

throughout the whole of Nova Scotia had local committees been formed, and but for the fact that the Mining and Steel Making Companies at Sydney could absorb all the returned men that could be sent to them, there would have been a bad break-down in regard to this issue in that Province.

In Quebec and Montreal, owing to the comparatively small enlistment from these cities and the demands for transient labor, the problem presented no serious difficulty to those entrusted with the working out of the schemes there, but in Ontario it had been up to that time a grave matter, and Mr. W. D. MacPherson, one of the Members of the Provincial Legislature for the city, who represented the Ontario Government as head of the Employment Commission, informed me when I sought his views, that the problem had very grave aspects and that when the war was over he feared it would be a tremendous one, but that owing to the steady increase in the number of factories engaged in making munitions and the demand for men who could adapt themselves to this form of work, it was being solved for the present. I did not go into the Western Provinces, but at the sessions of the Military Hospitals Commission we had representatives from the Western Provinces and they informed me when I inquired of them as to what was being done, that the problem was not worrying them at all. In Alberta, for instance, they had 380 local committees in as many towns and villages, and not alone had every man returned been employed but they could find places for hundreds, if not thousands, of others. The explanation, of course, of this is very simple. The Western Provinces had enlisted much more largely than the East-

ern and had depleted the labor market utterly. Then, following the departure of this vast number of able-bodied young men for the fighting fields, there had come a demand for an increased production in the West and the farmers had tried to cope with it by putting more acreage under seed. To harvest this crop, when the time came, called for an enormous number of workers and an adequate supply could not be secured, so that consequently every man at all fit was eagerly seized upon as soon as he showed himself in the prairie country.

There, as in the East, every community had its own particular methods of dealing with this matter and its special agencies for finding men employment. In very few places were the schemes identical or of similar nature, and no concerted plan that I was able to find had been adopted by any number of committees. Therefore, there was a consensus of opinion that as the end of the war approached and the question of finding places for the vast armies of returned soldiers forced itself on the attention of the country, it was destined to become one of the greatest seriousness.

For us, I think, it will take on that aspect from the outset. It is true that a great number of our men were fishermen, and that they would find no great difficulty in returning to their boats and nets again, but on the other hand, the life they have been leading during the war will have, in part, if not altogether, unfitted them for the numdrum pursuits of outport life, and I am afraid that we shall have to be prepared for grave complications for at least a few years after hostilities end.