

# THE CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

City of Montreal and  
United States \$2.25  
Canada, Great Britain  
and Countries in  
Postal Union \$2.00

Published Monthly by

The Canadian Municipal Journal Co., Limited

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Editor

CORISTINE BUILDING, MONTREAL

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VOL. XV.

JANUARY, 1919.

NO. 1.

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## Repatriation Committee Appeals to the Councils

The Repatriation Committee of the Dominion Government, through the municipal representative Mr. Harry Bragg, is making an appeal to the municipal councils for their co-operation in the repatriation of the soldiers who are already beginning to return to their home towns. We have every confidence the appeal will meet with more than a sympathetic reception, it will actually be successful. Each councillor knows something of the demoralizing influence of general unemployment on the community, especially those aldermen who were members of the 1915 councils. So much so do these older members of our municipal government realize the position of a workless community that many of them, since the signing of the armistice, have given up much of their time in finding, and where possible creating, employment for local workers, particularly unskilled labour. Now that the "boys" are coming home every means must be used to find employment for those of them able to work, even if it means the dismissal of civilians who throughout the war period have been getting good wages. Our returned soldiers must come first.

The Repatriation Committee suggests that a "Welcome Home" committee be formed of local citizens "to welcome all returned soldiers and their dependents on their arrival in your locality." To some this may mean nothing, but to the fine fellows that each community sent across the seas a little appreciation by their fellow men for what they had done will go far to make them forget the horrors they have been through during the last four years. But the Repatriation Committee goes further and suggests that the local committee take a practical interests in the repatriation of each returned soldier—in his civil re-establishment and in the social and general welfare both of his family and himself. For the building up of Canada the returned soldier is of infinitely finer tempered material than what he was before going overseas, even with any physical disability he may have, consequently his potentiality as a citizen is high. Such potentiality can be made into an actuality by proper treatment and guidance. In other words,

when the soldier finds out for himself that he is really wanted he will give of his best to the community that gives him his living, which is really a continuance of the great work he has been doing for his country. Surely then the soldier is well worth the best consideration of the community. And what more appropriate than that the consideration be given through the local authorities working with local organizations.

In the work of repatriation and reconstruction the municipal councils, because of their daily contact with the people, have a great opportunity to prove their worth, and no better start could be made than to follow out the suggestions of Mr. Bragg, who, being a practical municipal man, is quite conversant with what municipal Canada can and should do to rehabilitate our soldiers.

On pages 8, 9 and 10 appear English and French copies of the letter of the Repatriation Committee.

## ORDER YOUR SUPPLIES AT ONCE.

The Municipal Councils of Canada will spend during the year 1919 many hundreds of thousands of dollars for materials required for their Public Works, etc. These orders are usually placed in the spring and summer—or just before the goods are wanted. In the ordering of these materials the Councils have a unique opportunity to help solve the fast growing problem of unemployment in the industrial centres, by placing as many orders as possible at once, particularly for goods that have to be manufactured after the orders are received. If all the councils were to do this it would mean employment for many hundreds of men during the winter months at little, if any extra cost to the municipalities.

The above suggestion is not mere sentiment, it is sound municipal economics, for while every employed man is an asset to the community the out-of-work sooner or later becomes a charge, and whether the placing of orders for material to be manufactured will help local industry or industries in other Canadian communities the general effect is the same—it all helps to eliminate the dreaded bug-bear of general unemployment.