

I think the idea prevails that the very best thing we can do for the returned man is to place him in a position at the earliest possible time in which he will be self-reliant. In the discussions that we have had, time and again expressions like these have been used: "Leave the returned soldier alone and he will take care of himself;" "the returned soldier does not require any coddling;" "all the returned soldier wants is to get back into civil life." Expressions of that kind were used by many members of the House, and I am inclined to think that is the prevailing opinion among the returned men themselves. What they want is an opportunity to secure employment. They wish to have an opportunity to get back into their ordinary place in the civil life of the community. If that be true, then we must do everything that lies in our power to see that that end is secured with the least possible delay and trouble.

The resolution suggests that one village of a particular class, of which the details are given—and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mowat) has this afternoon amplified his suggestion—should be established in every province. Let me ask if the House thinks, even if we decided upon a policy of establishing villages, that would meet the situation in a practical way. That is, if the Federal Government is going to provide homes, workshops, employment, under certain conditions, is there not just a possibility that every one of those men would say that if you do this for him, or if you do it for one, every other one is entitled to it? Would there not be a tendency upon the part of all to lean upon the State for this purpose? I am merely mentioning that in order that the House may take it into consideration. We have rather adopted the other line of action, that is, of endeavouring in every possible way to make the man self-reliant at the earliest possible date. The question of expenditure naturally comes in. What it would amount to, I do not know. The chances are that if we ever embarked upon a policy of this kind, we would never be able to confine it to a village; it would spread until we would be forced to provide for a very large number of villages of this class.

Just a word with regard to the community idea. I think the hon. gentleman has given voice to the opinion that a good many of the returned men are opposed to a close community composed only of themselves. I think that is true. I have discussed the problem with a great many, par-

[Mr. Calder.]

ticularly in connection with farming, and I am pretty certain that the consensus of opinion amongst those in Canada who have made a close study of the question as to whether communities of this nature composed entirely of returned men would be desirable, seems to be that communities of that nature should not be established, particularly in connection with farms. The hon. gentleman seems to be of the opinion that if villages of this class were established, they should not be confined to returned men alone, but that others should be permitted to live in them. That, however, is a question that might very well be considered by the House.

As regards market gardening, the Soldiers' Settlement Board have that now under consideration. They are making a study in Ontario, Quebec, the lower provinces, and British Columbia, with a view to ascertaining the extent to which a policy of that kind can be adopted, and they have made considerable progress. That would appeal to all returned men who desire to go in for that class of work, but more particularly, I think, to the disabled man, the man who is not in a position to carry on his ordinary avocation. I understand it is expected that a final report will be received at an early date from those who are making that study, and it is possible that the Minister of Interior (Mr. Meighen) may soon have some observations to make to the House.

We must all recognize that while the great body of men who are coming back again will, in a very short time, be absorbed into the civil life of the community, and while the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment is taking care of and providing employment for disabled men—and I understand some 2,000 of them have already been placed back into the civil life of the community—there is certain to be a number of men who will require special care and treatment. Just what that number will be cannot, at the present time, be predicted. I refer to men who, on account of their condition, either physical or mental, will not be able to follow their usual employment, or who, after being retrained for employment, will not be able to continue in that employment. Some provision will have to be made for them, and an enquiry is at present under way to ascertain the extent of that problem and the manner in which it will have to be taken care of by the Government. We all remember that after the Civil War in the United States, there were a great many men who had to be taken care of perman-