

## THE RETURNED SOLDIER AND THE LAND

Are the young men of Canada being weaned from the land?

Do the farmers and farmers' sons who went overseas at the call of duty view the proposals of the Government to establish them on the land with that degree of favor which promises general response?

An article in an American magazine was based on the assumption that nothing was farther from the mind of the average soldier farmer, who is coming back after four years of warfare to engage in peaceful pursuits, than to follow agriculture as a permanent vocation. It was said that when the article was written more than 50,000 men had returned to Canada and "it is admitted that the project (i. e. land settlement) thus far, at any rate—is a failure." The Ottawa government some time ago published a statement that 500 soldiers had taken up land in the West, to each of whom \$2,500 had been advanced. On the other hand it appears that of 150 soldiers who had formerly been engaged on farms in Alberta only three could be persuaded to return to agricultural life; and it is to be feared that this is a typical case.

In short, "when the returned soldier appeared, having in his possession a permanent discharge from military service, his response to those considerable and philanthropic efforts was: 'Nothing doing!'" An investigation of the facts reveals that up to the end of February the Federal Soldier Settlement Board had approved loans amounting to \$1,668,105 to 1218 returned men who had taken up homestead lands. In February the Government by order-in-council, increased the powers of the Soldier Settlement Board to permit of the granting of loans for the purchase of improved or unoccupied lands in older settlements, and to equip such farms; and in the two succeeding months the applications from returned men have been so numerous as to make heavy demands on the organization in practically all the provinces of the Dominion, especially in the provinces of the Great West.

From February 10 to April 19, since the new loan provisions came into effect, 4225 veterans have been approved by the Agricultural Qualification Committees of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba.

At the present moment the provincial offices of the Board are receiving hundreds of new applications weekly and the officers are working day and night in order to keep abreast of the demands for land loans.

This would seem to be an effective answer to the statement that the returned men—many of whom are farmers' sons—are refusing the opportunity thus presented of re-establishing themselves on the land.

Far from admitting the Federal Government scheme to be a failure those who have knowledge of the situation express the confident opinion that it is a pronounced success. Not all the returned young men who left the farm will go back to it. There are constant changes. The lure of the city is strong for many, and it did not need a war to start a movement to the big towns and the bright lights.

But the fact seems to be—and it is proven by the reports of the Ag-

ricultural Qualification Committees—that not only the young farmers and farmers' sons who left the farms to enlist, going back to the land, but many others who were born on the farm but moved to the city before the war are gladly embracing the opportunity of receiving substantial financial aid in procuring land and farm equipment for themselves.

Of course, the value and importance of the scheme will depend not only on the numbers who take up land, but on the quality of the individual soldier settler. Supervision by experts and advisers of the Board will continue after the settler is on his own farm and every effort will be put forth to see that he has the fullest opportunity to make good. So that, with large numbers of the right type going on farms, and a thorough system of supervision exercised by the Board, the prospects for success are indeed bright.

That is the situation. The Soldier Settlement scheme is only getting a start. There is nothing to indicate failure in the activities and accomplishments of the Board during the past two months in the dispersal areas where hundreds of applications are being dealt with every day.

And in this connection it is well to note the safeguards which the Soldier Settlement Board has seen fit to throw around the veterans, who desire to go back to the land. It frequently occurs that the Board is not able to extend the benefits of this legislation to applicants who have the desire to become farmers. It has laid down certain principles. It does not wish to encourage those who for any reason could not succeed. It requires that all who receive loans from the Government for the purpose of taking up farming must "qualify" as farmers. That is, they must either be experienced farmers who are physically fit to carry on the duties they propose to undertake; or, if otherwise qualified but have not had sufficient agricultural experience, they must undergo a course of training in practical farm work. If they are deemed to be unskilled for agriculture the Board feels justified in refusing to encourage them to go further. A great many returned men expressed themselves as anxious to go on the farms, but because of lack of experience or general unfitness they were rejected.

The Soldier Settlement Board attaches a great deal of importance to this feature of its work. It does not desire to withhold government aid from any veteran; but it feels that it would be doing a man a disservice were it to encourage him to undertake duties for which he is not suited. Owing to this policy of throwing every safeguard around the returned man the number of veterans who are going on the land under the auspices of the Soldier Settlement Board is not as large as it might otherwise be. But the number who are taking advantage of the scheme is still very large and is growing every day as the men return from overseas and are having the opportunity of determining their future occupation. It is much too early to predict the degree of success that will attend this scheme. Time will tell. But in the meantime there is the evidence that the applications for land loans throughout the country are very numerous and they are coming in more and more rapidly as the facilities for handling them are being extended by the Board.

The Canadian Y.M.C.A. now has 70 officers and 554 men of other ranks engaged in its work in France.

# Canada's Future depends on BOYS



OVER three hundred thousand teen-age boys are growing up to replace the wastage of Canada's man-power in the war, and to "carry on" as her future citizens. What work of reconstruction—financial, industrial, or commercial—is so vital to the nation as the reconstruction of Canada's Manhood!

Canada lost 60,383 men in the great war, and 156,799 men were wounded. More than ever is it important that the growing boys of this country be efficient, manly and be inspired with true ideals of Canadian Citizenship. Literally is it true that Canada's future depends upon her boys.

CANADIAN Y.M.C.A. *Nation-Wide Appeal* CANADIAN Y.M.C.A.  
**Red Triangle Campaign**  
 \$1,000,000 May 5th to 9th

In co-operation with the Churches the Young Men's Christian Association is extending its service to Canadian boys. The Y.M.C.A. is essentially an institution for boys, and a large proportion of its work since its first establishment has been with boys.

## What the Y.M.C.A. is Doing for Boys

There are four phases to human development—physical, intellectual, spiritual and social. The Y.M.C.A., in close co-operation with churches and Sunday schools systematizes the development of boys in each of these four phases by what is called "The Canadian Standard Efficiency Training." A boy is "charted" and his development is noted periodically. His record helps the Y.M.C.A. to supply the training he needs most to bring him up to the efficiency standard. With his record chart before him the boy is inspired to improve the faculties wherein he is deficient and to make himself a "four-square man."

### What Makes the Four-Square Man

**PHYSICAL TRAINING** of boys includes camp craft, health education, swimming, running, jumping, throwing, basket ball and other team and group games.

**INTELLECTUAL TRAINING** includes supplementary school or college work, direction of home reading, educational lectures, practice in public speaking, sex education, craftsmanship and woodcraft training.

**SPIRITUAL TRAINING** supplements and supports the work of churches and other religious bodies; it spreads the ideal of daily prayer and scripture readings; among boys; it inspires interest in nature, in music, in things artistic.

**SOCIAL TRAINING** gives the boy an idea of his duty towards others, inculcates ideals of clean speech, clean sport, clean habits, teaches good citizenship and helps a boy choose his life work to best advantage to himself and to society.

### The "Y" in High Schools

The Y.M.C.A. recognizes the great field for reaching teen-age boys found in the high schools, and is promoting the establishment of activities in that field. In the High Schools committees and "Boys' Cabinets" are organized and programmes put into operation to stimulate scholarship, inspire purpose, encourage clean speech, clean sport, and clean habits, to direct towards their true vocation in life boys who are "drifting" and to develop manliness and character.

Many boys are forced by circumstances to leave school and begin the battle of life before they are fully equipped. The

Y.M.C.A. wants to reach out to these boys by way of athletic meets, week-end camps and social work in the industries, the shops, and factories. Problems such as gambling, industrial relationships, thrift, home relationship, sex education, etc., will thus be dealt with.

"Underprivileged" boys are those whose environment has been poor, boys who have had little opportunity for mental, physical, religious, or social development. The Y.M.C.A. wants to help these boys, by increasing their interests in wholesome sports and games, attracting them to the Y.M.C.A.'s and the Churches, inculcating in them and in the boys born of foreign parents, Canadian ideals of citizenship.

### Red Triangle in Rural Life

The Y.M.C.A., in co-operation with the churches and other social organizations, is carrying the Red Triangle to the boys on the farms, the boys in the villages and small towns which lack Y.M.C.A. buildings and equipment. The Y.M.C.A. organizes these Church groups and others to carry on active work to interest, entertain, instruct and develop boys; trains their leaders and stimulates and supervises.

The Y.M.C.A., in co-operation with the churches, will hold conferences and camps this year to train leaders in Boys' Work, and in Canadian Standard Efficiency Training methods. These men will go back to their own communities equipped to "carry on." From 18,000 to 20,000 delegates will attend these conferences throughout the Dominion.

The "Father and Son Movement," by which fathers and their boys are brought together in sympathetic relationship is another branch of useful Y.M.C.A. work.

All Y.M.C.A. work is fundamentally religious, and by reaching the boys the Y.M.C.A. reaches men. Fifty per cent. of the Y.M.C.A. work for boys is done in the churches and the proportion is growing.

### Helps Boys to Choose Vocation

The "Find Yourself" campaign of the Y.M.C.A. has helped many a boy to analyze his natural abilities and circumstances so as to make the most of himself and his opportunities. A boy is examined and advised what he is fitted for and what amount of education, time and expense is necessary to attain vocations for which he may be suited. In that way he is helped to make an intelligent choice.

### For Canada's Girlhood

The Dominion Council of the Young Women's Christian Association has to do with the supervision, promotion and stimulation of all the varied national and local activities of the Y.W.C.A., including the work of caring for the soldiers' wives and dependents coming to Canada from overseas. The Y.W.C.A. budget for the Dominion Council purposes this year amounts to \$175,000, and it is planned to set aside that amount from the total objective of the Red Triangle Campaign for the purposes of developing Y.W.C.A. work for Canada's girlhood along somewhat similar lines to those followed for boys.

The expenditure of the Dominion Council of the Y.W.C.A. comprises items for the promotion and superintendence of Immigration and Travelers' Aid, under which head comes the work of caring for soldiers' dependents on the boats and trains; the direction of local Associations in the cities; supervision of Y.W.C.A. girls at work on fruit and dairy farms during the summer; extension of Y.W.C.A. work into the Country districts, and many other forms of service for Canadian girls.

Help the "Y" complete its work for soldiers; help extend "Y" service to Canadian boys; help bring the Red Triangle to the Army of Industry and to Rural Canadian Life.

## National Council, Young Men's Christian Associations of Canada

The Red Triangle Campaign is under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency, the Duke of Devonshire, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., P.C.

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