessive or even adequate. It is merely offensive to suggest that war prices are any fair indication of the permanent returns from agriculture. It is unwise and unjust to argue that the prices which farmers obtain under war conditions have the flavor of profiteering. Merchants have not hesitated to advance prices of stocks in store or manufacturers to profit by rising markets and why should farmers not benefit by changing conditions which are the result of natural forces and not of any organized conspiracy against the public. No doubt some farmers have become comparatively wealthy. From a single season's crop great sums have been realized. But only a few years ago there was a complete crop failure over great areas in the West and perhaps as much