

THE PROBLEM OF THE DISABLED SOLDIER

NEXT after fighting, the question which most concerns warring nations is "How are Soldiers and Sailors to be returned to Civilian Life?" That this question is exercising the belligerent governments is evident from the number of allusions made to it by public men and by the number of publications dealing with it. It is an interesting commentary upon the nature of the question and upon its importance that the warring nations have adopted measures that are almost identical. Differences in the measures adopted depend not upon any fundamental difference in the principles underlying them, but upon differences in the social organization of the nation for which they are designed.

When the war ends, armies will be disbanded. Each of the nations has plans for demobilization. The problem dealt with is a difficult one; upon its correct solution much depends. It is, for many reasons, of great national importance that men should find a satisfactory place in civilian life so soon as they are no longer needed as soldiers. The volume of men returning to Canada for whom channels to civilian life must be opened is small at present; from now on, it will increase steadily until some months after Peace is signed. Then it will diminish. It will cease when the last of the store-keepers, record-makers, paymasters and odd-job men of our army is at home.

Profitable discussion of measures by which soldiers may be replaced quickly in civilian life cannot be commenced until the principles governing those measures are clearly understood. After a very short consideration of the question, it is seen that three factors are of decisive importance in the conduct and design of the measures by which provision will be made for the return of Canadian soldiers to their places