

well-ventilated house. He was a barrister, living in the city of Winnipeg where there were few houses of a suitable character for his needs. He claimed that there were hundreds, if not thousands of soldiers in a similar position, who leave hospital arrested cases, but for want of suitable houses, will be continually breaking down and thus be a constant charge on the Government.

I brought the matter to the attention of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment and received the reply that the Department did not discharge ex-soldiers on its strength who are taking treatment for tuberculosis, until such time as they are in a fit condition to carry on their civil occupations under normal conditions. In view of this fact, the Department could make no recommendations to the Government for action in the matter. The action I suggested was that a conference between the different departments interested in repatriation should be held to consider what could be done to deal with such cases.

The G.W.V.A. has always contended that the housing fund for soldiers should be administered by the Federal Government through the Soldier Settlement Board. By means of the large grants given by the Federal Government for land settlement under the Soldier Settlement Board, the loan of \$25,000,000 for housing and \$25,000,000 to provide employment in constructing highways, the Government has made a substantial contribution towards a constructive policy of repatriation and for dealing with problems of unemployment.

Commission of Conservation Proposals

In 1917, an attempt was made in the report on *Rural Planning and Development*, published by the Commission of Conservation, to outline some of the principles that should govern the settlement of returned soldiers. These are in general accord with the proposals submitted by Mr. Mowat. It was pointed out that after many soldiers had returned to their previous occupations, or had been absorbed into the industrial life of the cities, there would still be a large number for whom some organized provision should be made—as a national obligation.

In view of the large number of men (it was stated) who have a taste for industrial pursuits, who have learned discipline and precision, who have seen the advantages of co-operation and social intercourse, it will be essential that some step be taken to organize the development of new towns, or to assist in the extension of existing towns where such men can be provided for. Even those who will want to take up farming will prefer to do so in close proximity to an existing city or town where intensive culture is practicable and better social facilities can be obtained. The success which has been achieved at Letchworth, in England, in the building up of a city and agricultural colony combined, affords us the example we require to solve a large portion of the problem of the returned soldiers. Such a scheme involves artificial organization to get it started, but one of the objects of that artificial organization would be to develop a town in which there would be the fullest public freedom for natural growth and individual initiative.

Sites can be obtained close to large centres of population, where towns could be created on land which can be acquired at a reasonable price. The facilities which a government has to enable it to acquire a large block of land at agricultural rates and convert it by improved transportation, etc., into valuable building land, would provide such a scheme with a sound economic basis. The problem of creating such towns is not in the difficulty of acquiring suitable sites; it is in getting sufficient capital to equip the site with such improvements as are necessary to make it adaptable for building a city. In so far as the Letchworth scheme has hung fire during the past fourteen years, it has been almost entirely due to lack of sufficient capital at the outset, but in Canada there should be no