

**THE  
PROBLEM  
OF THE  
DISABLED  
SOLDIER**

There is still another article in the present number to which special attention should be called. Entitled "The Problem of the Disabled Soldier," it discusses in general terms the principles that should be followed by Canada in caring for those members of her armed forces who have become disabled. Obviously this is only part of a still larger problem which centres in the need of providing for the return of all soldiers and sailors to civilian life when their military duties are over. However, the obligation to help the disabled comes first in point of emergency.

One need not enumerate the palpable and cogent reasons which place this whole subject in the forefront of national interests at the present time. How to deal with our veterans in a manner which shall be at once generous, just and reasonable is a task worthy of the best capacity we possess. The theory of the pension must not be taken up lightheartedly, but with the utmost thoroughness, and the regulations established must be carried out in complete good faith, or we shall drift inevitably into practices which awaken our keen criticism when we see them in operation elsewhere. In the United States, it is said, one man applied for a pension on the ground that he had been wounded in his substitute, while another supported his claim by stating that he had read all the war articles in the *Century Magazine*. Since human nature is what it is, a strong effort will doubtless be made at some time to render our own pension act a kind of pork barrel. And apart from any other consideration, practices of this kind must inevitably tend to prejudice the interests of the deserving veteran by permitting an unjust participation by those who are not deserving. Hence from the standpoint alike of theory as crystallized in law, and of administration, the Pension Question is one of the largest in our political foreground.

Fortunately the world has advanced a great deal since 1865 when the close of the American Civil War furnished a classic object lesson of the way in which returned soldiers