

THE RETURNED SOLDIER

It is good to see in print proposals dealing with the subject of the provision of means which will secure employment for the members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, on their return to Canada. A plan has been submitted by the secretary of the military hospitals commission and it deals also with the question of re-educating those who are unable to follow their previous occupations, because of disability. The presence of the few Canadian soldiers who have already returned disabled from the front, has indicated that the problem is important and will become more complex as the war progresses and finally when peace comes. Mr. E. H. Scammell, secretary of the military hospitals commission, has submitted a business-like report. He divides into the following four classes those who return from the battle-fields:—

- 1.—Able-bodied men for whom the situations and positions left have been kept open by patriotic employers.
- 2.—Able-bodied men who were out of work at the time of enlistment or who have been superseded in their absence; and invalided and wounded men similarly situated who will become able-bodied after a period of rest in a convalescent home.
- 3.—Invalided and wounded men who are unable to follow their previous occupation by reason of their disability, but who will be capable after proper training, to take up other work.
- 4.—Men who are permanently disabled, and who will be unable to earn their living under any circumstances.

With respect to the first class, no responsibility seems to rest upon the people of Canada. Regarding the second class, Mr. Scammell says that definite machinery should be installed so that situations may be found for all able-bodied men at a remuneration as near to that which they were previously receiving as possible. He suggests that a commission be appointed in each province to take charge of the questions of employment and vocational education. The procedure of these commissions is outlined.

One of the most important recommendations respecting group two, is the following:—

- 1.—That the department of the interior and the provincial governments be asked to arrange for land to be placed at the disposal of the commission in order that those who would like to do so, may become farmers. It would be well to devise a plan of community farming under the direction of an expert agriculturalist. The assistance of the Canadian Pacific Railway and other organizations which have made a special study of the system of ready-made farmers, might profitably be secured.
- 2.—That the provincial governments be asked to arrange for a credit system which will enable men without capital who desire to go on the land, to take up free grants and to develop the same, or in those provinces in which no free land is available, to acquire it at a reasonable price.

It is thought, and with some justification, that a large proportion of the men who return from the front will want to do pioneer work of an agricultural nature in Northern Ontario, the Western provinces and elsewhere. When a man has left his desk for military duties, the return to civil duties is often to the land instead of to the desk.

The returned soldier who wishes to farm should be given every facility by public authorities. He should be at work upon his farm within a week of the request. It will make him a citizen of value. His share in greater production will be commenced.

In regard to the third group, Mr. Scammell suggests that those, who by reason of physical disability, are unable to follow their previous occupations, should be the wards of the country until such time as they are able to earn sufficient to keep them. They should be given an opportunity to learn a new trade. Mr. Scammell outlines the ways and means.

A number of those of class four who return will be permanently incapacitated from earning their own living. At the same time, many of them may be able to do a little work. These, it is suggested, should be given an opportunity of going to a permanent soldiers' home where light occupations may be provided.

The entire scheme seems to have been carefully planned but immediate action should be taken to put in motion at an early date, what must be complex machinery for materializing the scheme. There should be no expensive and ungracious delays for the Canadian soldier on the part of the Canadian nation, when that soldier returns. He has given up almost everything in order to fight for the cause and for the welfare of those who have remained at home. The smallest reward is to give the returned soldier an opportunity to earn a livelihood, and if disabled, an opportunity to rest.

ROMAN LEGACIES

Why do government printers continue to use Roman numerals in government blue books? Are not the plain 1, 2, and 3 good enough? Or is it thought that the musty flavor of the average blue-book is aided by the ancient hieroglyphics? And how many of us can tell off-hand, without unnecessarily wasting brain tissue, what these are: clxxxi., cxliv., cxxxviii., lxxviii.?

STORE ADVERTISING

Two weeks ago, attention was drawn in these columns to an attack upon Mr. F. B. McCurdy, M.P., Halifax, which appeared in a Sydney paper in the departmental store advertisement of Crowell's, Limited. Part of a similar advertisement in a later issue is devoted to further bitter criticism of Mr. McCurdy, Canadian participation in the Anglo-French loan, and to the recent comments of *The Monetary Times*. Our statement that for Canadians to subscribe to the loan would be a highly undesirable course, is used by Crowell's, Limited, to describe the Anglo-French loan as "a highly undesirable issue to the public."

The departmental store people say also: "Why the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden should continue to allow this man (Mr. McCurdy) to dominate the council of the conservative party in Nova Scotia, is a question that even so great an authority as *The Monetary Times* fails to answer." The reply to this is that *The Monetary Times* is not and never has been in politics. Our protest was against a vicious attack on Mr. McCurdy, a protest which would have been made whatever the political color of any man attacked in such a manner.