

### Important Plans Made By Province of Ontario To Aid the Returned Men

IN a recent address before the Social Service Congress at Toronto the Honorable G. Howard Ferguson, Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines in Ontario, spoke of the problems of providing for returned soldiers. Without any hesitation Mr. Ferguson declared that the class of citizens of the Empire deserved more generous, kindly, or sympathetic treatment than the men who had been fighting in the interest of the Allied cause; and no men had done as much for the Dominion of Canada.

There now lies before us the acute question of how to deal with these men on their return. The moral and social side is really of more importance than the material side. It is easy to furnish land and money for soldiers, but the moral problems will be the decisive factors in any future citizenship.

The Honorable Mr. Ferguson pointed out that Ontario would have a tremendous amount of responsibility to bear. Half of the men who were sent away from this Province, and in addition to these would be the great number of immigrants who would seek homes in this country when the war was over.

A new means of earning their livelihood would have to be provided for many of these men. Fortunately, in Ontario greater facilities existed for education and training than could be found anywhere else on the continent of America. The scheme proposed was embodied in the opening up of Northern Ontario. There was a dual advantage in putting the soldier on the land. In the first place it would assist in his rapid, moral, and material betterment and in the second it would increase agricultural production.

"With this end in view we thought it necessary to establish training schools on our demonstration farms. A selection system would be instituted so that each man might fit into his own particular niche."

The land would be divided into eighty-acre farms. Ten acres would be cleared off the front and assistance given to the men to erect buildings. The farms would be absolutely free, and the man would be paid for his services while preparing the land; money would be given him to buy stock, implements, seed, etc., and due provision would also be made to carry him over the period between seed time and harvest.

There was also the problem of the wife and family. Perhaps surprisingly, the Northern Ontario would be quiet at first, but the success of these efforts by the Government would depend largely on the social environment provided. It was proposed to introduce moving pictures, travel talks, and otherwise contribute to the social life of the community through the church and school, and develop forces that would bind the community together and create a spirit that would add to the contentment and prosperity of these people.

In addition to the foregoing announcement reference was made to the work of The Soldiers' Aid Commission appointed by the Ontario Government, of which the Honorable W. D. McPherson is chairman. It is expected that twelve thousand soldiers will reach Canada within the next few months. An average of seven hundred Ontario men have been coming back each month for some time. Sixty-five branch offices have been established by the commission in different centres, and these will be increased up to three hundred if the demand warrants it. During the past year work has been provided in the province for over two thousand men.

#### Vanity of the Papuans.

The natives of most primitive countries are vain, but the Papuans are particularly so, and though they wear next to nothing in the way of clothing, they love to spend hours greasing themselves like birds, combing their hair with long-toothed wooden combs and adorning the great mops with bright flowers, giving a most artistic effect. They also paint their faces with red and yellow pigments, in designs that are weirdly funny. In the remote mountains both men and women carry small grass bags containing their toilet requisites. Women, adds the writer in the February Wide World Magazine, who are recent widows or who are mourning for near relatives, blacken their already dark faces with a sable pigment or mud, which gives them a very strange appearance and makes them look so ugly that—especially in the case of widows—it very successfully keeps off lovers, thus ensuring a decent period of widowhood.

#### Other Press Gangs.

There is an old Scottish lament wrung from the hearts of white men, sent or sold into slavery in North and South America in the middle of the eighteenth century, which aptly describes the position of the Belgians to-day. One verse of it is:—

We art yokit in a plow, and wearied sair now,

In the land of Virginia, O,

Wit' the yoke upon our neck, till our hearts are like to brek,

And, O, but I'm weary, weary, O.

In "Kidnapped" Stevenson puts into the mouth of the sailor lad Ransome a reference to these unhappy slaves, who were either criminals, or innocent kidnapped, or trepanned, for private interests or vengeance. They were known to the seamen engaged in the traffic as "twenty-pounders," that being the usual price paid for their transportation.—London Chronicle.

### King Albert's Subjects, Once Prosperous and Free, Are Now Victims of Greed

GERMANY'S virtuous protestations that her deportation policy in King Albert's little country is a social necessity required by the conditions of unemployment arising from the British blockade are once more punctured, this time by the Belgian Minister at Washington, M. Havenith, who says that Germany herself is responsible for the prostrate state of Belgium industry.

The world knew this before, but it is well to have an authoritative statement from the Belgian representative at the American capital.

Not only did Germany overrun the little country in 1914, slaughtering innumerable civilians and lay waste populous towns, but ever since her initial outrages she has systematically sapped the life blood of the kingdom. Even now Belgium is paying a monthly war tax of eight million dollars—more than a quarter-million dollars a day. To what end? Why has Germany imposed this burden upon her?

Belgium has committed no wrong. She simply endeavored, at the time of the unlawful invasion of her territory, to protect herself. But, previous to the war, she had been pros-



KING ALBERT

perous, and Germany had no compunctions in compelling her to pay a levy on her material well-being. Whatever the explanation or subterfuge, the real reason is that Belgium has the money and Germany needs it.

As the Belgian Minister at Washington says, raw materials, machines, and tools have been "requisitioned" in Belgium and sent to German soil. The result of course is that industries have been hampered and unemployment has increased. General von Bissing, the Military Governor, has openly said that his business is to guard the interests not of Belgium but of Germany. This is the theory on which the occupation has rested from the first. It is the outworn medieval theory on which the whole German programme of conscienceless aggression is based.

Germany has deported more than 120,000 Belgian workmen. She professes to have taken only the unemployed, but there is an abundance of testimony to the contrary. Her methods, as well as the deportation itself, have been cruel in the extreme. M. Havenith does not enlarge on this point, but he might properly have done so. All he says is that the Belgian exiles except in a very few instances have refused to work for Germany and that "nearly every one of them has chosen rather the harsh treatment, the privations, the suffering, which he knew would be his lot, rather than aid Germany in her struggle against his brothers."

The more Germany "explains" the Belgian deportation, the worse her course appears. Her treatment of her defenceless neighbor has been from the beginning of the war, and still continues to be, a heartless record of unparliamentary and unforgettable greed.

#### House of Commons Shocked.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, in T. P.'s Journal, tells of a scene one night in the House of Commons, "caused by nothing greater than some form of beetle that had strayed on the floor of the House." The beetle was large, light in color; it fascinated and concentrated the attention of the whole House; it looked, indeed, almost as if it were some rattlesnake or some other noxious animal that benumbed its victims before it attacked them. And just as the House was engaged in this extraordinary forgetfulness of its real business there walked up the floor of the House a daring member; he saw the beetle or whatever the ugly and affrighting thing was, and trampled on it with a particularly broad and thick-soled boot. At once there rose from the whole House a groan of disapproval, and the poor member had to hurry to his seat, abashed and pursued by this chorus of disapproval.

#### Red Cross in Schools.

Proposals to establish a course in Chicago high schools in military work for girls, teaching them to act as Red Cross nurses and first-aid workers, is under consideration by the local board of education as an adjunct to the plans for military training for school boys, now under way. If the plans are accepted by the board of education all the work will be done by the women teachers.

### THE THEATRE IN JAPAN.

How Playgoers Are Entertained in Far East.

The revolving stage, hardly more than an experiment in Europe and America, has been in use by the Japanese for centuries, while the runway, which is rarely seen here except in a musical play, is a necessary adjunct of almost every drama in Japan. Such are among the observations of Percy Burton, an English theatrical manager, who has been traveling in the Far East.

"A leading actor in Japan is well off if he receives \$1,500 a year," declares Mr. Burton, "and lesser players are proud to be attached to a star's company, quite apart from the matter of salary, so long as they receive their daily rice."

"The Japanese audience expects full value for its money and usually four, five, or six plays of varying length and style are performed in a single afternoon and night, drama being interspersed with farce and musical comedy or dancing."

"The spectators squat on their haunches or recline at their comfort, but are enthusiastic enough when their attention is aroused by the discomfiture of the villain or the frequent murders which take place, none being too bloody for the sanguinary loving Japanese people, who will cry with apparently greater facility than he can laugh, and applaud as vigorously as an Italian opera enthusiast."

"Nor does the scenery leave much of anything to be desired, both interior and exterior scenes being on realistic lines and wonderfully well designed and executed. One, in fact, of a bamboo grove, with rushes waving and whistling in the wind, and with flowing water, I have not seen excelled. Sometimes, it is true, a carpenter coming on with a hammer, will destroy the illusion of a scene if it is not quite finished when the circular stage revolves."

### Munition Workers' Diseases.

The high pressure under which the production of munitions has had to be performed has brought with it destructive maladies. These are particularly noticeable in connection with the manufacture of high explosives. Thus, in handling trinitrotoluol after a prolonged period one becomes drowsy, suffers from frontal headache, loss of appetite, and may even become afflicted with a distinctive eczema. Unless the operative takes a rest in time jaundice may supervene, with decided danger to life. In a few instances death has been directly traced to the handling of the explosive.

Tetryl throws off a slight dust, which, unless timely precautions are taken, leads to troublesome eczema. Another medium inimical to health is the varnish with which the wings and bodies of aeroplanes are treated. Tetra-chlorethane enters largely into the preparation of this varnish, and this throws off a noxious vapor which produces drowsiness and loss of appetite, and if work is persisted in ultimately jaundice, liver complications, and coma. In this case an alternative varnish has been discovered which is free from the evil constituents; but it has not come into general use for the simple reason that there are insufficient supplies of the necessary ingredients to meet demands.

## Canada and the Beef Problem



WITH the price of beef and other meats coming to Toronto under the heaviest of heights, and every newspaper carrying stories about the future prices of boots and shoes and other articles made of leather, there may be a modicum of comfort to be taken from the fact that the farmers and ranchers of Western Canada are during the short periods when the weather might otherwise be too severe. There are several large flocks in the west, and the success that the owners of these have met with has prompted the smaller farmers to start flocks. As an excellent price was obtained for wool this year, ranging as high as 36 cents a pound, and averaging ten pounds of wool per animal, the industry thus received another impetus. One sheep owner in Alberta was offered \$12.00 per head for his entire flock of 6,000 head. He refused the offer and also another of \$7.50 per head for 1,800 lambs. A short time after refusing these offers he purchased another 500 ewes.

The report estimates that there are at present 2,648,354 cattle in the three western provinces, 545,769 being milch cows and the balance beef and other cattle. This shows an increase of nearly 15 percent over 1913, and also the very large number of beef cattle that have been marketed during the past couple of years must be taken into consideration. Many large war orders were filled in Western Canada.

The Dominion and Provincial Governments and the Canadian Pacific Railway, through its Agricultural and Animal Industry Branch, have all aided the farmers in every possible way, and have published broadcast literature showing the best results that have been obtained on the various experimental and demonstration farms. The Canadian Pacific has several of these farms throughout the West, with an expert in charge of each, and at every cattle sale these farms are represented by animals of a very high class, both for breeding, milch and beef animals. The experts in charge of these farms will at all times aid in any way they can the farmer who seeks advice with reference to the best stock to go in for and also the proper way to secure the greatest results.

As an instance of the demand for good breeding stock, eighty-one head of short-horn cattle realized \$27,000 at a sale recently held at Calgary, Alta. The top price obtained was \$885, which was paid for a thoroughbred bull.

When it is known that 65 of these animals were under eighteen months old, it will be seen that they were a fine lot of animals. While there is no prospect of an immediate reduction in the price of meat as a result of the increased interest displayed by the farmers of the west, the patries of the Canadian West have unlimited room for the raising of all kinds of livestock, and with the farmers taking a greater interest in livestock than ever before, Canada is destined to play a large part in solving the meat problem which the world now faces, and which is likely to become still more acute at the close of the war when European countries will be buying animals to replace their herds, while the average price was \$340, and when it is known that 65 of these animals were under eighteen months old, it will be seen that they were a fine lot of animals.

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