

Wounded Soldiers in Training

The Government's New Scheme Allowances for the Men and Their Families

We Canadians are absolutely unanimous about one thing in this war,—that justice and reparation must be secured for those who have suffered. The men who have volunteered to fight for us, while we have stayed safely at home,—these men, coming back shattered and torn, or with health in any way impaired by their service, must have reparation, and from us.

It is the first word of justice; and there is no Canadian worthy of the name who will not agree to it with all his heart.

Our head as well as our heart, however, must be employed to devise a form of reparation that will really repair,—that will as far as possible make up to these men what they have lost.

From the beginning of the war it was recognized that a man offering his body to defend our cause should have compensation for any injury his body might suffer in the carrying out of that task. A scale of pensions was adopted for disabled soldiers and for their dependants, in proportion to the degree of disability. A revised scale, involving a large increase of expenditure, was lately agreed to by a Parliamentary Committee and is already in force.

A pension alone, however, will not restore the injured man to his place as an active and useful member of the community; and that has got to be done, by some means or other, both in the community's interest and in his own.

A very few of the injured will be found so totally helpless that this restoration is impossible. On the other hand, judging by our experience so far, a large majority, in spite of their injuries, will still be fit for their former work. But between these two classes will be many men with injuries either handicapping them seriously in their old occupations or barring them out altogether.

Such men must not be condemned to perpetual uselessness. They would not thank us for that. They are not of the backboneless kind, or they would hardly have thrown themselves into the war. They did not enlist to be coddled or spoon-fed, and they will not want to be coddled and spoon-fed now. Having recovered their strength, they will naturally expect to use it. The question simply is—How?

To begin with, their disability can often be lessened by what is called "functional re-education." By special exercises, with or without the aid of the ingenious apparatus invented for the purpose, the muscles mutilated by wounds and operations, and weakened by compulsory disuse, can recover some of their strength and become once more accustomed to exertion. Then, by "vocational re-education," the men can be enabled to return to their original trade; or, when that is impossible or undesirable, they can be helped to fit themselves for another occupation. There is no intention, by the way, to provide re-education for men who do not need it.

The Parliamentary Committee decided that the cost not only of pensions and artificial limbs but also of this vocational training should be paid by the Dominion Government.

The Military Hospitals and Convalescent Homes Commission, with Sir James Loughheed at its head, has already given a great deal of consideration to the matter, and has taken steps to organize the training required in many parts of the country. The complete establishment of the system may be expected very soon; for the Government, by Order-in-Council, has just adopted a report of the Military Hospitals Commission, of which we are enabled to give this summary:—

The report begins by explaining that the Commission aims at benefitting not only disabled members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force but also disabled Reservists of the British and Allied armies who were bona fide residents of Canada when the war broke out.

The Commission has received the assurance, it tells us, of the active co-operation of the Provinces and various Municipalities in carrying out such a policy. Technical Schools, Agricultural Colleges and other public institutions have agreed to receive disabled men for training and many offers have also been received from private commercial establishments to provide training and subsequent employment when the men have become proficient.

The period of training for a new vocation will vary according to the previous education and industrial history of each individual. The cost of

tuition will vary in consequence, and also owing to the fact that in many cases the tuition will be free or the fees nominal. (The training will be free to the men in all cases. If there is any charge, it will be paid by the Dominion Government).

The Commission has already undertaken the provision of training in general subjects and elementary vocational work for all men under treatment in the various hospitals and convalescent homes operated by the Commission, irrespective of whether or not such men will later be subjects for vocational training leading to new occupations. In a few cases, arrangements have also been made for that special training.

The Commission was not able, however, to put into operation a general scheme of vocational training until a scale of maintenance could be arranged for the men undergoing the training and for their dependants. The Commission has therefore prepared a scale under which a small sum for personal expenses will be granted to the men undergoing training, while provision on a sliding scale is made for married men and their dependants, and for those unmarried men who may have persons legally dependent upon them.

Here is the scale which the Commission has now been empowered to establish. It will be understood throughout that "maximum age" means 16 for a son and 17 for a daughter:—

1. A single man, with pension, living in, receives free maintenance; that is, board, lodging and washing.

2. A single man, with pension, living out,—60c a day.

3. A married man, with pension, living in,—free maintenance and \$8 a month, with the following additions:—

For wife having no children,—\$35 a month, less her husband's pension.

For wife and one child,—if child is under five, \$38; from five to ten years, \$39.50; from 10 to maximum age, \$42.50; less, in every case, the amount of husband's pension and children's allowances under the pension regulations.

For wife and two children, from \$1 to \$47 a month (less pension and allowances) according to age of children.

For wife and two children, from \$41 to \$47 a pension and allowances), according to ages.

For wife and four children,—\$47 to \$53 (less pension and allowances), according to ages.

For wife and five children,—\$50 to \$55 (less pension and allowances) according to ages.

For wife and six children,—\$53 to \$55 (less pension and allowances), according to ages.

A wife with seven or more children under the maximum age may be given the maximum allowance of \$55, less pension and allowances.

All these allowances for wife and children will be paid direct to the wife, unless otherwise thought fit by the commission.

4. A married man living at home will receive 60c a day. (This, of course, is in addition to the allowances for wife and children).

5. A widowed mother, if dependent entirely upon the unmarried son who is receiving training, and if the son made an assignment of his pay to his mother and also arranged for her to receive separation allowance while he was on service, may be paid at the same rate as the wife of a married man with no children.

6. The parents of a man undergoing training, if both are old and past work, and entirely or partially dependent upon him, may also be paid at that rate.

7. The guardian of a widower's children (under the maximum age) will be paid monthly:—for one child, \$10; for two, \$17.50; for three, \$22; and \$3 for each child in excess of three, with a maximum of \$35.

Payments under these regulations will be continued for one month after the completion of vocational training, whether the man has secured employment or not.

It is clear that this system of allowances will enable many men to take advantage of the training offered, by providing for their families while the training is being given.

The President of the Military Hospitals Commission asks us to say that any further information desired by our readers will be gladly given on application to the Secretary, at 22 Victoria Street, Ottawa.

France After the War

Past History Indicates That a Commercial and Industrial Resurrection Will Speedily Follow the Great War.

(From the New York Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin.)

There is much discussion of the probable after-effects of the present European war and especially its effects upon international trade. Opinions vary from the extremes of optimism to pessimism and, as usually is the case, the truth will be found somewhere between them. One phase of the question, and a phase that is often overlooked in the discussion, is the probable rapidity with which the warring nations will recover in an economic sense. This is most important, for the foreign commerce of each nation will in the long run depend in great part upon its attainment of a sound internal economic condition.

Fortunately, we have good illustrations from the past history of France which indicate what the probable course of events will be in that country. Twice within the past century has France been considered exhausted beyond immediate repair, and each time events have belied contemporary opinion. The first experience followed the Napoleonic wars. After being overthrown by the "Great Coalition" of the European powers in 1814, France accepted a fairly just treaty of peace and settled down for a few months under restored Bourbon rule. Napoleon returned from Elba in March, 1815, and the "Hundred Days" followed, which resulted in the Battle of Waterloo. Napoleon was sent to St. Helena and the leading powers of Europe—Austria, England, Prussia and Russia—determined to punish France for this recent uprising and so to weaken her that there would be no further danger from her for years to come.

They forced upon her the acceptance of the Second Treaty of Paris, according to which her territory was reduced with a loss of 500,000 inhabitants. A war indemnity of 700,000,000 francs was laid upon her and eighteen French fortresses were garrisoned by 150,000 allied troops supported at French expense for a minimum of three years or a maximum of five. It is estimated that the total cost to France of the episode of the "Hundred Days" was about \$1,200,000,000 in the money of to-day. This was in addition to the burdens that had followed from over twenty years of revolutionary and Napoleonic warfare. To the surprise of Europe, the French people assumed the high taxes, re-established the national credit and paid off the war indemnity so rapidly that the allied troops were entirely withdrawn by the close of the year 1818. Simultaneously with this, France resumed her position and influence as one of the dominant powers of Europe.

The second experience, and a somewhat parallel one, resulted from the French downfall and disgrace in the Franco-Prussian War, and the Civil War of the Commune which followed it in 1871. France seemed crushed and humiliated almost beyond repair, but to make her downfall doubly sure Bismarck imposed upon her the terrible treaty of Frankfurt. Alsace and Lorraine must be ceded, a \$1,000,000,000 indemnity paid in three years and a German "army of occupation" must be supported at the expense of the French people until the payment of the indemnity was completed. This army mustered 500,000 soldiers, with 150,000 horses. The cession of Alsace and Lorraine meant a loss of about 1,600,000 inhabitants to France and in addition her population had been decreased by about 500,000 on account of the war.

"As in 1815, so in 1871, France went to work to redeem herself" says Prof. Charles D. Hazen of John Hopkins University. "In September, 1873, the final instalment was met, and the last German soldier left France. The French soil was freed nearly six months earlier than was provided by the treaty. This rapid liquidation of the indemnity had been effected by two successful loans contracted by the Government, one in 1871 for over 2,000,000,000 francs, the other in 1872 for nearly 3,500,000,000 francs. The former was oversubscribed two and a half times; the latter over fourteen times. This amazing success bore striking evidence to the wealth of the country."

What France has accomplished twice before when defeated she can accomplish again when victorious. To-day the nation is united as never before and intensely loyal to its Government. In 1815 and in 1871

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