

be near their beloved ones. The Government paid the expense to bring these dependents back to their homes in different parts of Canada.

#### The Dominion Government and Land Settlement

The Dominion Government has embarked upon an extensive system of settling soldiers on agricultural lands throughout Canada, particularly in the Prairie provinces. Local boards for handling the moneys and inspecting the properties were established at various centres. Competent practical men inspected the land before purchase, title being placed in the name of the board. Buildings are constructed for the proposed farmer and he is assisted in the purchase of cattle, horses and agricultural machinery. The work is so vast and the purchases in such enormous quantities that the very cheapest prices prevail. The returned citizens repay the amount expended on his farm over a period of forty years with interest at the low rate of 4 per cent and during the first two years he has no payments to make either for principal or interest so that every opportunity is given for the man to make good. If the man is not already qualified as a farmer he is given a special training and a monthly allowance on which to live to enable him to secure the necessary qualifications.

To date over 41,000 settlers have qualified under the Act involving the expenditure on the part of the Government of \$57,000,000. In the western provinces settlers may secure free soldiers' grant entry for quarter sections of the Dominion Crown lands and in certain cases may secure an additional quarter section. Already over 6,000 soldiers have acquired lands in this way.

#### Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment.

This department carries out perhaps the most important work in the solution of the problem of re-establishment because its activities cover medical services to the men, both under treatment and in recurrences of all sorts of ailments. It has charge also of the vocational training of men to prepare them for new lines of work which are necessary owing to disabilities received overseas, and the Department further has, as a special work, the placing of these men in touch with opportunities for employment or for establishment in business. The magnitude of this work will be understood when it is noted that it requires a staff of over 8,000 members for administrations.

One hundred and four hospitals and sanatoria have been established in Canada to care for the blind, the insane, the tubercular, the cripple, the epileptic, feeble-minded and problem cases. The accomplishments along medical lines in this work have been marvellous and particularly the great care taken in preparing blinded heroes to face life by industrious pursuits. Medical services of every variety are provided by the Government at no expense to the man. If, after discharge from the army, there is a recurrence of the disability due to service, the man is treated free of charge. During treatment the men are allowed certain pay and allowances for their maintenance.

#### Vocational Training and Results.

Many of the men returning find it impossible to go back to their old positions either on account of disabilities or for other reasons. The result was that an elaborate organization was prepared to re-train men for other work either by giving them skilled trades such as carpenters, printers, machinists, etc., or else if they were already skilled in some occupations to build on that foundation. During the period of this re-training the returned man receives a sufficient payment monthly, usually for a period of six months, to maintain himself and his wife and family. Since the commencement of the work 55,000 men have received training and benefits in this splendid undertaking. The results have more than justified the heavy expenditure in carrying on this work. It is found that 68

per cent of the men who were trained in new occupations are now actually employed in those new occupations while the balance are either ill or went back to their old vocations. In January last 10,000 men had graduated while the number attending classes was 24,000.

#### A Notable "Follow Up" System.

Canada introduced and organized what is known as the "Following-up and after care section," a department not existing in any of the allied countries. Its duty was to receive a notification a month before a man was to graduate in order to secure him a position, to place him in the position and then to see that it was suited to him and that he was making a success of his work there. This department keeps track of the wages received, relationship of the men with their employers, fellow-workmen and trade unions and generally follows up the training which they have received to make them useful and happy citizens of the country. These men receive free medical treatment during their course of training.

#### Canada's Place in Pension Awards.

In regard to the matter of pensions—the most important duty which rests upon the Government of any country—it is gratifying to know that of all the countries in the world, the pensions allowances given by the Dominion of Canada stand the highest. This is not noted boastfully because we may hold that even these pensions are not sufficient for such a worthy body of returned citizens. Taking the basis of the private without wife and dependents, the total disability award in pensions per year for Canada, Australia, United States, France and Great Britain as at July 1919, are as follows:

France .....	\$240.00
Great Britain .....	351.00
United States .....	360.00
Australia .....	379.00
Canada .....	600.00

Since July last there have been further increases so that a private now receives \$720.00 a year and the widow \$690.00. Comparatively generous allowances are made for each additional child. In Canada the first child receives \$144.00; the second \$120; and subsequent children \$96 each. The latest returns show that 175,906 persons are in receipt of assistance under the Pensions now in force in Canada. Of these it is sad to note that over 10,000 are widows and 17,000 children. The expenditure for pensions in Canada amounts to approximately \$26,000,000 annually, the pensioners being in nearly every country under the globe; some 35,000 residing in the United States.

#### THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE

I have been referring to the present and the past, but what of the future? What of our duty to those 56,000 Canadians and millions among the Allies whose illustrious souls watch over us for whom they gave their lives? They fought, suffered and died that justice, righteousness and democracy might live. Duty like death enters every abode and delivers its message; conscience, like reason and judgment is immortal. There is a spirit in men, there is a spirit in Canada and the British Empire. That spirit finds expression in the activities of Britishers throughout the world as they endeavor today, and have endeavored in past history, to evolve into a living force the basic principles of British statemanship on which the Empire is endeavoring to build the super-structure of service to its citizens and to the civilized world.

May God make us worthy and strengthen us in our duty to those immortal defenders of civilization who in the terrible War fought and died in the performance of that great Rotarian principal "Service, not Self."