

Homes Will Help to Retain Farm Labor

Homes are the great stabilizers of civilization. The more advanced industrial methods recognize the value of decent homes in keeping labor fixed and thus preventing the heavy losses that result from constant shifting from place to place. As a result of this recognition, many large industrial concerns provide neat and attractive houses, which they rent to their employees at reasonable rentals. Such cases are usually merely commercial propositions. Homes are provided because it is cheaper to do that than to suffer the losses due to the constant shifting of a more or less dissatisfied labor supply. Similarly, during the war, the Governments of Great Britain and the United States established model towns for the employees of munitions factories and the results in greater labor efficiency have surpassed all expectations.

Herein lies one of the remedies for the shortage of labor on farms. The farm hand, whether married or single, whether employed permanently or temporarily, is, in most instances, dependent on the home surroundings of his farmer employer for the comforts and decencies of life. In cases where the farmer knows the difference between living and existing this system may not be intolerable, but every efficient laborer desires a home where he can enjoy a reasonable measure of privacy and independence.

Farmers would do well to learn from the experience of industrial leaders and provide simple but attractive and comfortable homes, which could be leased to hired help at a small rental, or simply be used as a special inducement to encourage married men to work on farms. Unless such advantages are provided, it is useless to complain of the scarcity and inefficiency of farm labor, for the best laborers are sure to seek for employment where they can have homes of their own and only the less competent and the inefficient will find their way to the farms.—A. D.

The world needs wool. The wholesale price of raw wool increased during the war 200 per cent.

The hog is the cheapest producer of animal fats. Don't send it to market in thin condition, it doesn't pay.

Shipments of beef to Europe under the conditions over there now pertaining are only limited by refrigerator space on the ships. As more tonnage becomes available more beef will be shipped.

A NATIONAL DEBT—Continued:

Co-operation with the Imperial Graves' Registration Commission should be sought in order to advise the Canadian Public who are unable to advise themselves, as to what is being done for the battlefields graves in Europe and elsewhere.

Summary to the Scheme.

A Department of Military and Naval Obituaries:

1. Director,
2. Archivist.
3. Landscape Artist and Superintendent of Cemeteries.

Responsibility.

Federal Government.—Finance funeral costs of every man enlisted for C. E. F. if requested, as also the upkeep of the Cemeteries and Executive Staff.

Provincial Governments.—Land grants or equivalent in cash for necessary Cemeteries and Plots within their respective boundaries and a cash grant of \$50.00 for every "indigent" Canadian dying within the Province.

Home and Overseas Governments of the Other Dominions.—A grant to this Department of the Dominion of Canada of \$40.00 for every "indigent" soldier or ex-soldier or sailor of their respective Governments; who may die within the dominion; this obligation to be reciprocated by the Dominion of Canada in the case of Canadians dying within the borders of the Homeland or other overseas Dominions.

The Canadian War Memorial Fund and the Public.—To raise funds voluntarily for Memorials and the burial of "indigents" of previous wars of the British Empire.

Suggestions in consideration of the above Dominion wide Naval and Military Burial scheme:

Basic Principles:

1. Complete co-operation between the following in all matters obituary:—
Naval Department,
Militia Department,
Invalided Soldiers' Commission,
Department of Soldiers' civil re-establishment,
Board of Pensioners and Estate Department,
for the organization, establishment and upkeep of all that pertains to a Department to be known as **The Department of Naval and Military Obituaries.**
2. A contingency reserve to be appropriated simultaneously with all permanent pensions awarded by the Pension Board to cover the cost of burial of deceased Pensioners.

The extension of Par. 502 of the Pay and Allowance Regulation, to cover the cost of burial of all discharged men of the Canadian Forces, whether in receipt of Pension or not, which may possibly be gradually extended by Inter-Imperial reciprocal action, to take

care of men of other integral parts of the Empire who may die within our borders friendless.

3. Effort to effect combined Federal, Provincial and Civic Government financial responsibility for such a scheme with a view to its equitable distribution, admitting of public subscription and representation on the Advisory Board, thus ensuring the proper sentiment and "soul."

Other Points:

Provision for interment of relatives of deceased soldiers in Military reservations.

Care of existing (ancient) Military Burial grounds and historical records to be included in any new scheme.

Co-operation with the Imperial Graves' Registration Commission for the supply of information relative to graves in Europe.

A Report on deaths and disposal of remains of **Enemy Prisoners of War** in Canada during the war.

The inclusion (in some measure) of men of other campaigns in the scheme.

Division of cemetery reservations to meet the requirements of other than the Roman Catholic and Protestant denominations.

Rough Estimate of Cost to the Dominion Over a Period of the Next Fifty Years.

Taking the present allowance of \$65.00 (to be equitably distributed between funeral and burial expenses but exclusive of Cemetery and Staff upkeep) and allowing for say, 300,000 troops, would make \$19,500,000 or an annual expenditure of \$390,000, but this is a conservative estimate, with a ground area (distributed) of 500 to 600 acres.

Classification of Soldiers to be Dealt With.

- (a) Men of the Permanent Forces and families.
- (b) Men enlisted for the period of the war.
- (c) Discharged men—with pension.
Discharged men—without pension.
Discharged men—undergoing rehabilitation training.
- (d) Men of other parts of the Empire.

Maj.-Gen. Biggar and Colonel Clarke appeared to be very favorably impressed with the feasibility of the scheme, and especially with the work accomplished by the "Last Post" Fund to date, and in due course reported back to Ottawa. We await with interest the decision—still pending—which we trust will be arrived at during the coming session of Parliament.

While this and the preceding articles have been devoted to a conception of the subject by "one who has been through the mill" and sees it from the soldiers' viewpoint, the following and final article under the title of "The Philosophy of National Sentiment" will be dealt with by a capable writer in the person of William H. Atherton, Ph.D., L.L.D., Litt.D. (Laval), who will depict the nations debt to our soldiers and sailors from a philosophers viewpoint.