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## PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

OFFICERS and men of the United States army and navy, who are University graduates in civil, mechanical or electrical engineering, or in chemistry, or who are technical men with a number of years' practical experience, are now registered with the Professional Division of the United States Employment Service.

This Service is a branch of the United States Department of Labor, and therefore is directly under federal government supervision.

The object of the registration is to help professional men to find suitable employment when they are honorably discharged from the army or navy. The record of each man is carefully investigated before registration is permitted.

Employers are asked to make use of the Service. This is facilitated by the fact that the Service has opened an office in many leading cities, with a special agent in charge. Employers are asked to inform the nearest agent of the precise nature of the positions available and the Service guarantees that only men well qualified for the positions will be sent to interview the employers.

This is a splendid scheme and one which should without delay be followed by the Dominion Government. The men who willingly severed their business connections one, two, three or four years ago, to give their services to the Empire, are returning to civil life under changed conditions. Although the industry of this country has great need of their services, neither the men nor the employers are able, without assistance, to discover each other immediately.

To avoid delay in the readjustment process, not only the labor of the country but also the highly trained directors of industry should be mobilized by the government with the aim that each man be fitted into that part of the country's business organization where he can do his best work.

The task of dealing with thoroughly trained men who, in many instances, can and should demand high salaries, requires the assistance of a special organization in charge of men who are familiar with the placing of University grad-

uates and other technical workers. Such work is being done in an extremely limited way at the present time by two or three engineering societies in Canada, but they have not the funds, nor the organization, nor the authority, to carry on the work in the manner in which it should be carried on in fairness to our returning heroes. The establishment of a Canadian Professional Employment Service would not interfere with the work of these societies, but would make the latter all the more efficient by earnest co-operation with them.

Experience in the United States shows that the engineering field presents the largest problem in the Professional Division. Thus far nearly one-half of all applicants are men who are qualified for some kind of work in the engineering profession. By the time that the overseas forces have been demobilized upon any large scale, construction work will undoubtedly be in full swing. Many men will be seeking positions and many men will be sought for responsible undertakings. It is in the interest of the nation's efficiency, as well as of the individual happiness of these men, that round pegs should not be fitted into square holes.

The Professional Division, or whatever it may be called by the Dominion Government, should have a staff of experts in the selection of men. It should have sufficient funds to retain psychologists, engineering and other technical advisers, and keen business organizers. There is great need of such a service in Canada to-day in order to conserve the brain power and energy of the trained young men of our country.

## METER ALL WATER SERVICES

WHEN economy in coal consumption is enjoined upon all, as at present, attention is forcibly directed to the recently published statement that the water consumers of nineteen cities of the State of New York are annually responsible for the waste of at least 75,000 tons of coal.

This statement was made in a report by one of the directors of the New York State Bureau of Municipal Research. The direct causes of this waste are said to be inattention to leaks of water and general indifference to economy. As an illustration, the instance is cited of five cities which collectively pump 41,243,220,000 gallons of water more than are needed during the year. This pumping is done by steam, meaning an excess consumption of 43,500 tons of coal. Four other cities, using electric power, pump 6,295,278,400 gallons over and above requirements, allowing one hundred gallons per capita as a reasonable daily consumption; and in order to generate the power, they burn an excess 15,700 tons of coal.

Had the report referred to included all the water plants in the State of New York, instead of only a limited number, the wastage figures would have assumed still greater proportions. And a like condition exists in all other States and in the provinces of this Dominion. The Bureau of Public Efficiency of Chicago estimates that more than 100,000 tons of coal are being consumed needlessly in that city each year to pump water that is lost through waste and leakage.

That effective means should be taken to reduce this wastage to a minimum is evident. The remedy is largely in the hands of the consumers themselves. Consider the case of the average householder who pays a flat rate for his supply of water for domestic purposes. He uses it freely and without stint; he disregards dripping taps, when a few minutes work and the expenditure of a few cents on a new washer, would prevent that waste of water. In summer he waters his garden, and gives no thought to the number of gallons used. The remedy is metering of all services.

If Mr. Waterwaster were compelled to have a water-meter, just as he is obliged to use a gas-meter, and pay for the amount actually consumed, he would give the matter of water waste more serious consideration.

The consumer should be made to realize that his own carelessness is not only costing the whole community vast sums of money, but that an appreciable portion of that money is coming out of his own pocket.

Sir Thomas White recently pointed out the advisability of proceeding at once with all work of a productive character.