

Wallace Wood

(or as it is now to be called "The General Board of Religious Education"), and last of all, the Council for Social Service, on whose behalf I bespeak the earnest prayers and practical and studious interest and co-operation and the most liberal generosity for the advancement of its grave and difficult work.

WAR COMMISSION—THE RETURNED SOLDIER AND THE CHURCH.

No personality has loomed so largely upon the horizon and impressed his welcome presence upon the community more deeply than has the returned soldier, and this is quite as it ought to be. No evidence of appreciation is too great, no expression of gratitude too lavish to prove our thankfulness to him for the defence of our lives and liberties, and if we feel thus where the returned man is, in God's good Providence restored to his family "sound in mind and limb," what shall we say and how shall we feel where the wounded, mutilated and blind heroes of the great War are concerned, men who have, like their fellows, hazarded their lives, having lost limb and sight and stand in a class by themselves between those who have made the "supreme sacrifice" and those more fortunate who have escaped unscathed. Surely a full vocational training, a good start in the new life, and in extreme cases a life provision, is nothing more than ought to be expected. The first step taken by the Church in her representative capacity in relation to the returned soldier was taken at the General Synod when "A War Commission" was appointed, following which very general action has been taken by the Dioceses. The Church in the Dominion, in addition to her own Commission, has representation in the "Federal War Commission" as a unit, and presses along with representatives of the various denominations, matters on which all are agreed. In this Diocese (like all other Dioceses) we have in the interest of the soldier, and his return to civil life, a strong Committee composed of 28 members, 14 Clergy and 14 laymen, and I append a statement of the Chairman, Rev. Dr. Seager, which represents the matter in concise form.

DR. SEAGER'S REPORT.

The Committee's work has been confined to two matters, both of very great importance:—

1. The sending of names of returned soldiers to the Parish Clergy. The names are received from the Toronto Dispersal Area and distributed to the Parishes. From the middle of February to the 21st of March 3,973 names have been so distributed, including a relatively small number of names of immigrants—women and children.

2. The organization in Parishes of groups of laymen for the visitation of returned soldiers. In this the Brotherhood of St. Andrew has heartily and effectively assisted. This work, however, cannot be effectively done without the assistance of a man (preferably a returned Chaplain) giving his whole time to it for some months. The Committee had strong hopes that the Federal Government would retain on strength, as it had decided to do, a number of returned Chaplains for such purposes. Unfortunately the Government cancelled this arrangement just about the time the Committee was organized. It has not been felt justifiable to undertake the considerable expense of appointing such a man by the Committee without the consent of the Synod. It would cost at least \$150 a month.