

RECONSTRUCTION AND LABOR

Agricultural Opportunities for Returning Men—New Control of Industry—Housing Inadequate

Speaking before the Canadian Club in London, Ontario, on November 29th, Sir John Willison urged resumption of work on the Welland Canal, reclamation of land, and the development of hydro-electric power by the government. Regarding problems incident to the return of peace, he said:—

"I hope the soldiers who have come back and those who are returning will display in civil life the same splendid qualities which they displayed at the front, and that during the reconstruction period they will lend their fullest co-operation, as we need all their wisdom to devise plans for their well-being and that of Canada. As yet these plans have not been completed. Provisions for those going on the land have been made, consisting of 260 acres and a grant of \$2,500 awarded under certain conditions to those engaging in agriculture. A case which had to be dealt with in one of the cities of the Canadian West a few weeks ago serves to show the extensive provision that must be made to reinstate the men in civil life. Two young men had returned from the soldiers' settlement board. One of these who before enlisting had been a farmer on being informed that he was entitled to a piece of land and money, was well satisfied. The other, a harness-maker, who had given up his business to go to war, came back to nothing, and in appearing before the board found there was no assistance for him. This is only one of the many cases showing the absolute necessity of devising a system of cash credit for men whose businesses have gone to pieces by their absence at the war, just to the same extent as provision is made for those who go on the land. There will be many such who will come back to nothing. At whatever cost, it is essential that everything be done for these men.

Capital and Labor.

"I want to speak particularly about the relation between labor and capital. During the next few weeks or months between 300,000 and 350,000 soldiers will be returning. In all there are one million two hundred thousand people who have been working on munitions and other war contracts, including soldiers, who will have to be provided with employment and re-established in civil life. This is the supreme problem, but if we display the same courage, faith and confidence as we did during the four years of war, we need have no apprehension for the future. It is essential during the reconstruction period that the best relations exist between capital and labor, employers and employees.

"Labor in the future will demand recognition. The old antagonism between employer and employee must go. Labor disputes arise not so much from the matter of wages, but rather the uncertainty of employment. One of the saddest things is for a man with a wife and family to support, who is deprived of a job to earn his daily bread. Continuity of employment is the great thing to assure him that he will not be thrown on the street, whether conditions are good or bad.

Joint Control of Industry.

"This difficulty can be solved only by appointing for every industry joint committees representing those of labor and those who direct it. Lord Milner, at a recent dinner of the National Association of Employers and Employees, said: 'The spirit of fellowship between men of different classes is more important than any machinery in the world.' In Great Britain already 30 joint industrial committees have been formed. By this system all strikes and differences are prevented. If we can create that spirit in Canada, we will not only have an end to strikes and lockouts, but contentment and better social conditions.

"Another vital matter for consideration is the housing problem in Canada. The housing is inadequate, in view of the 350,000 soldiers who are returning, the wives and families of whom in many cases having doubled up in their absence. It is the immediate duty of the governments to devise a scheme of housing. The Ontario government has made provision for cheap money to take care of this situation and, I believe, ten millions is being provided by the Dominion government. This matter, however, should be taken up by the municipalities. It is the duty of London and all other Canadian cities to take immediate action with their government."

CROWN LIFE

At the present time many wealthy men are increasing their life insurance by tremendous amounts. Are you equally prudent? There is a Crown Life Policy to give any desired degree of protection.

Let us send you some new Insurance facts

Crown Life Insurance Co., Toronto

Agents wanted in unrepresented districts

6
5

War Conditions — Liberal
Premiums — Recently Reduced
Agency Contracts — Profitable

AGENTS WANTED

Gresham Life Assurance Society

LIMITED

Head Office for Canada

MONTREAL

Established 1848.

Funds Exceed \$50,000,000



THE
EXCELSIOR
INSURANCE LIFE COMPANY

A Strong Canadian Company

Established 1889.

Assurances over \$26,000,000.00

Write for particulars of our New
Protection and Savings Policy.

HEAD OFFICE—

EXCELSIOR LIFE BLDG., TORONTO.

Agents, Are You Satisfied?

We have one or two choice vacancies for District Managers in Western Ontario. If you are ambitious to improve your position, and grow with a strong, progressive Canadian Life Insurance Co. write in confidence.

H. A. KENTY, Superintendent of Agencies

THE CONTINENTAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

TORONTO, ONTARIO

Ask the Subscription Department
about our Special Book Offer