

allowing a man to take up 160 acres of land wherever he pleased, where his wife would be subjected to conditions which no woman should endure, and where his children would be denied their right to an education.

The settlement areas are the commencement of the carrying out of a policy of land settlement undertaken by the Government in an endeavour to deal in a practical manner with the necessity of increasing our production of food-stuffs and at the same time giving an opportunity to the returned soldier who wishes to become a farmer.

During the coming year it is planned to make available several hundred thousand acres for settlement.

The idea of small holdings, which we have heard so much about, does not appeal to the man who is ambitious to become a farmer. But to a man, whose injuries are of such a nature as to prevent him from undertaking the clearing and cultivating of a large farm, a proposition in the fruit-growing district would be more suitable, where 10 acres of good irrigated land should produce a satisfactory income. Poultry-raising, with small fruit and vegetable growing on small holdings near a market, would offer an opportunity for a partially disabled man.

This is the class of returned men for whom special consideration will be given, so that they may feel that they are useful members of the community and are doing something worth while. In this way they can be relieved of the possibility of ever feeling that they may become objects of charity.

In this connection it might be said that this province offers a very wide field for the profitable production of seed upon small holdings of land, as it has already been demonstrated that this part of Canada is better adapted to the production of seed than any other part of the Dominion.

There have been suggestions made by returned men, and others, dealing with the conditions under which a returned soldier should be put on the land. The most of these suggestions have come from inexperienced persons, and have generally advocated the clearing of a certain portion of a holding, putting

up buildings, and providing of a certain amount of live-stock; but experience shows that wherever this ready-made farm idea has been put into effect the results have been far from satisfactory. The more practical system is to allow the settler to put on the improvement himself by the work of his own hands, and to arrange for him a system of financing enabling him to do the work himself. When a man by his own effort has accomplished something in bringing land into production, he has a greater interest in his occupation, and has surer chances of becoming a prosperous and practical farmer, than the man who has had everything provided for him and who is carrying the liability which has been thus imposed. With the average farm of 160 acres there is enough scope for a man to become a prosperous and practical farmer within a reasonable time.

The rural population, the farming element, have ever been recognized as the backbone of every country, and the addition to their ranks of men, who, for love of country, in defence of right and justice, have ventured their all, will contribute an element to rural life which cannot help but improve the ideals of the community.

MY HOMELAND

Just a glimpse of the purple heather, the
gorse with its golden bloom,
The rock strewn shore, the lapping waves, the
gleam of the silver moon,
As she paints a path of liquid light on the
breast of the heaving sea;
To roam again o'er the long low hills dotted
with browsing sheep,
Through meadows green in the noonday sun,
when the whole world seems to sleep;
One little space of just these things, God!
What it would mean to me.

There is that in the soil of one's native land,
that draws with hand unseen
To the inmost heart of each of us, though the
whole world lie between;
And could we follow that unseen hand we
could know no greater bliss,
If Heaven should grant my inmost prayer and
give me a little space,
In that beautiful land so dearly loved, because
it's my own home place;
With bended knee, and grateful heart, I shall
greet the soil with a kiss.

L. R. T.