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## The Beaver : A Live Weekly for Canadians Overseas.

LONDON : JANUARY 18th, 1919.

EDITORIAL OFFICES :  
49 Bedford Square, W.C. 1.

### THE LAND.

The informing articles which we have already published regarding the Dominion Government's land settlement policy will have been read with interest by all returning soldiers, whether they intend to take it up or are merely resuming their commercial or industrial occupations. The future of the world lies with agriculture. The Great Upheaval has turned the attention of Governments and peoples everywhere to the value of the products of the soil. "Harvest" has become the magic work on every tongue. Without food nations would perish. The war has at least shown how thin a wall there is between plenty and starvation, and "back to the land" is more than ever an insistent cry. Canada is pre-eminently and predominantly an agricultural country, and her illimitable acres, so many millions of which are still untilled, are only waiting for the tickling plough to laugh giant crops. There must of necessity be conditions in regard to Settlement, but these have been made as easy as is consistent with security and the safeguarding of the interests of Government and settlers. Whether a man selects the East or the West as his future home matters little so long as he makes up his mind and understands fully what his engagements involve. It is largely a question of taste, inclination and fitness. Some will do better in the West where there is the stir and movement of large wheat propositions, banner crops, and big scale returns. Others the East, with mixed and fruit farming, stock raising, and the proximity of town and city markets. The East will be considered too slow for the pushing personality, eager to make a splash; the West too strenuous for the comparatively easy-going and phlegmatic temperament, persevering and plodding rather than dashing and enterprising. East is East and West is West, and each has much to offer which on balance makes one Province as good as the next. "You pays your money and you takes your choice." Only in this instance it is the Government who pays, for the distinction which makes this scheme unique is that financial assistance and the advice of expert farmers are to be placed at the disposal of those who take it up. Advances are provided on a generous scale and on a strictly business basis. It is one of the first conditions, however, that a man must possess the physical and temperamental capacity to reasonably succeed. Farmers—at least Canadian farmers—are more often made than born. Some break in the making, others make in the breaking. The instinct to till the soil, however, seems to be inherent in every Britisher, and the passion to "run a bit o' land" is easily roused. Unlikely beginners often make a most astonishing and successful finish, and the race is not always to the swift. THE BEAVER's advice to all and sundry is to go home and be somebody by taking up land.

### FOR REFLECTION.

When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farms therefore are the founders of human civilization.—Daniel Webster.

## SPEEDING-UP DEMOBILIZATION

Great Increase in War Service Gratuities :  
Free Passage Home for Dependents.

The Office of the Ministry of the Overseas Military Forces of Canada, has issued a most important statement in regard to the Demobilization of the Canadian troops overseas, and a new scheme for substituting the old post discharge pay by a system of War Service Gratuities on a sliding scale in accordance with length of service. Provision is also made for the return to their homes in Canada, at Government expense, of all dependents of all Officers, Warrant Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces sent to Canada for Demobilization.

As the schemes for War Service Gratuities and the return of dependents are retroactive, that is to say that all ranks who have already been discharged in Canada prior to the 11th November, 1918, and have served at the front in an actual theatre of war, will be placed on the same basis as those still to take their discharge, and all dependents who have paid for their passages home since November 11th, 1918, will have their fare refunded; these generous arrangements will be hailed with the liveliest satisfaction by the Overseas troops and their families, especially as an assurance is given that the Demobilization Scheme is being carried out with the utmost possible speed. The official statement is as follows :—

### Demobilization.

Deeply appreciative of the devotion, heroism and cheerfulness with which all ranks of the Canadian Expeditionary Force have carried out their duties during their service overseas, the Government of Canada is bending all its efforts to securing the utmost despatch in the Demobilization of the O.M.F.C., and the return of officers and men together with their dependents, now overseas, to their homes in Canada.

It is recognised that the period of waiting for discharge is necessarily a trying one, and all ranks are invited to co-operate with the Government in establishing during this period a fresh record for that splendid discipline and cheerful adherence to duty which has won for the Canadian troops as high a respect as their achievements in the field.

It should be realized that the speed of Demobilization largely depends upon transport facilities in France, and it is hoped that due credit will be given to both the French and British Authorities there for the efforts, and even sacrifices, they are making to secure the speedy return of Canadian troops to their homes.

The return of Canadian troops has already been greatly speeded up and the return of soldiers and their dependents to their homes in Canada will be further expedited as soon as the advent of Spring makes navigation possible in the St. Lawrence River.

Many officers and men have relatives in England whom they may wish to see before their return home and arrangements will be made for such meetings where they are desired.

### War Service Gratuities.

As a mark of gratitude on the part of the people of Canada to the troops who have so long and so gallantly carried out their duties Overseas the Government has decided to abolish the old Post Discharge Pay and introduce War Service Gratuities on a scale more commensurate with the services which have been rendered.

(Continued on page 10).