

Disabled Canadian Soldiers

What Is Being Done to Restore Their Ability

The Military Hospital Commission at Ottawa states that 2,981 soldiers were under its care at the beginning of this month. Of these, 426 were at Sanatoria for tuberculosis and 1,516 at Convalescent Hospitals, 682 of the latter being out-patients—while 39 members of the force were in asylum for the insane. Of the 426 cases of tuberculosis it may be added, almost exactly half were discovered in time to prevent them from leaving Canada for the seat of war.

According to a statement prepared by the Militia Department up to October 5, 1916, the number of soldiers sent back to Canada because of medical unfitness was 6,208. Of these, 961 were suffering from wounds, shell shock or the effect of gas; 7122 were insane; 245 were afflicted with tuberculosis; while the remainder, 4,880, were suffering from other diseases and disabilities.

All Canadians ought to know what is being done by the Military Hospital Commission, acting on behalf of the whole body of citizens for the restoration of their wounded defenders to a position of self-support and independence.

Every disabled soldier is medically examined on arriving at Quebec. If he is no longer in need of hospital treatment he is sent home free of expense and discharged with a pension or gratuity according to the extent of his disability.

If he needs further treatment he is taken to the hospital or sanatorium where the treatment most suitable to his case is available, and if possible, to the institution nearest his home.



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Men who cannot resume their former work on discharge from hospital are advised and enabled to take special training for new occupations. This is provided free of cost; and while the men are being trained the Dominion Government maintains them and their families.

Men needing artificial limbs are taken to Toronto, where these limbs are made and supplied without charge. Men with serious nerve disorders are treated specially in the Ontario Military Hospital at Cobourg. Each Provincial Government has appointed a Commission to help discharged men in securing steady and remunerative work. The Dominion Government and other authorities and employers, systematically give preference to returned soldiers when filling vacant positions.

The public can and should co-operate heartily in this urgently necessary work, by encouraging the men to take fullest advantage of the curative and educational opportunities given them, and afterwards by seeing that they get work. Local committees have been formed for this purpose in many towns but much more has to be done in this way.

The treatment most carefully carried out in accordance with the latest discoveries and the proved results of medical experience includes many forms of strengthening exercises, often requiring special and costly apparatus; the scientific use of electricity, massage, and continuous baths for affected limb with wise dieting and fresh air as a matter of course.

Occupation is often as necessary and beneficial as rest itself, in its curative and strengthening effect on body and mind. Classes are therefore held at the hospitals for instruction and practice in many arts and industries, such as carpentry and woodcarving, metal and leather working, typewriting and book-keeping, mechanical drawing and elementary engineering, gardening, bee-keeping and poultry raising.

These all help to increase the capacity of the patients, and to lessen the effect of any injury they have received, by getting them into practice for such industries as they can profitably undertake. The medical and educational officers try first to discover what each man is most likely to succeed at, and then fit him for it as thoroughly as possible.

It has been wisely decided that no man shall forfeit any part of his pension on account of his industry and enterprise in improving his own financial position.

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PROVINCIAL PARAGRAPHS

The Fredericton Methodist District meeting last week endorsed repeal of the Scott Act.

In the absence of Premier Geo J. Clark in Boston for a week or two, the acting premier is Hon. Dr. D. V. Landry.

Pte. Lloyd Higgs of Amherst, a member of the 17th N. S. Battalion, who was captured at St. Julien by the Germans, has escaped from the German camp and is now in London, England.

Mrs. Jacob Elliot of Burt's Corner, York Co., committed suicide by taking a dose of strychnine at her home on Friday night. She was 18 years old and had been married four years.

Mrs. Sarah Jackson of 10 Courtenay Street, St. John, aged 90 years, was burned to death in her home Saturday night. It is supposed that her clothing caught fire from a spark from a Franklin stove.

Chief Mann of Campbellton, arrested Frank Davis of Tracadie, N. B., accused of stealing an overcoat, hat, gold watch, \$175.00 and some other articles from James P. McDonald, of New Glasgow, N. S., while a passenger on the Maritime express between Montreal and Lewis.

The Provincial Board of Health decided last Thursday night to place infantile paralysis and epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis under quarantine. All local boards of health will be given authority to place such diseases in quarantine. As yet only three cases have developed in the province, two in Charlotte county and one in Queens. Two proved fatal.

CENSORSHIP OF PRINTED MATTER

Regulations have been issued in the United Kingdom relative to the despatch of printed matter from that country, these regulations having been designed to prevent the despatch of secret messages to enemy aliens under cover of printed papers and not for the purpose of detaining information openly published in the United Kingdom.

The Authorities feared that newspapers, etc., might be used by persons in the United Kingdom as a means of concealment for information which they may desire to communicate to the enemy.

These regulations, which are now in effect, apply to printed matter despatched from the United Kingdom to:

- (a)—All European countries except France, Russia, Italy and the part of Belgium not occupied by Germany;
- (b)—All parts of Africa and America except British, French, Italian or Belgian possessions;
- (c)—British and allied subjects interned in enemy countries.

These regulations contain the following provisions:

(1)—Printed matter, i.e., newspapers, magazines, books and other printed publications (other than trade circulars) will not be sent forward unless posted direct from the office of publishers, or news agents who have obtained permission from the War Office for this purpose.

Persons desiring to send printed matter should, therefore, give their orders for execution to publishers or news agents who have obtained such permission.

(2)—Publishers or news agents who desire to obtain permission to despatch printed matter, and who have not already obtained it under the existing regulations, should communicate with the War Office, stating whether they have existing orders for the despatch of printed matter to the countries concerned and the average quantity which they expect weekly under these orders.

(3)—Second-hand books despatched by dealers through the post are excluded from the scope of the regulations. They should be despatched in the ordinary way, even by firms who are in possession of a general permit, the name and address of the despatching firm being clearly given upon the cover of each packet. Such packets are subject to delay at the discretion of the Censor. Second-hand books despatched by persons other than dealers will not be forwarded.

(4)—Printed publications addressed to British subjects, interned in neutral countries are excluded from the scope of regulations. Such publications can, however, only be sent by printed papers post.

(5)—From the 1st July stamp collections, sheets or cards of stamps, stampy samples, etc., will not be forwarded to foreign countries (with the exceptions above indicated) unless despatched by dealers who have obtained permission from the War Office.

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(6)—No information can be given as to the disposal of packets stopped under these regulations.

In connection with the above quoted regulations in effect in the United Kingdom, it is not proposed by His Majesty's Government to interfere in any way with books, magazines, etc., sent from Canada to Canadian Prisoners of war in Germany.

The attention of His Majesty's Consul General at Rotterdam, Holland, has been drawn to certain rumors regarding the treatment meted out to British escaped Prisoners of War from Germany at his Consulate General in comparison to that meted out to similar prisoners of French and Russian nationality by their respective Consuls.

The Consul General has endeavored to trace these rumors to their source and thinks that in view of the fact that of the last four British prisoners who escaped three were Canadians, it would seem fairly evident that this was a rumor engineered by the Germans with a view, if possible, of spreading dissatisfaction in the Dominion.

He thinks that under the circumstances it might be desirable to have the facts published in the press in order to counteract in advance any possible German lies which may be spread later on through Wolf or similar agencies.

Mr. Maxse, the Consul General, explains that British prisoners of war arriving in Holland are invariably treated with the very utmost kindness and consideration by the Dutch frontier authorities, both military and civil. They are sent down to the Consulate General in charge of a Dutch Marechausse (gendarme). On arrival at the Consulate General they are supplied with every reasonable comfort. They receive new clothing, underclothing, boots, etc., if required. They are given room in the Seamen's Home and plenty of good nourishing food. Tobacco, etc., and pocket money is also given them. Their treatment at the home is assimilated to that of the interned members of the British Naval Brigade who are now living there and working at the Consulate General.

The Consulate General and all the members of his staff, including the Dutch officials and clerks, are most sympathetic in their treatment of these men, and endeavour by all means in their power to render their stay at Rotterdam pleasant and comfortable. They are invariably shipped over to the United Kingdom on the first opportunity and always in British boats if such are available.

About thirty escaped British prisoners of war have passed through the office of the Consul General at Rotterdam during the progress of hostilities, and in every case they have seemed most grateful for the attention and care bestowed upon them. Statements originated probably by the enemy propagandists, have been widely circulated in the United States, and republished by certain papers in Canada, stating that under the

conscription law of the United Kingdom, refugees from Poland and Russia, residing in England and Scotland who refuse to enlist, are liable to be deported.

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