

limited, of compensating citizens for material and economic damage which they have suffered directly or indirectly through enemy acts. In England, measures have been introduced for the compensation of those who suffer damage by the raids of Zeppelins and of the German Fleet; in France, the Government has stated that all property loss, suffered in the invaded districts, will be entirely made good.

This article avoids all discussion of the desirability of compensating from national resources citizens, whether combatant or non-combatant, who have suffered financial loss from acts of the King's enemies. It discusses only the obligation of Canada to compensate Canadians for bodily or mental disability which they have incurred by reason of their service as soldiers or sailors. Though "The Problem of the Disabled Soldier" is an important matter, it is but one of the difficult questions closely associated with the demobilization of our forces.

Every Canadian should have a clear idea of what must be done for returning men, disabled through their service. Perhaps because of the nature of wars in the past some of us are inclined to believe that an ex-soldier, especially if he has been wounded, is entitled to a reward—a pension—sufficient to support him and his family almost in idleness to the end of their days. This may be an accurate conception of what a pension ought to have been in times when soldiers were rewarded by those in whose interests they fought. It is not a proper conception of the compensation due from Canada to one of her disabled men—Canadians are fighting for themselves. The compensation due to them is not a gift from Canada as a reward for good service done. It is a value, paid as a right by Canadians, through their Government, to those of their fellow-citizens who have been incapacitated by a personal detriment incurred in performing public service. Compensation is made so that those who receive it may be able, on equal terms and unhandicapped by their disability, to live in competition with those of their fellows who have not been incapacitated. The obligation to work, to be self-