

effects of the war upon the economic condition of the country.

One of the most immediate and striking factors in the situation was the facility for voluntary recruiting which the critical condition of lessened employment provided. Only those who have been actively engaged in recruiting can realize how many and varied are the motives and influences which lead men to voluntarily enlist for military service. In a war such as the present where so much that is vital to the very existence as well as the civilization of the race is at stake, there is room for the very widest range and combination of motives in taking up arms. But whether the motives be of a higher or of a lower type or, as in the great majority of cases, of some intermediate quality, the fact that a great many persons find themselves free to enlist in the sense of not having any fixed employment or business engagements that cannot easily be postponed, was a very important factor in leading to such an immediate and ready response to the call to join the colors and to risk everything in the service of the country. Such was the situation in Canada when the war broke out.

One immediate effect of the war was to greatly increase the paralysis of trade and industry, as also the financial, transportation, and other interests depending upon them, and thus to enlarge the field of unemployment actually and prospectively. Of the large numbers who found themselves actually or in prospect without employment, the number of recent immigrants from Britain, chiefly located in the newer urban centers of the West and in the larger cities of the East, naturally constituted a large proportion. Thus one of the earliest and most important economic effects of the war was the relief of the congested condition of the labor market at the time of its outbreak. A secondary and important consequence was that the assigned pay and separation allowances which were arranged for the wives and de-