

plan whereby the country can loan money to returned men to enable them to re-establish themselves in business, trade or occupation. Here too the ground has been most fully covered, and I need perhaps but quote from the report of the committee of last year, when, in dealing with this subject, it makes the following statement:

The difficulty which faced your committee was the conviction that a grant to any particular class or classes, no matter how worthy or pressing their needs might be, must inevitably result in the widest extension of a system of loans for all and every purpose of re-establishment.

No concrete, workable plan whereby such a general system of advances could be safely adopted has been suggested, and your committee feels unable to recommend any scheme which could equitably supply the demands of the many whose suggestions have been sought to its attention.

This year the committee had brought before it in striking manner the pressing need for some measure of relief from the prevailing unemployment, particular stress being laid upon what was termed a "Dominion Housing Scheme," as the best available agency for this purpose. The Great War Veterans' Association were notable advocates of such a nature. The committee was addressed on more than one occasion by Mr. MacNeil, its Dominion Secretary, who, in the most forcible terms he could command, besought the committee to adopt some proposal of the kind. He perhaps purposely refrained from laying down any definite programme; but, as the report states, the plan mentioned by him contemplates an expenditure of \$50,000,000. From a memorandum filed with the committee by Mr. Thomas Adams, whose report and evidence on this and kindred subjects were of the utmost value, it appears that the Great War Veterans' Association plan proposed that the administration of the fund noted above should be entrusted to the Soldiers' Settlement Board, whose organization and experience peculiarly fit them for undertaking such a task.

Doubtless, due to the inspiration of the Dominion Executive, the committee received a score or more of telegraphic appeals from the various commands of the association throughout the West. In British Columbia these were indorsed by independent business bodies who are evidently of the opinion that the Federal Housing Project, a project in that province utilized for the sole benefit of the returned man, had proved a success.

Many of the later meetings of the committee were occupied in discussing this

question, which had as full consideration as time would allow. After frequent conferences the committee decided the wisest method to recommend would be an extension of the original Federal Housing Project, provided that any new Dominion grant should be utilized by the provinces and municipalities for the benefit of ex-service men.

So far as the disabled are concerned, one or two specific suggestions are put forward in the report, which it is hoped will distinctly improve their position. The more general one suggests that the Dominion should assume the responsibility for damages which are incurred when a disabled soldier is injured by an industrial accident. Hon. members will understand that in most of the provinces, under the provision of Workmen's Compensation Acts, the employer is called upon to pay an assessment or premium by virtue of which his injured workmen are compensated for injuries received in his employ. These assessments form part of the operating cost of the industry, and if accidents increase unduly, a demand is made upon the employer for heavier payments.

Experience has shown that a man who enters an industry already disabled, is more liable to suffer from accident than is he who is physically sound, and there appears to be no doubt that some employers hesitate to take on disabled veterans if they can fill their factory or workshop with fit men. The report sets out in detail the conditions upon which the country should assume this liability, but I need not delay the House in going into these particulars.

Another suggestion made, which it is believed will materially aid the disabled man, is that he is given a distinct preference for entry into public service, a preference not only over the civilian, but, as well, over his comrades who do not suffer from his handicap. An amendment to the Civil Service Act to carry this suggestion into effect is attached to the report and can be more fully discussed when a Bill embodying it is introduced to the House.

Other suggestions have been made, which it is hoped will tend to aid the situation. For instance, it is thought that the Government expenditure on public works, and the purchases of supplies placed every year on behalf of departments, etc., might be so distributed as to prevent an undue pressure of work during certain months of the year and subsequent cessation at other times. In the opinion of the