

trial assistance we have been to the empire.

I hold that any similar assistance given to shipbuilding now will have the same effect. Not only the maritime provinces will be benefited; the grain growers of the west will equally profit.

Canada has spent hundreds of millions to fetch her grain to the seaports. But there she has stopped. There is one all-important point and it is one which westerners as a whole do not realize: The hauling of grain to Montreal, St. John and Halifax is not getting it out of the country—but merely to the gateway. We must get it across the Atlantic. Anything the government can do to aid shipbuilding would be as much to the benefit of the west as the east. Western papers could do much to assist in the education of their readers in this respect. The western farmer is inclined to say, "Oh this scheme is in the interests of the maritime provinces," just because it is shipbuilding. Such reasoning is wrong. The western provinces have just as much to gain as the maritimes, although the latter must take all the risks incidental to a new venture.

ANOTHER FOR BORDEN.

The following "unsolicited testimonial" should be of interest to the notorious Mr. Gadsby, most devoted friend (?) of the present government:

The London Daily Chronicle, the leading Liberal journal of the Imperial Capital, gives the most prominent place in its issue of Oct. 4 to the following spontaneous and remarkable appreciation of Canada's method of restoring disabled soldiers to active and self-supporting citizenship. In this article the well-known writer, Mr. J. Saxon Mills, goes so far as to suggest that the Mother Country in dealing with this problem might follow the example of the dominion. He says:

One of the most difficult questions England has to face at present is how to deal with the broken men who are now streaming in from the battle-fronts. The adequate answer to that question has not yet been found. It is not even certain that the main principles which should be observed in solving the problem are yet fully grasped. For example, we are in danger of thinking that our responsibility for the wounded soldier is fulfilled when he is no longer fit for military service, and when he is pensioned and discharged from the army. When thus discharged he loses the benefit of the special treatment provided while he remains in uniform, and he is at once thrown upon the lists of the already over-worked panel doctors. This will not do at all. The nation has a larger and longer responsibility to its disabled veterans than that. It may be useful to notice how Canada deals with the problem. We may learn much from the admirable system which has been established by the dominion government.

How Government Intervened.

By an order in council, dated June 30, 1915, the Canadian government formed, at the instance of Sir Robert Borden, a Military Hospitals and Convalescent Homes Commission, "to deal with the provision of hospital accommodation and military convalescent homes in Canada for officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Canadian expeditionary force who returned invalided from the front." The very able president of that commission is Sir James A. Loughheed, and it has an efficient and enterprising secretary in Mr. E. H. Seammell. The commis-

sion has learnt much by experience, and is today undoubtedly working on right lines. At first, the general idea was that convalescent homes, where discharged soldiers would spend a short time for rest and refreshment, would be the chief requirement, and scores of houses and hundreds of workers were placed at the disposal of the commission. But this idea was soon dispelled when it was found that the treatment of the disabled soldiers was a more serious and lengthy business. Months or even weeks spent in the atmosphere of such a home would tend to injure rather than strengthen the physical and moral fibre. Let us hear what J. S. McLennan, a member of the commission, has to say on this subject in his introduction to the commission's special bulletin:

"The supply of comforts which in many cases were luxurious, the relaxation of discipline, the treating of men as one treats a civilian patient in the interval between illness and the resuming of ordinary occupation, which might do no harm if the experience was to be counted in days, are most seriously detrimental to the best interests of the men when extended over the prolonged periods which have been found unavoidable. The first conception the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. grant their men of the homes was that they were places of relaxation; the right one which experience has taught us to realise is that they are places of rehabilitation. In other words, we are changing as rapidly as may be our convalescent homes into hospitals where, in the interests of the men, their time will be fully occupied, their physical restoration made as perfect as possible, and, from the beginning, the bad effects of idleness obviated by employment."

These are golden words which those who are responsible for our wounded veterans will do well to remember.

It would be interesting to follow the history of a few typical cases of Canadian soldiers wounded in the battle lines. Of course, the injured man may be cured and return to the front; but his case may be hopeless, so far as his military fitness is concerned, and he may have to be sent back to Canada. When he arrives there he is taken in hand at the port of arrival by the Military Hospital Commission. If he belongs to Class I., that is, if he is unfit for overseas service, but able to take up his former occupation, he receives 15 days' pay and transportation to his home, together with free meals en route. If he belongs to Class II. or III., that is, if he has to receive further treatment as a convalescent, or has a permanent disability of any kind, he is passed on to the appropriate institutions. If he is an ordinary convalescent he will be sent to the hospital nearest his home; but if he requires special, such as orthopedic treatment, he will go where that is supplied.

The Educational Feature.

What I wish especially to emphasise is that at all these hospitals, schools are held where training of an elementary and non-vocational character is given in English, French, mechanical drawing, arithmetic, wood-carving, &c. These classes are open to all inmates, whether they are able to return to their former occupations or not. But, from these homes and hospitals, the men who are not so able can be sent on, after they have been pensioned and discharged, to technical institutions, agricultural colleges, schools of telegraphy, &c., where they can be taught new occupations which their disablement does not