

article, determined by the cost of production, and not by the fancy of those who have secured a monopoly of the goods.

We are lavishing praises on the soldiers returning from the front and we say that nothing is too good for them. Those praises are certainly well deserved, for our men fought heroically and have made the sacrifice of their lives. But they will not live on praise and eulogy. They cannot be cajoled by such interested flattery.

Let us not forget that these men are returning from a part of the world where a dangerous wind is blowing and that they will not be satisfied with being directed like blind men or coddled like children. Let us remember that in Russia it is the soldiers, the working men and the farmers who have taken the reins, I do not see why the soldiers, the working men and the farmers of Canada could not play the same trick on our Government.

The Government have given notice of special legislation for the settlement of the returned soldiers on lands, to promote agriculture. The Government have also in mind the construction of magnificent public roads and are taking steps to attract a very large immigration into this country.

Every one of these propositions is commendable and has some good points. However, they should be approached and dealt with in a practical way. The surest way to improve the economic conditions in this country is to develop and encourage agriculture by a wise policy of colonization.

However, the idea of reserving the crown lands for the soldiers, and excluding all other settlers by rules and regulations as ridiculous as they are tyrannical is a double mistake.

Experience has taught us that the settling of soldiers on agricultural lands is an unproductive and hurtful experiment. In many cases, the returned soldiers, lacking training and experience, will take up lands as compensation for the sacrifices they have made, but the lands will not be put under cultivation, or at least the production will be far below what it would be under good management.

The duty of the hour is to put under cultivation, by all conceivable means, the largest area possible; it is to call on every one to take a hand in promoting colonization.

Let a keen spirit of rivalry be stimulated throughout the country; let inducements and appeals be multiplied so as to guide as many recruits as possible towards the new

lands. Thus only can it be hoped that the surplus population of country places will be diverted to the new regions, instead of increasing the army of unemployed in the cities, and that the labourers who deserted the farms will be encouraged to resume that eminently beneficent calling.

Let the soldiers be treated with a great deal of kindness, well and good; but be it remembered that the remainder of the nation that toiled and suffered, that laboured and paid during the whole war, also deserved well of the country. Moreover, the national interest requires it and it is needed to ensure peace in the future.

Let large sums be spent in order to lay out roads, well and good; but the construction of highways for the motor cars of those who have reaped millions of dollars during the war must not alone be thought of. Let an attempt be made in order to give an easy access to the lands intended for settlement; finally, let new roads that will induce settlers to take up the new lands be opened.

On the other hand, let us not rely too much upon immigration during the years to follow the signing of the peace treaty. Every country on earth will need its manual labour and shall have an excess population to feed. The only proof of it is that England is pleased to send to Canada thousands of women who are no more of any use to her and whom they cause the Canadian soldiers to marry. Already 50,000 of those women have entered our country and others will come to Canada.

As for men, we cannot depend upon their coming soon. There are too many gaps to fill in Europe to be in a hurry to let go healthy men fit for production. If we need men, let us keep those we have already and put a stop to that stupid agitation whose result would be to turn out of the country people who have been lured by inducements of all kinds and whose only fault is to have been born in one country rather than in another.

Instead of turning them out, let us teach them to love Canada and to look upon it as the finest, the most hospitable, the freest and most generous country on earth. He who loves a country is loyal to it, and people who have been here since many years, even if they were born in countries which have become hostile, would not be long impervious to that beneficent influence.

Let us begin by expunging from our statute books the War-time Elections Act, that legislative blunder whose only use was to foster distrust and dissatisfaction among