

# Problem of The Disabled Soldiers

## The Mother Country Advised to Follow Canada's Example

The London Daily Chronicle, the leading Liberal journal of the Imperial Capital, gives the most prominent place in its issue of Oct. 4 to the following spontaneous and remarkable appreciation of Canada's method of restoring disabled soldiers to active and self-supporting citizenship. In this article the well known writer, Mr. J. Saxon Mills, goes so far as to suggest that the Mother Country in dealing with this problem might follow the example of the Dominion. He says:

One of the most difficult questions England has to face at present is how to deal with the broken men who are new streaming in from the battle-fronts. The adequate answer to that question has not yet been found. It is not even certain that the main principles which should be observed in solving the problem are yet fully grasped. For example, we are in danger of thinking that our responsibility for the wounded soldier is fulfilled when he is no longer fit for military service, and when he is pensioned and discharged from the Army. When thus discharged he loses the benefit of the special treatment provided while he remains in uniform, and he is at once thrown upon the lists of the already over-worked panel doctors. This will not do at all. The nation

has a larger and longer responsibility to its disabled veterans than that. It may be useful to notice how Canada deals with the problem. We may learn much from the admirable system which has been established by the Dominion Government.

**How Government Intervened**

By an order in Council, dated June 20, 1915, the Canadian Government formed, at the instance of Sir Robert Borden, a Military Hospitals and Convalescent Homes Commission, to deal with the provision of hospital accommodation and military convalescent homes in Canada for officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force who return invalided from the front.

The very able president of this Commission is Sir James A. Longheed and it has an efficient and enterprising secretary in Mr. E. H. Scammell. The Commission has learnt much by experience and is today undoubtedly working on right lines. At first the general idea was that convalescent homes, where discharged soldiers would spend a short time for rest and refreshment, would be the chief requirement, and scores of houses and hundreds of workers were placed at the disposal of the Commission. But this idea was soon dispelled when it was found that the treatment of the disabled soldiers was a more serious and lengthy business. Months or even weeks spent in the atmosphere of such a home would tend to injure rather than strengthen the physical and moral fibre. Let us hear Mr. J. S. McLennan, a member of the Commission, has to say on this subject in his introduction to the Commission's speech bulletin:

"The supply of comforts which in many cases were luxurious, the relaxation of discipline, the treating of men as one treats a civilian patient in the interval between illness and the resumption of ordinary occupation which might do no harm if the experience was to be counted in days, are most seriously detrimental to the best interests of the men when extended over the prolonged periods which have been found unavoidable. The first conception of the homes was that they were places of relaxation; the right one which experience has taught us to realize is that they are places of rehabilitation. In other words we are changing as rapidly as may be our convalescent homes into hospitals where, in the interests of the men, their time will be fully occupied, their physical restoration made as

perfect as possible, and from the beginning, the bad effects of idleness obviated by employment."

These are golden words which those who are responsible for our wounded veterans will do well to remember.

It would be interesting to follow the history of a few typical cases of Canadian soldiers wounded in the battle lines. Of course, the injured man may be cured and return to the front; but his case may be hopeless so far as military fitness is concerned, and he may have to be sent back to Canada. When he arrives there he is taken in hand at the port of arrival by the Military Hospitals Commission. If he belongs to Class I, that is, if he is unfit for overseas service but able to take up his former occupation, he receives 15 days' pay and transportation to his home, together with free meals en route. If he belongs to Class II, or III, that is, if he has to receive further treatment as a convalescent, or has a permanent disability of any kind, he is passed on to the appropriate institutions. If he is an ordinary convalescent he will be sent to the hospital nearest his home, but if he requires special, such as orthopaedic treatment, he will go where that is supplied.

**The Educational Feature**

What I wish especially to emphasize is that at all these hospitals, schools are held where training of an elementary and non-vocational character is given in English, French, mechanical drawing, arithmetic, wood-carving, etc. These classes are open to all inmates, whether they are able to return to their former occupations or not. But, from the homes and hospitals, the men who are not so able can be sent on after they have been pensioned and discharged, to technical institutions, agricultural colleges, schools of telegraphy, etc., where they can be taught new occupations which their disablement does not prevent them from following. And that is not all, for employment is practically assured to them by the Provincial Commissions (under the Federal Military Hospitals Commission) which have charged themselves with the duty of finding work and wages for the returning veterans.

I should add, that the men in the homes and hospitals are fully maintained and that their pay continues. The whole system, which I have sketched in the barest outline, is quite admirable, and fully realises the object of the Military Hospitals Commission which Mr. McLennan defines in these words:

"The aim of the Commission is to do its best for the physical and economic well-being of the man and to bring to bear on him such influences that he may perform for his country a service not less important than those of the fighting line, namely, that instead of being an idle ward of the State, he becomes a shining example to the young, of self-dependence, of courage, and perseverance in overcoming disabilities."

It would be an excellent thing if we had a system similar to this, and based upon the same sound principles, established in these islands.

## HEALTHIEST ONE IN THE FAMILY

No Sign Of Dropsy And Kidney Trouble Since Taking "FRUIT-A-TIVES"



**HATTIE WARREN**  
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**WILLIAM WARREN.**  
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Baby's Own Tablets are the best medicine a mother can give her little ones. They regulate the bowels; sweeten the stomach; banish constipation and indigestion; relieve colds and simple fevers and make teething easy. Concerning them Mr. Herbert Johnston, Maymont, Sask., writes:—"I have used Baby's Own Tablets for the past four years and find them just the thing for babies and young children." They are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

## PROVINCIAL PARAGRAPHS

The 222nd Manitoba Battalion will train in St. John this winter.

A Fredericton Hotel man was on Friday morning fined \$100 or six months in Jail for interfering with the police in a Scott Act raid.

Fredericton City Council has decided to buy a motor-truck and a horse-drawn ladder truck, at a cost of \$9000.

The third annual Apple Exhibition in St. John last week was the best ever held in N. B. It closed Friday evening. The prizes went mainly to Southern N. B. and the St. John Valley.

A heavy freight train, loaded with cattle and sheep, was struck by a fast special, at Mill Creek near Campbellton, November first. Alex. Martin of Danville, P. Q., was injured, and many animals killed. (The freight was badly wrecked.)

Chief Justice McLeod, last week, gave judgment that the Palmer-McLellan Shoe Park Co., Ltd., should not use the word "Palmer" in their name and business. The suit was brought by the John Palmer Co. Ltd.

The Nashwaak Pulp & Paper Company, which has taken over the business of the Partington Pulp & Paper Co. is preparing to cut 20,000,000 lbs. on the Nashwaak river during the coming winter. On account of higher prices for pulp and paper. The logs cut on the Nashwaak are all to be used for pulp.

Mrs. E. W. Darcus, who came to Fredericton eight years ago, from Ireland, with absolutely no experience in farming or fruit growing bought the Stan oil farm at Fern Hill. Last week she won first prize for the large exhibit at the apple show in St. John.

Of the 85 beds for the Princess Patricia Hospital at Ramsgate, England, endowed by New Brunswick, the following were donated by the North Shore: Newcastle Red Cross Society, 2; Jacquet River, Bathurst and Doaktown Red Cross 1 each; Campbellton friends of Lt. Harry Ferguson, 1; in memory of the late James McCulley, Miramichi, 1; in memory of St. Luke's boys, Chatham, 1; Mrs. James Stevens, Chatham, 1; Loggieville, 1; Tabouctac, 1.

The 12th annual meeting of the N. B. Fruit Growers' Association, was held in St. John Thursday. C. W. Baxter, chief fruit inspector for Eastern Ontario and Quebec, advocated a co-operative marketing association. Apples could be kept much longer after being in cold storage. St. John has a good cold storage plant. He just the thing for growers to specialize in the McIntosh, Red and Fameuse varieties. The exhibits from Southern and Western N. B. were numerous and good.

The 140th Battalion will go to the front as a unit. It and the 104th will winter at Bramshott camp.

St. Stephen schools have been ordered closed for two weeks on account of diphtheria in the town.

Rev. W. B. Crowell who preached in Newcastle Baptist church two Sundays last summer, has accepted the pastorate of the Windsor, Carleton Co. group of churches.

F. W. Sumner left Moncton Thursday afternoon for New York en route to London to resume his duties as agent general of New Brunswick. He was accompanied by his daughters Mrs. McDougall, wife of Lieut. S. G. McDougall, now in France Hon. J. A. Murray will also accompany him.

**MISSION CIRCLE MEETING**

The Methodist, Excelsior Mission Circle held their monthly meeting at the home of Miss Maud Atkinson Monday night. Miss Atkinson led the study class. There was a good attendance.

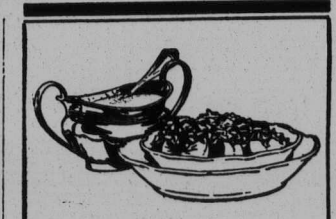
**SCHOOL REPORT**

The Willows school report for October:

Perfect attendance:—James Ross, Alberta Morrison, Marjorie Morrison, Flore Commeau, Duncan Morrison. Those missing one-half day:—Ida Commeau, Alfred Ross.

Highest averages:

Grade V—Helen Walls 57½  
Grade IV—Stewart Ross, 56  
Grade III—James Ross, 59, Marjorie Morrison 61½ Alberta Morrison 60½  
Grade II—Ida Commeau 93½, Magie King 85.  
Grade I—Flore Commeau 99½, Duncan Morrison 87½, Donald Ross 78½.



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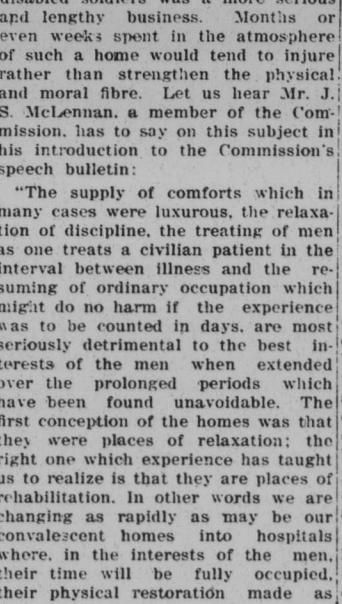
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