

like ribbons across the Tight Little Isle. The roads built by those soldiers have stood the wear and tear of a century, but they have done far more than merely act as highways; they saved England by solving for her a great problem.

The building of the roads furnished employment to tens of thousands of returned soldiers and gave them a chance to "find" themselves and become adapted to the changed conditions of life. The roads thus built have proved a good investment and have repaid the outlay many times over as all familiar with English highways know. In a few months, or a year or two at the most, some two or three hundred thousand Canadian soldiers will be returning from the front. Many of these men have professions, trades and occupations into which they can easily fit themselves, but the vast majority are unskilled laborers and they will find it extremely difficult to get back their former jobs or adapt themselves to the arts of peace. Some provision should be made for their home-coming and not leave everything until they are back with us as a pressing problem.

Canada is more in need of good roads—great national highways than anything else in the Decalogue. Why not commemorate the war by building a great national highway from East to West and at the same time give our returned soldiers steady work? Such a policy would be of untold benefit to the country. At this stage it is not necessary to enumerate at length the advantages of good roads. Improved highways mean an enhanced price for the adjacent farm lands; they mean that less time is consumed in going to market, that larger loads are hauled, that foreign travel is encouraged, that social intercourse is improved, that the church and school are made easier of access, and a score of other advantages. We have spent hundreds of millions in building railroads and canals, but precious little on public highways. Of what avail is it to have magnificent railways spanning the country if there are no proper roads to act as feeders to the railroad, roads over which can be hauled the product of the forest, coal and mine?

The United States waited a half century to build its Lincoln Highway. Are we to wait that long to commemorate our part in the Great War? It is far better to give our returned heroes something worthy to do than to make them objects of charity. Let us employ them in building national highways. The work will require co-operation between Dominion and Provincial authorities, but that should be easily arranged.

An Evil That Should Cease

A FEW days ago Mr. Robert C. Dexter, General Secretary of the Charity Organization Society, issued a statement on the subject of street begging that should receive the careful attention of our civic authorities and of the public at large. Citizens and visitors who pass through the principal streets of Montreal cannot fail to notice the wide extent of the evil of street begging. Many of those who thus appeal for charity are cripples whose condition is well calculated to move the passer-by to sympathy and generosity. Investigation of the cases of many of the beggars showed that they were entirely unworthy, imposters who were not obliged to resort to

this means for a livelihood. What to some people will seem the strangest part of the matter is that many of the beggars have been licensed by the Mayor of the city. The Charity Organization Society, we are told, were willing to take over the care of all those who were found deserving, and therefore they asked that the begging licenses be withdrawn, but, the report continues, "this Mayor Martin refused to do, asserting that the privilege of issuing permits was one of his prerogatives." And so, it would appear, to enable the Mayor to exercise his "prerogative," and dispense a strange kind of patronage, Montreal has to submit to a condition of affairs which Mr. Decker well describes as "a disgrace to the city."

The poor, as we know, will always be with us, and must be provided for by those who have been more fortunate in the battle of life. There is no way in which the character of a community can be better judged than by its treatment of the sick and the poor. Montreal is a rich city, abounding in wealth, in comfort and in liberality. It is well able to provide for its poor and it will do so if the authorities will adopt the proper means to that end. For those who are in all respects worthy there should be the utmost consideration, so that they may not only receive the relief immediately needed, but also be encouraged to cultivate a self-respect which will help them to help themselves wherever that is possible. Those who are less worthy, if they are really in need, must also be provided for, so that nobody shall go hungry in this land of plenty. We cannot doubt that the charitable organizations of Montreal, whether of a public or private character, stand ready to deal with the problem in this true spirit of charity. With the knowledge they must have of this condition there is no reason for the civic authorities of Montreal encouraging or permitting this street begging system. Mr. Decker's statement concludes as follows:

"We believe that it is not for the moral and material welfare of persons in need that they should be obliged to depend on a precarious source of income from the exhibition of their distress in public. Neither is it humane. Such handicapped persons, more than others, should be assured of a regular income and have the advice and assistance of trained workers. If they are institutional cases they should have the training and care which our Montreal institutions so abundantly provide. We also believe that the constant presence of such persons on the streets of the city is a libel upon the charitable disposition of the citizens of Montreal and that it gives strangers a most unfavorable impression of the city. It is the only city on the continent, with the exception of Mexico, that allows street begging in any form.

"We are ready to make a thorough investigation of all cases of street begging; and, if the police and mayor will do their part in repressing this nefarious traffic, we are willing to help where help is needed, and to see that institutional care is provided for those who are in need of it. May we ask the co-operation of citizens of Montreal in bringing pressure to bear upon the mayor and police department to see that this humane and progressive policy is adopted."

It is to be hoped that this appeal to the Mayor and other city authorities will not be in vain. But if the authorities will not deal promptly with the evil the people should deal

with it themselves, by refusing to contribute a cent to any of these street claimants, licensed or unlicensed. A systematic and persistent appeal by all the newspapers to the public to refuse such contributions would go a long way toward suppressing the evil which is now so unpleasantly widespread.

A Blessing in Disguise

THE crop estimates in our Western Provinces have been modified lately owing to the prevalence in some sections of what is called "black rust" in the wheat fields. The same conditions are found in the neighboring Western States of the American union. In both countries this has been regarded as a misfortune. But words of comfort and encouragement concerning it come from a prominent American banker. "A one year disaster but a ten year blessing" is the description of the situation given by Mr. Theodore Wold, Governor of the Ninth District Federal Reserve Bank, Minneapolis. The damage to the wheat will, he thinks, teach the farmers the mistake they make when they rely so largely on wheat, and will give a much needed impulse to stock raising. His views deserve attention on the Canadian as well as on the American side:

"Doubtless this year will bring the greatest stimulus ever known to live-stock raising on the farms. The wheat crop losses make a better preachment against the one-crop fallacy than all the agricultural colleges of the Northwest States. These losses will do more to bring it home to farmers that the man who is a stock raiser as well as a wheat grower is the man who is insured against loss.

"It is true that wheat has been a good crop financially. Last year the price was high, and again this year the farmer who has a good wheat crop is fortunate. Most of the farmers have no wheat crop at all, or a low yield of poor quality.

"The man who can get \$120 these times for a steer is not going to be hard up. Looking at it close up, the year is bad. Viewing it from the long range, it is a blessing. We will all realize this ten years from now."

The damage on the Canadian side is not so great as in the American sections described by Mr. Wold, but it is large enough, and perhaps the lesson as to stock raising may be as useful here as on the other side.

The War Loan

HAVE you "done your bit" by subscribing to the new Canadian war loan? This is a field in which almost everybody can lend a helping hand. "If you can't fight, pay," is an appeal made in respect of another war service. But in this case you are not paying, you are making a sound investment at a fair rate of interest, thus helping yourself as well as helping the good cause. The loan will be well subscribed. But don't let the big fellows have it all. Buy a bond, a large one if you have the means, but if your surplus cash will not allow that, put your name down for one of the smaller bonds. The more hundred dollar bonds there are in this issue the better it will be for the country, for the participation of the mass of the people in this loan is much to be desired.

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