We heard a man say:

"Let the Telephone Company use the profits they made in prosperous years, if they need money to build more plant."

That's exactly what we have done!

Shareholders of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada have been paid only a moderate return on the par value of their stock

We have made no distributions of bonus stock, no 'melons' have ever been cut; no distribution ever been made of surplus earnings. Every share of stock has brought us its par value, or better.

For forty years we have consistently used all surplus earnings, all idle reserves to buy more telephone plant. Every dollar has gone back into the business to extend it and serve new subscribers.

What has this policy meant to the public?

The Board of Railway Commissioners at our last rate investigation found that if we had not pursued this honorable course of turning all surplus earnings back into the business we would have had to provide in the year 1918 alone an additional \$908,000 out of revenue to pay interest on the plant so secured. This, of course, would have meant higher rates to subscribers.

The fact is, we need millions of new money just because our funds have always been at work, keeping down our bond and stock issues, and ensuring low rates to our subscribers!

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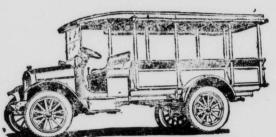


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A MARRIAGE SLUMP.

One of the Effects of the Return of

One of the Effects of the Return of Peace.

A certain recklessness was, generally speaking, the characteristic of those undertaking matrimony in war time; a tendency to look two or three times before leaping has taken its piace since the fishting ended. A variety of causes combine to account for such a change.

In the first place, life in the army being free from those expenses which weigh most heavily on the civilian, the soldier had little chance to realize the alarming cost of living. Demobilization has, however, given him personal experience of the real difficulty of making both ends meet. The absence of any prospects of an early drop in prices, combined with the problem of house accommodation, is quite enough to account for the shyness which he feels with regard to marriage.

Though practical difficulties are doubtless largely responsible for reducing the number of hasty marriages, the elimination of certain purely war-time incentives to marry has also much to do with it.

Though life is, at best, an uncertain thing, a man's chances of being alive in six months' time are distinctly brighter now than in recent years. As a natural consequence couples are more willing to wait for better days. Again, the man's argument that if he has to be killed the girl he loves may as well get a pension no longer enters into the weighing of pros and cons.

may as well get a pension no longer enters into the weighing of pros and cons.

A man home on leave, after months of misery in the fighting line, had some excuse for acting against his better judgment. Especially was this the case when the expressed wishes of the girl he had not seen for so long allied themselves with his natural inclinations.

If the soldier did not always give sufficient thought to his after-the-war prospects — well, those prospects were so vague that adding a little to their uncertainty did not seem to make so much difference. Accustomed as he was to the taking of chances, he was somewhat apt to include the risks of a reckless marriage in the gamble of life.

Now that the crowded experiences and feverish excitement of war are over, an inevitable reaction has set in. Many a man whose nerves stood the strain, finds himself incapable of undertaking new anxieties and responsibilities now that the tension is relaxed. What he seeks is a respite, during which he may recuperate his nervous system and take a few bearings in his new environment.



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