

The Public's Duty in Repatriation

The close of the war has brought Canada face to face with a task not less in magnitude than the greatest of those accomplished by her during the last four years. That task is the re-establishment or re-absorption of her citizen army into the national life. The responsibility for the performance of our whole duty to those who have so well performed the highest duty to the state rests not alone upon governments—Dominion, Provincial or Municipal—but uniformly and squarely upon every adult Canadian citizen, including the re-established veteran himself. Without the full acceptance of this responsibility by citizens generally, and without their entire and intelligent co-operation, the best and most wisely administered government policy must inevitably fail of the highest results.

That the majority of our discharged soldiers will re-establish themselves by their own unaided efforts may be taken for granted. In any army so large in proportion to the whole population, however, as is the Canadian army, the percentage of failure is vital, and the inability to succeed of twenty, fifteen, or even ten percent, becomes a matter of supreme national importance. Our moral obligation to ourselves, the highest interests of the men, and the